

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held a special meeting regarding the search for the next commissioner of education on December 14, 2023. The KBE met virtually. The following business was conducted:

I. Call to Order

Chair Sharon Robinson welcomed the board members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.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, Julia Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, Lu Young, Alissa Riley, R.J. Osborne, and Aaron Thompson.

III. Kentucky Commissioner of Education Candidate Profile and Job Description (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson said that the draft candidate profile and job description were shared with members in advance. She thanked Dr. Joel and his team at McPherson and Jacobson for analyzing the advisory group feedback collected by the KBE members and incorporating it into the proposed search criteria.

Chair Robinson then shared the proposed candidate profile. It included information such as skills, supporting dispositions, and the experience that board members will be looking for when selecting the next Commissioner of Education. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the Kentucky Commissioner of Education Candidate Profile and Job Description. The motion was made by Lee Todd and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. Vice Chair Lu Young commended the communications team at KDE, McPherson and Jacobson, and KDE Executive Director of Education Policy, Meredith Brewer, for their work on the application saying that it set the correct tone. Chair Robinson invited Dr. Joel to give a brief overview of the next steps the search firm is taking to advertise the approved candidate profile. Dr. Joel said that they were preparing the job posting to be listed on their website by next week. He said that in addition, they are beginning to acquire names of potential candidates for the position. He also mentioned that they would be working with the committee to finalize dates. Chair Robinson asked for the date that applications will close, and Dr. Joel informed her that it would be February 16th.

IV. Establish Interview Committee For Responses to Commissioner Search, Duties and Authority of the Committee (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson proposed that the KBE establish a special committee called the "Interview Committee" for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating responses to the commissioner vacancy posting. Following review and evaluation of responses, the committee shall recommend to the KBE a set of finalists for consideration by the full board. The committee chair shall determine the necessary meeting dates and locations. Following selection of a set of finalists, the committee shall terminate. Chair Robinson then proposed that JoAnn Adams, Patrice McCrary, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Diane Woods, and Lu Young serve on the committee with Diane Serving as chair. Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the committee. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Lee Todd. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. Chair Robinson closed the discussion by emphasizing the importance of confidentiality in the selection process.

V. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and engagement and asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Patrice McCrary. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.