

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the second half of the regular meeting on August 3, 2023. The KBE met in-person at 6371 State Park Road, Burkesville, KY 42717. The public were permitted to attend the meeting in-person. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Robinson welcomed all board members and the KDE Leadership Team to the meeting. The meeting was called to order promptly at 9:00 a.m. ET.

II. Roll Call

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

Chair Robinson shared a few announcements and reminded board members of the upcoming KBE Special virtual meeting scheduled for August 21, 2023, at 9 a.m. ET.

Chair Robinson then took a moment to extend words of appreciation in honor of former KBE member Avis Johnson. Johnson was inducted into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Kentucky Track and Cross-Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1992. He won numerous state and national coach of the year and athletic administration awards. He was a beloved coach and administrator and served the Kentucky Board of Education faithfully and diligently even throughout a challenging illness. He was a very calm and rational person and had his own perfect way to humorously put perspective into place. The KBE joins his two sons and wife Rosetta in mourning their loss and by celebrating the great contribution Alvis made to students and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Chair Robinson introduced KDE Deputy Commissioner Dr. Woods-Tucker to give the board a brief presentation. Woods-Tucker began by thanking the Commissioner and the entire KDE Leadership Team for embracing the board’s resolution around Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging. The resources provided are guides for teachers to use to aid in fostering greater student voice.

Next, Woods-Tucker spoke on KDE’s literacy efforts. He stated the KDE wants to make sure Kentucky has a robust literacy program throughout K-12 that fosters equity where students can see themselves and understand others in text.

Lastly, he spoke about 2023 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Mandy Perez’s recent article that highlighted the work at Kentucky’s Department of Education.

III. Good News

• 22 Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award Winners Named for 2024

Alissa Riley shared the information related to the 22 Kentucky Teacher Achievement Award Winners named for 2024.

• Kentucky’s “Meets” Streak Continues

Steve Trimble announced that the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services issued its 2021 determination letters on state implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Kentucky was found to meet the requirements and purposes of Part B of the IDEA. This is Kentucky's 14th consecutive year of achieving the highest level of determination possible.

- **Kentucky LEADS Academy Scholars Program**

Lee Todd shared congratulations to the 15 scholars in cohort two for completing the Kentucky LEADS Academy. "LEADS" stands for Leading, Educating, Advocating for Directors of Special Education.

- **OSEEL Awarded \$5.6 Million Grant**

JoAnn Adams proclaimed congratulations to KDE's Office of Special Education and Early Learning for receiving the State Personnel Development Grant, worth over \$5.6 million for five years. With this grant, OSEEL will implement the Kentucky EMPOWERS program, short for Kentucky Educators Maximizing Postsecondary Outcomes for Workforce and Education Results for Students.

- **KDE Earns Prestigious Communications Awards from the National School Public Relations Association**

Lu Young shared that KDE's Division of Communications won accolades from the National School Public Relations Association for the agency's work during the 2022-2023 year. The recipients of the awards were recognized during the NSPRA National Seminar in July in St. Louis. The division won 12 of NSPRA's 2023 Publications and Digital Media Excellence Awards for the team's exceptional work and commitment to advancing public relations in the education sector.

V. Board Member Sharing

Chair Robinson stated that per board policy, the agenda for each regular meeting shall include an item under which board members may raise issues not included on the agenda for the purposes of clarification, referral to a committee, or scheduling for future board review and/or action if such is the consensus of the board. The following board members shared information:

Patrice McCrary shared that a school in her area needed and received a new HVAC system. The teachers at this school were getting ready for the open house. Patrice helped clean bathrooms, swept floors, talked to teachers and she did whatever she could to help prepare for the open house at the school. She also shared that she is volunteering for a kindergarten classroom beginning next week for the school year.

Lee Todd was honored to attend the closing ceremony of Earlington Elementary School in Hopkins County. The school was recognized for many accomplishments and \$3,000 was provided to the school. The school gave a diploma to a military veteran student who had to leave school to join the military years ago which caused him not to receive a diploma.

Holly Bloodworth shared that school districts have contacted her directly with various questions and she wanted to thank KDE staff for helping those school districts and answering their questions.

