

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board Appointment
Date: October 2022
Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion
Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Operations

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the proposed candidates to fill vacancies on the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the individuals listed be appointed to the KSB Advisory Board. The candidates meet the necessary criteria for appointment.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

[KRS 156.070](#); [KRS 167.015](#); [KRS 167.035](#)

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

KRS 156.070 details the general powers and duties of the state board, including management of the two state schools: “The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) shall have the management and control of the common schools and all programs operated in these schools, including interscholastic athletics, the Kentucky School for the Deaf, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and community education programs and services.” KRS 167.015 also provides that: “The Kentucky School for the Blind at Louisville, Kentucky, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf at Danville, Kentucky, shall be managed and controlled by the Kentucky Board of Education.”

KRS 167.035 states that a KSB Advisory Board may be established. If created, the advisory board is composed of five (5) members appointed by the KBE upon recommendation by the chief state school officer for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed. The advisory board elects from its membership a chair. The purpose of the board is to act in an advisory capacity, assist school leadership and make recommendations to the chief state school officer relating to the effective operation of the school.

Summary of Issue:

There are three vacancies on the KSB Advisory Board. Applications have been submitted and reviewed and the following individuals are recommended for appointment:

Nicole Gaines is a Project Director and Manager with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) at the American Printing House for the Blind. Ms. Gaines will represent community and business partners on the advisory board.

Virren Malhotra is a Manager of Business Operations at Loxo Oncology at Lilly. Mr. Malhotra will

represent parents on the advisory board.

Melanie Peskoe is Talent Acquisition Specialist with the American Foundation for the Blind. Ms. Peskoe is an alumnus of KSB and would represent KSB alumni on the advisory board.

Budget Impact:


Pursuant to KRS 167.035, members of the board serve without compensation, but are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

Staff consulted with KSB staff, the KSB Advisory Board, and KSB Alumni. All groups are in support of the nomination.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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