

**The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the second half of the regular meeting on October 11, 2023. The KBE met both virtually and in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY. Members of the public were permitted to attend the meeting in person although encouraged to view the meeting on the KDE Media Portal. The board conducted the following business:**

**I. Call to Order**

Chair Sharon Robinson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the second day of the regular meeting.

**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 Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, Lu Young, Alissa Riley, R.J. Osborne, Secretary Jamie Link, and President Aaron Thompson. Jamie Bowling joined the meeting at 9:15am.

**III. Good News**

- **10 Educators are Named KY TOY Semifinalists** (Diane Woods)
- **Boone County’s Kevin Dailey Named 2024 Kentucky Teacher of the Year** (Julie Pile)
- **Hardin County’s Teresa Morgan Named KASA 2024 Superintendent of the Year** (Patrice McCrary)
- **Cardinal Valley Elementary and Mary G. Hogsett Primary Schools Recognized as Green Ribbon Schools** (Lu Young)
- **Carlisle County School Bus Driver Receives 2023 Fred Award for Acts of Kindness** (R.J. Osborne)

Chair Robinson thanked the members for sharing those items of good news.

**IV. Board Member Sharing**

Chair Robinson announced that the next item on the agenda is board sharing. It is an opportunity for board members to raise issues, pose questions, share concerns, and suggest topics to include on a future meeting agenda.

- Patrice McCrary shared she had the opportunity to attend the demolition of the former Cumberland Trace Elementary School where she taught for 26 1/2 years. She stated that it was bittersweet, but knowing what is going up in its place is incredible. There will soon be a new Leadership and Innovation Center built in collaboration with Western Kentucky University which will meet the needs of students and prepare them for the future in innovative ways.
- Holly Bloodworth shared that she enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to attend a Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA) regional board meeting. Holly was able to address the group for a few minutes and connect with a lot of attendees.

- Randy Poe agreed with Holly Bloodworth and appreciated attending the KSBA Northern Kentucky Regional Meeting with Julie Pile. Dr. Poe stated that Julie delivered some of the KBE’s goals and objectives at the meeting and it was an exceptionally good event. He would like to see more information in and around a math plan.
- Lu Young commented that she agreed with Holly that being given the opportunity to be a part of other advisory group meetings and constituent groups to get feedback and begin to have conversations on what folks would like to see in our new commissioner.
- Julie Pile attended the KSBA meeting in Northern Kentucky with Randy Poe. She also shared about attending a naturalization ceremony. Julie serves as president of her local Rotary Club and has recently been assigned a reading buddy at a local elementary school.
- Diane Woods shared that she had the privilege of attending the KDE Continuous Improvement Summit. The information provided during the summit was research-based, best practices. There were 900 plus individuals from across the state in attendance. She would like to see some way that the KBE can be more active and share what KDE and the KBE are doing. Diane would like to see the board members provide more support, representation, and engagement in what is happening for the children in the state.
- Randy Poe agreed that the board members need and want to attend events but be cautious of how many board members attend each event. That there needs to be coordination of who is at an event, and how many board members are attending events.

To close, Interim Commissioner Kinney thanked Diane so much for her kind words about the work that was done by the department staff at the Continuous Improvement Summit.

**V. Report from the President on the Council on Postsecondary Education**

President Thompson attended virtually and provided his report.

**VI. Report from the Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet**

Secretary Link attended virtually and provided his report.

**VII. Report from the Interim Commissioner of Education**

Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney attended in person and provided her report.

**VIII. Special Olympics Kentucky**

- The Director of Unified Champion Schools Karen Michalak-Parsley, her team, and a few students provided an overview of the Unified Champion Schools (UCS) initiative. The UCS initiative is a nationally supported Special Olympics program offered on the state-level and supported with generous funding by the US Department of Education. Special Olympics Kentucky (SOKY) assists schools in our state with implementing the three pillars of a Unified Champion School.

**IX. Informational Item from Beechwood Independent Schools**

- KDE Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney, Division Director Chay Ritter from the Office of Finance and Operations, and Beechwood Independent Schools Superintendent Mike Stacy, Ed.D. presented this information item pertaining to Beechwood Independent School district budgetary concerns.

## X. Action Items

- **Waiver Request from the Murray Independent Board of Education Related to the Kentucky Schools Facilities Planning Manual Section 304.2.1.1.3 as incorporated in 702 KAR 4:180**

KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the waiver request alongside KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross. They were also joined by Coy Samons, Superintendent of Murray Independent and Whitney York, Assistant Superintendent. York also serves as chair of the Local Planning Committee. KBE Member Holly Bloodworth made comments in support of this waiver.

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the waiver request from the Murray Independent Board of Education. The motion was made by Steve Trimble; seconded by Lu Young. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

- **Waiver Requests from the Jefferson County Board of Education Related to 702 KAR 4:050 and 702 KAR 4:090.**

KDE Division Director Chay Ritter and KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross presented the two waiver requests from the Jefferson County Board of Education. The first waiver was for the easement to one property line; the second was for the appraisal completed to a property be accepted as submitted. There were representatives from JCPS who attended virtually.

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the waiver request from the Jefferson County Board of Education. The motion was made by Lee Todd; seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

- **702 KAR 3:330, Liability Insurance Regulation**

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the new regulation, 702 KAR 3:330, Liability Insurance Regulation. The new regulation is related to a change made to Senate Bill 3 that passed in the last General Assembly concerning certified employees in school districts. KBE was required to promulgate a regulation that requires school districts to purchase primary liability insurance to cover certified employees at amount of \$1 million per occurrence and \$3 million in the aggregate. The other requirement is that the Kentucky Department of Education procure excess liability insurance above those limits and limit determined by the excess coverage provided by the largest teacher's organization in the state. The proposed regulation included reporting requirements to ensure compliance and support any necessary adjustments.

Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the proposed regulation 702 KAR 3:330, Liability Insurance Regulation. The motion was made by Diane Woods; seconded by Julie Poe.

There were a several inquiries by the board members. Many members had several concerns.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote; however, the board members had questions and wanted more clarification on this regulation. They do not support an unfunded mandate.

## **XI. Review Items**

- **Overview of Educator Preparation Efforts on Early Literacy**  
KDE Associate Commissioner Byron Darnal, Ed.D. and KDE Academic Program Manager, Melissa Diebel, Ed.D. provided an overview of the educator preparation efforts on early literacy.
- **National Board Certification Early Entry Grant Update**  
KDE Associate Commissioner Byron Darnall, Ed.D. and KDE Program Consultant Jocelyne Waddle presented on the exciting pilot program taking place in Kentucky.

## **XII. Presentation of the 2023 Kelly Award for Business and Education Partnership**

Interim Commissioner Kinney facilitated the presentation of the awards. This year there were two award winners: Bluegrass Community Health Center group in the Clark County School District and Keith Schneider, President of Square 1 of the Tri-State region specifically the Beechwood Independent School District.

## **XIII. Adjournment**

Chair Robinson expressed thanks to everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Patrice McCrary; seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.