

**Kentucky Board of Education Annual Retreat**  
**August 6, 2019 9:00 AM**  
**Berry Mansion**  
**700 Louisville Road**  
**Frankfort, KY 40601**

*Minutes*

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its annual retreat on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at the Berry Mansion located at 700 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky. The KBE conducted no business during this meeting.

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Heiner welcomed everyone and called the retreat to order at 9:08 a.m. ET.

**II. Roll Call**

Chair Heiner asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Ben Cundiff, Tracey Cusick, Rich Gimmel, Kathy Gornik, Hal Heiner, Gary Houchens, Alesa Johnson, Joseph Papalia, Milton Seymore, Laura Timberlake and Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Deputy Secretary Mike Nemes on behalf of Secretary Ramsey. Absent: Amanda Stamper and Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) President Dr. Aaron Thompson.

**III. Introductory Remarks**

Chair Heiner delivered opening remarks to frame the day of learning for board members and those in the audience. He shared the purpose of the retreat, to serve as a day to review the board's goals and objectives, and the problems facing student learning outcomes in the state and nation. As such, the day served as a time to hear from speakers with demonstrated success in closing the achievement gap in different settings.

**IV. Presentation: Opportunity Myth and Student Success -- TNTP**

Dr. Tequilla Brownie with TNTP shared highlights from TNTP's latest report titled, "The Opportunity Myth." Findings related to the examination of the quality of students' academic experiences in school – and its effect on their long-term success – and how to improve those experiences at scale. Dr. Brownie discussed key resources that influence a student's school experience and outcomes, along with how state leaders can lead the way toward making students' opportunities possible.

**V. Presentation: After School Programs that Emphasize Academic Excellence -- Donnita Travis with By the Hand**

Donnita Travis shared her background, along with the mission of and services provided by the non-profit, Chicago-based after school program she founded, By the Hand. A former By the Hand student, Madeja, joined Travis to discuss the services the program offers and the impact of those services. Travis led the board in questions and answers focused on the relationships and impact of her organization, and models, through enrichment services and staff.

#### **VI. Presentation: Closing Gaps: In the Classroom, Within a School, Across a School System - Michele Caracappa**

Michele Caracappa, Chief Program Officer with New Leaders, shared her experiences with Success Academy Charter Schools as one of the top performing networks in the state of New York. Caracappa focused her presentation on closing gaps from a systems perspective within schools. Caracappa led the board in questions and answers focused on her observations on effective practices as a result of serving in different educator roles.

#### **VII. Lunch**

#### **VIII. Presentation: The Story of J.B. Atkinson Academy - Dewey Hensley**

Dr. Dewey Hensley, former principal of J.B. Atkinson Academy in Jefferson County Schools, shared his background and discussed how his personal experiences with poverty shaped his work in closing the achievement gap. Further, Hensley discussed the importance of embedding soft skills in everyday classroom instruction, as well as attending to the needs of the whole child.

#### **IX. Presentation: Gap Closure: Addressing the Whole Child in Owen County Schools - Dr. Robert Stafford, Superintendent; Dr. Reggie Taylor, Chief Academic Officer; Terry Quillen, Owen County Elementary School, Principal; Stephany Harvey, Owen County Elementary School, Teacher; Trina Reynolds, Owen County Elementary School, Teacher; Morgan Sipes, Owen County Elementary School, Teacher; Sharlena Young, Owen County Elementary School, Teacher; Sarah Hodges, Maurice Bowling Middle School, Principal; Casey Duvall, Maurice Bowling Middle School, Teacher and Andrew Keltner, Maurice Bowling Middle School, Teacher**

Superintendent Rob Stafford introduced the Owen County Schools team who shared their current initiatives aimed at closing the achievement gap, with emphasis on addressing the needs of the whole child. Staff from Owen County Elementary School discussed the importance of the home-to-school connection along with the importance of professional learning communities (PLCs) to increase student engagement. Staff from Maurice Bowling Middle School discussed their initiatives to embed culturally responsive teaching practices around collaborative efforts and teacher teams to improve student engagement. Chief Academic Officer, Reggie Taylor, shared overall efforts related to district initiatives with a focus on the school's five themes to drive continuous improvement efforts.

#### **X. Presentation: Gap Closing Programs: A Teacher's Perspective - Stephanie Fritz**

Stephanie Fritz of Lexington, Kentucky shared her experiences as a teacher in a public and charter school with regard to closing the achievement gap. Fritz shared different approaches and strategies that yielded improved student outcomes, along with the importance of data-driven instruction. Chair Heiner allowed for questions and answers which stemmed from her experiences in both public and charter school settings.

#### **XI. KBE Board Discussion and Reflection: Student Success**

Chair Heiner led the board in reflections on the day's presentations. Takeaways included the importance of high quality instruction; grade-level curriculum, assignments and materials; and, professional learning.

#### **XII. Adjournment**

Joe Papalia motioned to adjourn the meeting, Rich Gimmel seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.