

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held a KBE Special Meeting on November 6, 2023. The KBE met via Microsoft Teams teleconference at 10 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 Sharon Robinson welcomed all board members to the meeting and thanked them for their participation in this special meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Report and Recommendations form the RFP Evaluation Committee (Discussion Item)

Chair Robinson opened the meeting with the first item on the agenda to receive a report from the RFP Evaluation Committee.

Kentucky Board of Education member, Steve Trimble presented the report by the RFP Committee stating that the committee met for approximately two hours on November 2, 2023, to review proposals submitted in response to the solicitation for an executive search firm for the Commissioner of Education search. The RFP Evaluation Committee included himself and board members Julie Pile and Alissa Riley. At the conclusion of the meeting, the committee determined that it would not be in the best interest of the Commonwealth to award a contract based on the responses reviewed. Therefore, the committee recommended that the Kentucky Board of Education not award a contract in response to proposals for the solicitation “Executive Search Firm, KY Dept of Education Commissioner” and authorize the Kentucky Department of Education to issue a new solicitation.

Chair Robinson thanked Steve Trimble for his report. She stated that due to strict limitations contained in KRS Ch. 45A, the members of the RFP Evaluation Committee are very limited in what they can discuss regarding the proposals they reviewed. The solicitation is still considered “active” until it is closed, and committee members sign confidentiality agreements as required by KRS 45A.

IV. Next Steps in Selections of Firm to Conduct the Commissioner of Education Search (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to authorize the Kentucky Department of Education to issue a new solicitation for services to conduct a national search for a Commissioner of Education.

Upon closure of the RFP, Chair Robinson proposed that the KBE RFP Evaluation Committee reconvene 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 again asked the board members to entertain a motion. The motion was made by Lu Young; seconded by Patrice McCrary. Both Lu and Patrice thanked the committee for their work.

Lu Young asked if they should urge the department to do everything, they can push the RFP to a wider audience of the solicitation. Todd Allen, General Counsel, Office of the Commissioner responded yes, that can be done. Chair Robinson asked if members of the RFP Evaluation Committee had any suggestions to make the solicitation better. Steve Trimble asked Todd Allen to respond to Chair Robinson. After conversation within the committee, Todd Allen commented that there may be a few small amendments that can be made to the RFP that will clarify a few items for the committee on the next round of solicitation. Chair Robinson asked Todd Allen if this next step requires specific authorization from the board or are we still within the range of administrative authority to execute the amendments. Todd Allen stated the KDE has enough discretion that the amendments can be made within the department.

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. JoAnn Adams, Patrice McCrary, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, and Lu Young. The motion passed by a unanimous roll call vote.

V. Adjournment

Chair Robinson requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Steve Trimble; seconded by JoAnn Adams.

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. JoAnn Adams, Patrice McCrary, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, and Lu Young. The meeting adjourned by a unanimous roll call vote.