



Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

**THE KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

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Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent of Schools

KCSD ISSUE PAPER

DATE:

8/15/18

AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):

Consider/approve the letter of intent between Kenton County School District and Boone County School District concerning a possible merger of scholars and resources for the Ignite Institute in the 2018-2019 school year.

APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:

01.1 Legal Status of the Board

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:

The Kenton County Academies of Innovation and Technology have explored the possibility of merging with the Ignite Institute (operated under Boone County Schools). Thusfar, this exploration has provided evidence that a merger between the two schools and districts would be beneficial to Kenton County scholars. Additionally, the Ignite Institute will provide many opportunities in the areas of business and industry, dual credit, and state of the art facilities that the Academies do not have.

FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Should the Kenton County Academies merge with the Ignite Institute, Kenton County Schools would contribute 26 staff members (1,451,486), Locally Operated Career and Technical Education funds (\$350,000), and Perkins Funds (\$50,000) annually (Total \$1,851,486). Boone County will match these contributions. The Kenton County Academies would grow from a half day program to a full day program at the Ignite Institute.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend the approval of the letter of intent between Kenton County School District and Boone County School District concerning a possible merger of scholars and resources for the Ignite Institute in the 2018-2019 school year.

CONTACT PERSON:

Francis O'Hara & Julie Whitis

Principal



Director



Superintendent

Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.

Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.

Kenton County Board of Education

Board Members: Carl Wicklund, Chairperson Karen L. Collins, Vice Chairperson Joshua Crabtree, Esq. Carla Egan Jessica Jehn
"The Kenton County Board of Education provides *Equal Education & Employment Opportunities.*"

Ignite Institute Letter of Intent
Boone County Board of Education
Kenton County Board of Education

This letter is to declare the intention to cooperatively engage Boone County Schools and Kenton County Schools in the development, implementation, and operation of the Ignite Institute at the Roebling Innovation Center. Boone County and Kenton County professionals have been collaborating since February 2018 to develop a comprehensive plan for the Ignite Institute.

In order to do this, these districts intend to collaborate on the items listed below and will make every effort to complete them by the timelines listed.

Section 1 - Curriculum Structure

Ignite Institute Principal & Kenton County Academies Principal

Curricular components will be completed by June of 2019. These components include, but are not limited to:

- Pathway courses within the colleges to begin in August of 2019:
 - Engineering College
 - Engineering Pathway
 - Women's Engineering Pathway
 - Information Technology College
 - Computer Science Pathway
 - Health Science College
 - Biomedical Sciences Pathway
 - Allied Health Pathway (currently listed for year 2, but potentially moving to year 1)
 - Education College
 - Teaching and Learning Pathway
 - Design College
 - Creative Arts & Media Pathway
- Future pathway courses to be added (Phase 2):
 - Engineering College
 - Construction Pathway
 - Logistics College
 - Logistics Pathway
- Mutually agreed upon criteria among Boone and Kenton Counties for adding additional colleges/pathways
 - New "Colleges" will include pathways that create pipelines to fill workforce needs of the region
 - Teachers will be added in groups of 6 (3 funded by each school district) to meet the curriculum needs of each "College"

- Dual-Credit structures for all scholars
- Standards
- Criteria for success
- School wide assessments
- Weekly structure
- Strategy for financially supporting any added programs

Section 2 - Workforce Readiness Skills Initiative (WRSI) Grant

Ignite Institute Principal, Kenton County Academies Principal, Deputy Superintendent (Boone County), & Director of District Wide Programs and Transition Education (Kenton County)

Boone County Schools received a Workforce Readiness Skills Initiative Grant for \$6.875 million to use toward addressing the needs of the region that include 5 career sectors; construction, business services and information technology, transportation and logistics, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare. Boone County and Kenton County will work together to complete the terms of the grant. Requirements that must be met for this grant include:

- Curriculum development
- Career development
- Creation of an evening adult education program (Designed by January of 2019, implemented by August of 2020)
 - Courses offered by Gateway Community and Technical College, Northern Kentucky University, Thomas More University
 - Training courses for local business and industry
- Development of regional partnerships

