

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Advisory Board Appointments
Date: October 2023
Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion
Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Operations

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To act on the proposed candidates to fill vacancies on the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) Advisory Board.

COMMISSIONER’S RECOMMENDATION:

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

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

[KRS 156.070](#); [KRS 167.015](#); [KRS 167.037](#)

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 167.037 states that a KSD Advisory Board shall be established. The advisory board is composed of nine members appointed by the KBE upon recommendation by the chief state school officer for terms of four years. The advisory board elects from its membership a chair and vice chair at the first regular meeting of the fiscal year. A member may serve no more than two consecutive years as 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 nine vacancies on the KSD Advisory Board. Applications have been submitted and reviewed and the following individuals are recommended for appointment:

Erin Rhoden is an Associate Professor at Eastern Kentucky University. She will represent parents of Deaf children on the advisory board.

Bethany Yance is pursuing her master’s degree in International Development and will represent

former students of KSD on the advisory board.

Anita Groenwoldt is the Special Education Facilitator at the Future Forward Education and Career Center with Franklin County Schools. She will represent school districts on the advisory board.

Robin Bush serves as the Director of Special Education in Daviess County Public Schools. She will represent school districts on the advisory board.

Kela Parton is a speech-language pathologist for Madison County Schools and will represent members at large on the advisory board.

Jeff Kassinger is the founder and managing partner at Kassinger Enterprises, LLC. He will represent members at large on the advisory board.

The Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL) will try to fill the remaining advisory board vacancies by re-opening the nomination process.

Budget Impact:

Pursuant to KRS 167.037, 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:

OSEEL sought nominations through multiple outlets.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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