Minutes of the
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of the
KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION
300 Sower Boulevard, Room 514
Frankfort, KY
April 17, 2018
1:30 p.m. ET

I. Call To Order

Vice-chair Rich Gimmel called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed the audience.

II. Roll Call

Gimmel asked interim board secretary Rebecca Blessing to call the roll.

Members present:	Members absent:
Ben Cundiff	Laura Timberlake
Tracey Cusick	
Rich Gimmel	
Kathy Gornik	
Hal Heiner	
Gary Houchens	
Alesa Johnson	
Joe Papalia	
Milton Seymore	
Amanda Stamper	
Robert King, CPE President and ex-officio member	

Blessing reported that with 10 of the 11 voting board members present, the board had a quorum.

III. Swearing In Of New Board Members

Next, Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge Rob Johnson administered the oath of office as a group to board members:
Joe Papalia
Hal Heiner
Tracey Cusick
Gary Houchens
Ben Cundiff
Kathy Gornik
Milton Seymore
Amanda Stamper

IV. Introduction of New Board Members

Gimmel then asked the new board members to introduce themselves.

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Board Member Amanda Stamper started off by thanking the Governor for the opportunity to serve on the board. Stamper indicated she is mother of a 6th grader at Jessie Clark Middle School in Lexington and a sophomore at the University of Kentucky. Stamper said she is passionate in education not only for the sake of her children, but for all the children of Kentucky. She said she brings a unique perspective and believes she can bring positive change to public education in Kentucky and is looking forward to serving with other board members to bring that change.

Board member Hal Heiner thanked Governor Bevin for the opportunity to serve on the Kentucky Board of Education and told the audience this is a new role for him, having served most recently as the Secretary of Education and Workforce Development Cabinet and has some interaction with KDE the past two and a half years. He said education is a passion in his life and said the one thing that keeps him awake at night is the student who is not making adequate progress to make it in life. He said as adults, they have the responsibility for every child being prepared for the most fulfilled life. He is appreciative of the opportunity to serve on the board and especially to be more involved in helping those students move ahead.

Joe Papalia said it has been an interesting couple of years having served with Bob King on the Kentucky Council for Postsecondary Education, but that he is resigning immediately from that post to make sure he has enough time and energy to spend on the Kentucky Board of Education on which he has served as an advisor and now a full board member. He said that over the next few years the board has a significant opportunity to change education in Kentucky.

Gimmel commented that this board stands on the shoulders of many great members who have gone before and recognized former members Nawanna Privett and Roger Marcum who were in the audience. Gimmel said he appreciated their mentorship and their historic dedication to public education in Kentucky.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Interim chair Rich Gimmel indicated that he was serving as interim chair of the board due to the former chair no longer being on the board. He indicated he could not serve as chair due to family obligations. He indicated that he would be willing to continue serving as vice chair if the board so desired. Gimmel said due to timing of the recent appointments and to ensure an orderly transition of leadership of the KBE, he is recommending that the KBE waive board policy on the nominating process and election of board officers, which according to the policy is to take place at the final meeting of each fiscal year. Kathy Gornik moved and Ben Cundiff seconded the motion, which was approved on unanimous voice vote.

Gimmel opened the floor for nominations for chair of the Board. Alesa Johnson moved to nominate Milton Seymore as chair. Hal Heiner seconded the motion.

Joe Papalia then nominated Hal Heiner to serve as chair. Heiner declined saying he was supporting Milton Seymore as chair because of his tenure on the board.

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On voice vote, the board unanimously approved the motion to elect Milton Seymore as chair of the Kentucky Board of Education.

Rich Gimmel then turned the gavel over to the newly elected chair and said he appreciated the confidence the board had in him to do the job.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: With the election of Seymore as board chair, and no motion or second brought forth by the board concerning the vice chair, Gimmel resumes his former position as vice chair of the board.

V. Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(f) for Discussion of the Appointment, Discipline or Dismissal of an Individual Employee

Next, Chair Seymore entertained a motion to move into closed session under the Open Meeting Act of KRS 61.810(1)(c) as allowed under the requirements of KRS 61.815 for a discussion which might lead to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee.

Ben Cundiff moved and Kathy Gornik seconded the motion to go into executive session.

Chair Seymore announced the board would go into closed session and invited counsel to go with the board. He invited the audience to stay in the board room and stated that the executive session would be held in room 416.

SECRETARY'S NOTE: While no verbal vote was taken, all KBE members left the boardroom at 1:42 p.m., without opposition, collectively displaying their approval to meet in closed session. Furthermore, although Chair Seymore cited KRS 61.810(1)(c) he addressed the language of KRS 61.810(1)(f).

VI. Resume Open Session

The board resumed its meeting in open session at 6:02 p.m.

Chair Seymore stated that the board had concluded its confidential closed session and discussion that might leave to the appointment, discipline or dismissal of an individual employee, he entertained a motion to return to open session. Rich Gimmel moved and Ben Cundiff seconded a motion to return to open session, which was unanimously approved on voice vote.

Seymore thanked the members of the audience for their patience and announced that the meeting would resume in open session.

VII. Action on Executive Session

Chair Seymore entertained a motion that the KBE amend its contract with Commissioner Stephen Pruitt as reported by attorney Amy Peabody (document attached)
Joe Papalia moved and Hal Heiner seconded a motion to amend Commissioner Pruitt's

contract as reported. There was no discussion. The motion was approved on voice vote with member Gary Houchens voting no and member Rich Gimmel abstaining.

Chair Seymore then entertained a motion to appoint Dr. Wayne D. Lewis Jr. as interim commissioner at a salary of $150,000 a year effective immediately. Kathy Gornick so moved and Ben Cundiff seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion on voice vote.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Seymore entertained a motion for adjournment. Member Ben Cundiff moved and Hal Heiner seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was approved on a unanimous voice vote. The board adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Rebecca Blessing, Acting Board Secretary
April 23, 2018

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