

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held a special meeting on August 21, 2023. The KBE met via Microsoft Teams teleconference at 9 a.m. ET. Members of the public were permitted to watch a livestream of the meeting which could be viewed on the Kentucky Department of Education’s (KDE) Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order

Chair Robinson welcomed all board members to the meeting. The meeting was called to order promptly at 9:02 a.m. ET.

II. Roll Call

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: JoAnn Adams, Holly Bloodworth, Patrice McCrary, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Porter Robinson, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, Lu Young, Alissa Riley, R.J. Osborne, and Secretary Link.

III. Internal Board Business

A. KBE Member Participation in 2023 National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference on October 25-28, 2023 (Action/Discussion)

This year, NASBE’s annual conference will take place in San Diego, California from October 25-28. Chair Robinson explained the benefits for state members to attend NASBE and made the recommendation to the board to consider allowing up to four members to attend. There were no questions or comments made by any board members.

Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve up to four members to attend NASBE’s 2023 annual conference. The motion was made by Steve Trimble; seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Vice Chair Lu Young made a comment that she is excited about attending the NASBE Annual Conference in October and added she and Dr. Meredith Brewer will be presenting on the Kentucky Portrait of a Learner at the conference.

B. KBE Call to Action (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson stated to the members that the updated Call to Action document was shared with members in advance of the meeting. She then asked if anyone had additional questions, concerns or comments related to the updated document. There were no questions.

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve KBE’s A Call to Action and charge the KDE with supporting its broad dissemination. The motion was made by Patrice McCrary; seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

Vice Chair Young commented and gave appreciation to Dr. Meredith Brewer for all her work on the Call to Action document. The document captures everyone’s input and is well designed.

Chair Robinson echoed Vice Chair Young’s comments and thanked all the board members for each of their conversations related to the document and thanked Dr. Brewer for her hard work organizing the board members’ ideas and requests into the document. The board now has a very impressive document to proudly share that represents the board’s focus on the needs of Kentucky’s learners.

IV. Authorization for the Kentucky Department of Education to Issue Solicitation for Services to Conduct a National Search for Commissioner of Education (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to authorize the Kentucky Department of Education to issue a solicitation for services to conduct a national search for a Commissioner of Education. The motion was made by Randy Poe; seconded by JoAnn Adams.

Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney provided a thorough overview and a timeline of the RFP process and next steps in the process moving forward to the board members.

Vice Chair Young inquired about the scope of work for the search firm. KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney responded that her office could negotiate with the vendor, once selected.

Chair Robinson asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were none. Chair Robinson requested Dr. Brewer call the roll on the motion to approve the authorization.

The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

V. Establish RFP Evaluation Team for Responses to Commissioner Search Firm RFP, Duties and Authority of the Team, Election of Members and Meeting Dates (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson proposed that the KBE establish a special committee called the "RFP Evaluation Committee" for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating proposals pursuant to KRS Chapter 45A in response to the RFP for a search firm to assist with the selection of the next Commissioner of Education. Following review and evaluation of proposals pursuant to KRS Chapter 45A, the committee shall recommend to the KBE a vendor found to be most responsive to the RFP for approval of the full board. The committee chair shall determine the necessary meeting dates and locations. Following selection of a vendor by the full board, the committee shall terminate.

Chair Robinson requested a motion to approve the creation of the committee. The motion was made by Julie Pile; seconded by Patrice McCary.

Vice Chair Young asked if this special RFP Evaluation Committee would work virtually. Chair Robinson and Dr. Meredith Brewer stated, yes. There were no further discussions or questions.

Chair Robinson again requested volunteers and then proposed that Steve Trimble, Julie Pile and Alissa Riley serve on the committee. There was not a committee chair selected at this time, but the committee will select its own chair at a later date.

The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

VI. Identification of Next Special Meeting date(s) for Commissioner Selection Process (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson proposed the KBE convene for a special meeting on Wednesday, September 6 from 9:00-11:00 E.T. to identify the interim commissioner.

Chair Robinson asked for any additional questions or comments.

KDE Associate Commissioner Robin Kinney stated that in anticipation of the KBE's action, staff from the Office of Finance and Operations have already drafted the Commissioner Search Firm RFP. Thank you very much to the members who have agreed to serve on the evaluation committee and expressed gratitude to the members who agreed to serve on the committee.

Chair Robinson echoed Associate Commissioner Kinney's sentiments and praised the extraordinary support from the KDE.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson expressed thanks to everyone for their time and a very productive meeting. Chair Robinson asked if there were any additional comments before adjourning the meeting. There were none.

Chair Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble; seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.