Julie Pile shared that she has had the pleasure as a new board member to attend training with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). She also shared that she will be serving as President of the local Rotary Club which will be training reading mentors and working with elementary students to bring children's reading to third grade level.

VI. Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)

Dr. Thompson was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

VII. Report from the Commissioner of Education

Commissioner Glass began his report sharing that the Kentucky School for the Blind held four weeks of summer school, hosting 42 elementary, middle, and high school students from KSB and students from districts across the Commonwealth. Students participated in field trips on the Belle of Louisville, a steam train in Bardstown, the Splashpad at the Waterfront, and the Science Center. Louisville Folk School brought a variety of instruments and performed for students on two different occasions.

Eighteen students attended KSB's summer work program. The students worked at the American Printing House for the Blind, Kentucky Kingdom, and the Louisville Zoo. Students performed a variety of jobs, including braille proofreading, grounds keeping, food service and guest services. KSB has a partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), who provides job coaches for students that need extra assistance.

The school year at the Kentucky School for the Deaf ended with a celebration of the accomplishments of the 2023 graduating seniors. All three students received acceptance letters and plan to attend Eastern Kentucky University in the fall semester.

The 40th Annual Deaf Youth Sports Festival was held at KSD in July. In 1983, seven volunteers and seven participants began the "Mini Deaf Olympics" which was later renamed The Deaf Youth Sports Festival, but it is still commonly called MDO. MDO is a weeklong event in which Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) children come together from all over the U.S. to participate in Olympic-style sporting competitions.

Area Technology Center principals and teachers attended the Kentucky Association of Career and Technical Education Summer Program in July and took part in professional/leadership development and technical upgrade training. Session topics included: ATC principal updates, CTE opening session with Dr. Todd Whitaker, CTE program and coordinator updates, and several CTE best practice update sessions.

Students from several ATC's attended various career and technical student organization national conferences this summer including: DECA, SkillsUSA, HOSA, and TSA. They competed in technical events, networked with students and professionals from around the nation and had a great time.

Commissioner Glass invited KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton to the presenter's table to introduce the newly appointed members to the Office of Special Education and Early Learning. Jonathon Jett who is helping to provide support for KSD and KSB and Shannon Sparkman who was recently named the Director of State Schools.

Commissioner Glass then took a moment to reflect on his tenure at KDE.

Chair Robinson commented that Commissioner Glass speaks with integrity and strong leadership. She thanked him for the KDE's success while under his leadership.

VIII. Internal Board Business

A. KBE Regular Meeting Calendar

Chair Robinson stated that the meeting dates for 2026 were distributed to members in advance to review and asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Chair Robinson requested a motion to approve the calendar. The motion was made by Lee Todd; seconded by Jamie Bowling. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

B. Outside Employment Request (Action/Discussion)

KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen presented two outside employment requests from board member Diane Woods. The requests were reviewed and determined that they did not create any conflicts under the Kentucky rules of ethics for the Executive Branch.

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the outside employment request from KBE Member Woods. The motion was made by Patrice McCrary; seconded by Jamie Bowling. Todd Allen then stated that board member Woods should recuse herself from the vote on this action. The motion passed by voice vote. Chair Robinson asked the minutes reflect that board member Diane Woods did not participate in the vote.

C. Appointment of KBE Members to serve on the State Evaluation Appeals Panel (SEAP) for the 23-24 Fiscal Year (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson opened the floor for nominations for the State Evaluation Appeals Panel (SEAP) for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Sharon Robinson, Holly Bloodworth, and Lee Todd were nominated to serve on the SEAP. Chair Robinson asked if there are there any further nominations. There were none. Chair Robinson requested a motion to approve Sharon Robinson, Holly Bloodworth, and Lee Todd, as the members of the State Evaluation Appeals Panel. The motion was made by Steve Trimble; seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

D. Recipient of the 2023 Kelly Award for Business and Education Partnership (Action/Discussion)

KBE Awards Committee Chair Patrice McCrary shared information with the board members related to the background and criteria for the annual KBE Joseph W. Kelly Award. Chair McCrary stated that on behalf of the Awards Committee, she would like to share that the committee met on Tuesday, July 25 and determined that candidates 7 and 4 best met the criteria of the award and asked the chair for the board's approval to recognize candidates 7 and 4 at the board's upcoming October regular meeting.

