

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the second half of the regular meeting on December 7, 2023. The KBE met both virtually and in-person at the Kentucky Department of Education, 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 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 and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order 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, Jamie Bowling, Patrice McCrary, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diana Woods, Lu Young, Alissa Riley, R.J. Osborne, and Aaron Thompson.

III. Good News

- A. Two Educators Receive \$25,000 Milken Educator Award (Randy Poe)**
- B. Louisville School Principal Earns 2023 Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership (Lee Todd)**
- C. 10 Educators Named to 2023-2024 Innovate Teacher Fellowship Cohorts (JoAnn Adams)**
- D. KDE names 21 GoTeachKY Ambassadors (Lu Young)**
- E. Shelby County Educators Recognized for Completion of the BaseLang Spanish Immersion Project (Steve Trimble)**

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 future board meeting agendas.

Alissa Riley began by sharing that it is Kentucky Youth Assembly season in Louisville and Frankfort. She said that it involves middle and high school students participating in a mock legislative process. Riley shared that there were many bills created by the students that revolved around education in Kentucky. Riley said that many of the points of discussion members discuss are the same things that students were writing about in their

bills. She went on to say that it was one of the reasons why it's important for the board to consider student voices.

Patrice McCrary gave a shout-out to regional cooperatives and praised their excellent work in supporting Kentucky students. She then mentioned that she had the opportunity to go to Louisville and attend the Kentucky Teacher Hall of Fame ceremony. McCrary suggested that this be an item of good news to share for the next board meeting to highlight the recipients.

Vice Chair Lu Young said she was able to attend the BaseLang ceremony as a former Spanish teacher. She praised the teachers and team there for working to make schools an inviting place for Hispanic students. Vice Chair Young also added that she was able to attend the annual NASBE conference with a few other board members in San Diego and was able to present on the KY Portrait of a Learner model and heard great feedback.

Julia Pile shared that former chair of the FDIC Sheila Bair, has become a children's book author surrounding financial literacy. She visited multiple schools in Kentucky and all students received a copy of one of her books. Pile mentioned that the power of community collaboration around schools and students is very powerful.

V. Commissioner Search Update

During a Special Meeting on November 28, the KBE selected Vendor A, McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., to serve as the firm to coordinate the search for the next permanent commissioner. The board welcomed Dr. Steve Joel and Dr. Kimberely Markus from McPherson & Jacobson to provide an update on the intended next steps. Dr. Joel briefly introduced himself and his team to the members of the board. He then informed the board that he has a "bold" timeline for the selection process, and provided more details about the process.

VI. Report from the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education

Dr. Thompson attended the meeting virtually to give his report. He announced that the Council had selected Dr. Ryan Quarles to head KCTCS (Kentucky Community & Technical College System) and selected a new president for Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Dr. Greg J. Feeney. Dr. Thompson also announced that the council recently held their "Govember" event where virtual meetings were held with parents and students. At the meetings, help was provided with items such as filling out the FAFSA and giving information on how to attend college. He described the event as very successful. In addition, he said the Council held healthcare laboratories that brought healthcare partners from around the state.

VII. Report from the Interim Commissioner of Education

Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney attended in-person to give her report. Kinney emphasized her commitment to taking the responsibility of Interim Commissioner very seriously. She also stated that she is focused on continuing to move the department forward, even in the absence of a permanent commissioner. Interim Commissioner Kinney said that she's had the chance to go out and interact with students and staff across the state and shared the encouragement she felt at seeing KDE and KBE policies being practiced in real time. She has also been meeting with legislators along with KDE Executive Director of Government Relations, Brian Perry. These meetings have included introductions, and letting legislators know that they are available to answer questions and provide information. Next, Commissioner Kinney mentioned two big challenges that the board and department currently are facing: recruitment and retention of teachers, and chronic absenteeism.

VIII. Action/Discussion Items

A. Amendments to 704 KAR 3:095, Use of response to intervention in K-3

KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Peace presented the amendments. Dr. Ray stated that Senate Bill 9 of 2022 amended KRS 158.305 to require the board to further define a multi-tiered system of support. She then went on to say that one of the key changes to the regulation is the movement away from use of response for K-3. Dr. Ray went on to describe some of the section amendments starting with definitions. She pointed out 4 key definitions that were amended: multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS), tier 1 universal instruction, tier 2 targeted instruction, and tier 3 intensive intervention. Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the proposed amendments to 704 KAR 3:095, Use of response to intervention in K-3. The motion was made by JoAnn Adams and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Waiver Request from the Estill County Board of Education Related to 702 KAR 4:180

