

**Kentucky Board of Education Awards Committee Meeting  
April 2, 2021 2:30 p.m. ET  
Kentucky Department of Education, 300 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
Video Teleconference Meeting**

*Minutes*

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held an awards committee meeting on April 2, 2021. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the KBE awards committee met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were not be permitted to attend the meeting in person, but were encouraged to view the meeting on the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:

**1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Patrice McCrary welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. ET. Chair McCrary reminded members that the meeting still must comply with the requirements of the Open Meeting Act. Additionally, Chair McCrary stated that for any items that required a vote, a roll call vote was necessary to record the vote of each board member.

**2. Roll Call**

Chair McCrary asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Claire Batt, Patrice McCrary, Solyana Mesfin and Lu Young.

KDE Director of Education Policy Meredith Brewer stated all members were present.

**3. 2021 Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy**

**A. Review of Criteria for the Karem Award Winner**

Chair McCrary read the description and reminded the committee members of the criteria of the award that includes:

- Demonstrated leadership in policy development, passage or implementation resulting in increased educational opportunities for students; improved educational, postsecondary or workforce outcomes for students; or, increased capacity of teachers or school staff to better meet the academic, social or emotional needs of Kentucky students.

**B. Review and Discussion of Applications for the 2021 Karem Award**

Committee members were asked to review the candidates prior to the meeting and were asked by Chair McCrary to present their top three candidates for consideration and

discussion. Candidates were referred to by number and the members narrowed their top picks down to two candidates and after evaluation and discussion determined the candidate that would be brought forth for consideration of approval by the full board at its April 7, 2021 regular meeting.

**C. Approve Recommendation of an Individual(s) as the recipient of the 2021 Kareem Award for Excellence in Education Policy**

Chair McCrary stated that based on the candidate's demonstrated leadership in policy development, passage or implementation resulting in increased educational opportunities for students; or, increased capacity of teachers or school staff to better meet the academic, social or emotional needs of Kentucky students, she would like to entertain a motion to approve candidate #3 as the winner for the 2021 Award. Claire Batt made the motion to approve candidate #3 as the recipient of the 2021 Kareem Award for Excellence in Education Policy. Solyana Mesfin seconded the motion and the motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

**4. Adjournment**

Lu Young motioned to adjourn the meeting, Claire Batt seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m. ET.