Chair Robinson stated coming from committee, this motion did not require a second. The members approved the motion unanimously by voice vote.

E. KBE's A Call to Action (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson stated that the KBE Call to Action document was in the KSBA portal for members to review. Chair Robinson asked if the board members had any questions or comments related to the document.

All comments and questions were discussed thoroughly, and the decision was made for additional review to take place before the Chair would ask members to take action to approve updates to the document.

Chair Robinson asked the board members to consider a motion to review an updated draft during the August 21, 2023, KBE Special Meeting. The motion was made by Randy Poe; seconded by Lee Todd. Diane Wood abstained from voting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

IX. Consent Agenda

- A. Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Operational Plan for School Year (SY) 2023-2024 – KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch, KDE Division Director Mike Leadingham and KDE Chief Digital Officer Marty Park**
- B. Annual Amendments to the Kentucky Tech Policies and Procedures – KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D.**
- C. Annual Policy Adoptions and Amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD) - KDE Associate Commissioner Gretta Hylton**
- D. Certification of 780 KAR 7:060, Equipment inventory and insurance, to avoid expiration – KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D.**
- E. Hearing Officer's Report - KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen**
- F. Litigation Report- KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen**

Chair Robinson stated the consent agenda allows for approval in one action. KDE staff identified the consent items as those that are non-controversial and routine in nature. The consent agenda items were distributed to members in advance of the meeting to allow sufficient time for review.

There were no requests to remove any of the items from the consent agenda. Chair Robinson entertained a motion to approve the consent items. The motion was made by Jamie Bowling; seconded by JoAnn Adams. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

X. Action/Discussion Items

- A. Amendment of 701 KAR 5:110, Use of local monies to reduce unmet technology need.**

KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch, KDE Division Director Mike Leadingham and KDE Chief Digital Officer Marty Park, Ed.D. presented the proposed amendment to 701 KAR 5:110, Use of local monies to reduce unmet technology need. The regulation requires amendment to reflect the 2024-2030 version of the KETS Master Plan for Education Technology, as incorporated by reference.

This is the sixth Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Master Plan for Education Technology. The previous five versions served the state well and provided a foundation upon which to build the new plan. The 2024-2030 Master Plan highlights a modernized unmet need budget (to reflect the progress of our districts, trending patterns, and inclusion of new technologies), the streamlining and importance of KETS standards, and high-level strategic goals (including acceleration areas and growth opportunity areas), and more. The 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan addresses the technology need for schools, districts and the state recognizing the ongoing operational, maintenance and replacement needs as well as the technology-enabled aspects of new strategic educational priorities, plans and projects. A blend of federal, state, and local funding sources are combined and creatively used to address the technology needs and are identified in the budget. The new KETS Master Plan is being presented to the Kentucky Board of Education to show planned activities and initiatives for the period from 2024 to 2030. Therefore, the administrative regulation must be amended to reflect the Master Plan for Education Technology 2024-2030, as it is a “document incorporated by reference” within the regulation (701 KAR 5:110). The 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan will go into effect when the regulation becomes effective—this could be in 2024 before the 2025 fiscal year begins on July 1, 2024.

The 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology establishes the projected need associated with the implementation, replacement, and ongoing sustainment of all technology-related components, services, and staffing. Annual progress reporting from all districts is required to determine the remaining statewide unmet need, of which is governed under 701 KAR 5:110.

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the Amendment of 701 KAR 5:110, Use of local monies to reduce unmet technology need. The motion was made by Steve Trimble; seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

B. 2022 Report, 2022 Exceptions, and 2024 Plan as required by 702 KAR 1:116, Annual In-Service Training of District Board Members

KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen and Kentucky School Boards Association Director of Board Team Development Debra Webb provided an overview of the report, exceptions, and plan.