Section 3 - Staffing and Salary Structure

Ignite Institute Principal, Kenton County Academies Principal, Deputy Superintendent (Boone County), Director of District Wide Programs and Transition Education (Kenton County), & Boone and Kenton Counties' Finance and Human Resources Departments

The Ignite Institute will require a unique staffing and salary structure due to the innovative curriculum and daily schedule. In addition, the superintendents of both school districts reached a consensus to start the school with 26 staff members from each district for a total of 52 for the first year. The parties listed above will work together to further develop a strategy for staffing and will create the following:

- Organizational chart that lists staff and responsibilities (finalized by December of 2018)
- Salary structure that ensures all teachers at the Ignite Institute (regardless of their home school district) receive equitable compensation for completion of similar duties
- Job descriptions and salary structure for all support staff and administration

Section 4 - Financial Outlook

Ignite Institute Principal, Kenton County Academies Principal, Deputy Superintendent (Boone County), Director of District Wide Programs and Transition Education (Kenton County), Finance Departments for Boone and Kenton County, Boone County Superintendent, & Kenton County Superintendent

Boone County and Kenton County schools will collaborate to create a mutually agreed upon financial structure that is sufficient to operate the Ignite Institute. The following items will be addressed in the document that describes the financial agreements between the two districts:

- Financial structure that outlines the financial commitments between the two districts.
- Transfer of Locally Operated Career and Technical Education (LOCTE) funds currently received by the Kenton County Academies from the Kentucky Department of Education to Boone County Schools for the purpose of the Ignite Institute. In addition, Boone County Schools has agreed to match this amount.
- Transfer an equitable portion of Perkins funds issued to Boone and Kenton County Schools by the U.S. Department of Education to the Ignite Institute.
- Define the role and intended contribution of the Horizon Fund.
- Determine a process of requesting funds for future growth.

Section 5 - Governing Bodies of the Ignite Institute

Ignite Institute Principal, Kenton County Academies Principal, Deputy Superintendent (Boone County), Director of District Wide Programs and Transition Education (Kenton County), Boone County Superintendent, & Kenton County Superintendent

The Ignite Institute is a regional school focused on filling the needs of the workforce in our region. Because of this, it is essential to have a strong business member presence in the governing bodies of the school. The following items will be completed (by June of 2019) to ensure that the focus of the school remains that of preparing a pipeline of workers to the needs of our region's workforce:

- Organizational chart of the bodies that will govern the Ignite Institute
 - Board of Directors
 - Executive Advisory Board
 - Boone County Board of Education with input from Kenton County Board of Education
 - School Level Advisory Committees
- Process for the selection of board members
- Development of By-Laws
- Board of directors meeting schedules and processes for meeting publication requirements

Section 6 - Phase Two General Concept

Ignite Institute Principal, Kenton County Academies Principal, Deputy Superintendent (Boone County), Director of District Wide Programs and Transition Education (Kenton County), Boone County Assistant Superintendent for Operations, & Kenton County Chief Operations Officer

Phase one of Ignite Institute is planned for the first year of operation (beginning in August of 2019). Phase two includes the addition of components that will enhance education for the scholars. The following items are currently planned for phase 2 of the Ignite Institute:

- Addition of pathways that include:
 - Allied Health (to be included in phase 1 if possible)
 - Logistics
 - Construction
- Agreement of building modifications to enhance the curriculum, pending a cost analysis (June of 2019) of these modifications
- Additional components to be determined after the first year of operation

Section 7 - Other Notable Items

Agreement will be solidified in a final Memorandum of Agreement by January 31, 2019

Boone County and Kenton County Schools systems shall conduct the negotiations in good faith to accomplish the goals described in this Letter of Intent. This Letter constitutes Boone and Kenton County's intention to continue their cooperation and does not establish any other obligation.

This Letter of Intent shall be effective on the date of its signature.

Randy Poe, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Boone County School District

Date _____

Henry Webb, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Kenton County School District

Date _____