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the waiver request. Ross began by saying that the request is meant to move the waiver to the top of the priority list due to the conditions of a middle school in Estill County. The superintendent of the district was also there to speak to board members directly. Chay Ritter described the situation as looking "worse and worse" every time he looked at it. He then went on to say that school security and safety is a concern because of issues such as doors that will not stay closed or can't open. Ritter said that usually, it takes months of planning and meetings to resolve issues like this, but they felt the situation was too urgent to not push the

waiver ahead. Superintendent Charlie Brock said that the school building has been moving since its construction. He then said that they've had emergency services come out to help get kids out of classrooms and teachers stuck in offices due to doors that won't open. Vice Chair Young said she was happy to support the waiver request and applauded Superintendent Brock for taking the issue seriously and ensuring the safety of students. Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the waiver request. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Lu Young. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

IX. Review Items

A. 2022-2023 Data at a Glance and Statewide Efforts to Support Teaching and Learning

KDE Associate Commissioner Rhonda L. Sims, KDE Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray, and KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, Ed.D. presented on the KDE's efforts to support schools and districts. The presentation first described how both the Assessment System and Accountability system work together to measure student performance. The Assessment System was described as a large part of the Accountability System. Accountability focuses on postsecondary readiness measures, graduation rate, and quality of school climate and safety. Assessment focuses on reading and mathematics tests, science, social studies and writing tests, and English language proficiency tests. They then reported some growth areas such as persistent achievement gaps among certain student groups, math and science performance, and specifically, high school math and science performance. The presentation highlighted some potential factors that may affect performance such as chronic absenteeism and the teacher shortage. In addition, there were a few school improvement updates such as 23 schools exiting Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) status in 2023 and no new schools being identified for CSI I or II.

B. AdvanceKY Computer Science Education

AdvanceKY Executive Director Anthony Mires, AdvanceKY Program Director Monique Rice, KDE Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray, KDE Associate Commissioner David Couch, and KDE K-12 Computer Science Lead Sean Jackson provided an update on AdvanceKY's Computer Science initiative. Dr. Jackson highlighted significant efforts that are underway to provide greater access and availability of computer science coursework for interested students throughout Kentucky. The efforts included continued networking with community partners, collaborating with schools and districts to support computer science initiatives, and

the development of the Approval of Computer Science (ACS) Certificate which provides the certification requirements needed to teach computer science courses. The presentation then discussed how the KDE continues to partner with AdvanceKentucky, which serves as the Code.org Regional Partner for Kentucky and has since grown its services to include professional development for the Kentucky Computer Science Expansion Initiative. This initiative, created in collaboration between the College Board, Code.org, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and AdvanceKY, has led to a dramatic increase in the number of computer science classes offered in Kentucky's middle and high schools.

X. Public Comment Section

Chair Robinson stated that the Public Comment Segment is limited to 10 speakers at a maximum of 3 minutes each. No one submitted items via the KBE email inbox, however, there was 1 person in attendance for public comment, therefore the board allowed Bernie Eris from Nelson County Schools a platform to speak. Eris spoke regarding the behavior of board members in his county and asked the board and Commissioner Kinney to take action on this subject. Eris detailed additional information on the matter in packets, which were distributed to the board.

XI. Presentation of the Kevin M. Noland and Mary Ann Miller Award for Outstanding Public Service to Kentucky Schools.

Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Chief Communications Officer Toni Konz Tatman facilitated the awards presentation. Commissioner Kinney expressed that she was honored to present the award. She then outlined the criteria for the award: an individual who focuses on the mission for student proficiency, is an excellent ambassador for the KDE and Kentucky schools, is knowledgeable and productive, and has made an impact in one of the following areas through leadership, customer service, teamwork and community service. Commissioner Kinney announced Assistant Director in the Division of Communications and the Office of the Commissioner, Jennifer Ginn as the winner of the award. Mr. Miller then made a few remarks about the recipient and the legacy of his wife, Mary Ann Miller.

XII. Presentation of the 2023 Milken Educator Awards

Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney and KDE Chief Communications Officer Toni Konz Tatman facilitated the awards presentation. The Milken Educator Awards recognizes outstanding K-12 educators for their quality of teaching, professional leadership, engagement with families and the community, and potential for greater contributions to students, schools, and communities in the future. Two school ceremonies were held at the end of October honoring the recipients, Shane Baker of Jennings Creek Elementary

in Bowling Green and Jacob Ball of Carter G. Woodson Academy in Lexington. The award includes an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize and the opportunity for an all expenses paid national networking forum. Tatman took a few moments to thank the award winners for their outstanding work on behalf of Kentucky children. Shane and Jacob were then invited to come forward and receive their commemorative obelisks.

XIII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson congratulated the award winners and invited them to join the board for a short lunch following adjournment. Chair Robinson then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Lee Todd and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.