Webb stated that the provided documents outline the school board members who have not met their required training. This includes nineteen members who were appointed after March 1, 2022, 15 members who came back into service in 2023, 33 members who did not seek re-election to their seats and did not come back to service as of January 1, 2023, which equates to approximately 7% of all school board members.

KDE General Counsel Allen stated that if the board approves the request extension for completion of outstanding training hours, KDE will work KSBA to notify those individuals that they have been given an extension to complete the training. However, if they do not take care of this matter their names will be reported to the Attorney General’s office to be removed from their local school board.

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the 2022 Report, 2022 Exceptions, and 2024 Plan as required by 702 KAR 1:116, Annual In-Service Training of District Board Members. The motion was made by Jamie Bowling; seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

X. Review Items

A. KBE Legislative Priorities

Chair Robinson introduced KDE Director of Government Relations Brian Perry who facilitated the discussion to identify the KBE's 2024 legislative priorities.

Perry began by stating that barring the Governor calling them in for a special session, the General Assembly will not be back in session again until the first week of January 2024. It will be a budget session and will run through April 15.

Perry proposed the legislative priorities include the approved Additional Budget Requests (ABRs), teacher recruitment and retention, CTE Funding Formula Proposal, AP funding changes, statutory clean-up, and codifying the facilities approval process created in HB 678.

To close, Brian Perry highlighted the items of Interest and what to expect from the General Assembly in 2024 which include early literacy and teacher preparation programs, numeracy, student funding formula, and DEI restrictions.

Dr. Todd asked about the CTE Funding Formula Proposal and AP Funding Changes. Brian further explained those items. Dr. Todd asked if professional development will be put back into the plan. Perry was not certain but felt that topic will develop into many conversations.

Chair Robinson indicated she was looking forward to the joint meeting with KDE, KBE, EPSB and CPE on August 24 to discuss the educator workforce. Holly Bloodworth appreciated working with the early literacy group hopes to be able to bring information and good guidance to General Assembly to offer them if given the opportunity.

Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray shared that the KDE is reconstituting the Committee for Mathematics Achievement. This committee includes district leaders and higher education partners.

Chair Young asked for an update on the RFP for a new statewide reading research center. Ray stated that the RFP is complete but has not been posted. The contract must be in place by July 2024. The board will be hearing more about that topic.

Associate Commissioner Byron Darnall provided an update on EPSB's proposed changes on the PRAXIS exam and his intention to share more information with the KBE in the future.

Chair Robinson concluded the discussion by stating that the board wants to be seen as a true partner across educational stakeholder groups.

XI. Public Comment

Chair Robinson stated that the Public Comment Session is limited to 10 speakers at maximum of three minutes each. There was one public comment received in the KBE email inbox and responded to in writing, however there were no in-person requests for public

comment.

XII. Presentation of the 2023 Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education

Commissioner Jason Glass gave an overview of the award and criteria. Dr. Johnnie Grissom served at the KDE in the role of Associate Commissioner for the Office of Special Instructional Services. She provided steadfast commitment, service and leadership striving to help all students achieve high levels regardless of their disabilities. This award is given in the spring of each year to a Kentuckian or a Kentucky organization to honor outstanding dedication to improving student achievement for students with disabilities.

The Henderson Assistive Technology Team (Kim Reusch, Michelle Hillenbrand, Sherri Hogg-Hazelwood, Sarah Zigler, Julie Holland, Mary Jo Montgomery, April Perry, Amber VanMeter) was recognized as the winners of this year's award.

The HATT is a multidisciplinary team whose members use their areas of expertise to identify the abilities and needs of students. HATT provides services in assistive technology (AT) for all special education students throughout our schools. In 2019, it was noted that several of our preschool and elementary students with complex needs did not have a way to communicate their basic wants and needs. Furthermore, 30% of students on Alternate Assessment leave school without a functional means of communication. There was a need for [assistive technology] to be more readily available in our district and because of the dedication of our HATT team, we are making great strides towards providing a voice for every student.

Commissioner Glass thanked the winners for their dedication to improving student achievement for students with disabilities.

XIII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson congratulated all the award winners and invited them to lunch immediately following adjournment.

Chair Robinson then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Trimble made the motion; seconded by Patrice McCrary. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.