

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day two of its regular meeting on April 10, 2024. 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, Holly Bloodworth, Jamie Bowling, Patrice McCrary, Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, Lu Young, Alissa Riley, and President Aaron Thompson.

III. Public Comment Session

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, and no one was in attendance for public comment.

IV. Good News

- A. Family Partnership Advisory Council** (Holly Bloodworth)
- B. Jessamine County counselor attains certification** (Lu Young)
- C. Kentucky Education Support Staff Professional Awards** (JoAnn Adams)
- D. Paintsville Special Ed Teacher of the Year** (Steve Trimble)
- E. Two schools earn National banner status with Special Olympics** (Randy Poe)

V. 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.

Randy Poe began by sharing that Julie Pile (who was not present at the meeting) was selected as a winner for the 2024 Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky award. The

award “celebrates women who live, work, or volunteer in Northern Kentucky and represent the great diversity and extraordinary accomplishments of today’s women.”

Holly Bloodworth said that after reflecting on the Impact Survey from day one of the meeting, she’d like to dig into that further. Bloodworth said she had many questions during the presentation and wanted to know more details. The topic of teacher out of pocket expenses was discussed. Alissa Riley said that she’d come to accept that paying out of pocket for supplies was part of the job.

Randy Poe brought up a different topic, asking for an update on federal grants and the process of applying for them. Interim Commissioner Kinney said that they’d give him a report on the information requested.

Lu Young said that NASBE (National Association of State Boards of Education) is coming to Louisville, Kentucky in October to hold their national conference.

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

Dr. Thompson attended the meeting virtually to give his report. He said that CPE held their Student Success Summit in western Kentucky. Dr. Thompson invited the board to attend a faculty development event taking place at EKU. He also said that the more CPE can do before students get to college campuses, the better they can produce things needed. Additionally, Dr. Thompson mentioned that CPE is looking into how they can produce and encourage more master’s degrees.

VII. Report from the Interim Commissioner of Education

Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney attended in-person to give her report. Kinney began by saying that they were days away from the conclusion of the 2024 General Assembly. She thanked the staff at the Kentucky Department of Education, as well as members of the board who “helped us to make sure that we were engaged and active in the legislative process”. Kinney shared that she visited Menifee County Schools. She said they visited several classrooms and met their emotional support dog, Ace, and had the chance to visit the agriculture department and view some of their equipment. She also attended the 2024 STLP State Championship in Lexington, where a record-breaking 21,000 students attended. Kinney shared some updates from the Kentucky School for the Deaf and Kentucky School for the Blind. At KSD, elementary students completed a special art project with a focus on creating and expressing thoughts and feelings. KSD has partnered with the Actors Theatre of Louisville and Amy Chu, who is a deaf actor, arts administrator, and playwright, for the purpose of engaging with KSD high school students. At KSB, 6 students competed in the 2024 Braille Challenge. All 6 placed either first or second place in their respective categories. Additionally, Kinney said they now have an official KSB

bowling team. Lastly, Commissioner Kinney provided updates from the 50 state area technology centers. She said that there are around 26,000 students enrolled in career and technical education.

VIII. Review Items

A. Legislative Update

KDE Director of Government Relations Brian Perry, KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Karen Wirth provided an update on the 2024 session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Wirth updated the board on topics such as legislative processes for the 2024 session, SEEK (HB6 FCCR), KBE ABR priorities, the Bureau of Support Services (BOSS), Learning and Results Services (LARS), Special Offers of Assistance FY25 (SFCC), other education funding, and capital projects (KSB, KSD, FFA LTC). Perry then discussed the bills that have already reached the governor. These included HB 2, SB 2, SB 265, SB 11, SB 18, HB 142, SB 164, HB 22, HB 377, HB 466, HB 447, HB 471, HB 535, HB 695, HB 825, HB 611, and HB 727. He also discussed bills that passed both Chambers and are back for concurrence, including HB 162, HB 275, HB 300, HB 387, and HB 449. Perry then mentioned a few resolutions of interest such as HCR 43, HCR 51, HCR 60, HCR 81, and HCR 83.

IX. Report from the Secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet

Secretary Link attended the meeting virtually to give his report. He began by saying that the budget was a bit disappointing for their cabinet. One reason was because the cabinet's Everybody Counts Initiative did not receive funding. On another note, Secretary Link said that the cabinet is seeing positive results from increased efforts with reentry employment and veteran employment. Finally, he mentioned the statewide workforce and talent team initiative, a collaboration between the Education and Labor Cabinet, the Cabinet for Economic Development, the Council on Postsecondary Education, KCTCS, the Department of Education, and the Kentucky Chamber, and other workforce partners. Secretary Link said the purpose of the initiative is to develop curriculum and training that employers need.

X. Action/Discussion Items

A. 704 KAR 3:550, Minimum Qualifications for Paraprofessionals

KDE Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, Ed.D. and KDE Policy Advisor Matthew Courtney, Ed.D. presented the new regulation. The presentation explained that KRS 161.044 requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) to

promulgate an administrative regulation governing the qualifications of teachers' aides in the common schools. This new regulation seeks to comply with that requirement by codifying existing KDE policy into a regulation. Dr. Courtney said that effort has been taken to ensure that the minimum requirements outlined in this regulation do not exceed the minimum requirements in federal law or state law and do not change the existing qualifications of paraprofessionals found in KDE's policy documents. This regulation defines "paraprofessional", establishes the minimum criteria for paraprofessionals in all schools, establishes the minimum criteria for paraprofessionals in schools that receive Title I funding, establishes local areas of flexibility, and establishes standards for the KDE's paraprofessional exam. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve. The motion was made by Jamie Bowling and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

B. Amendments to 704 KAR 7:140, World War II and Korean Veteran diplomas

Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Peace presented the proposed amendments to 704 KAR 7:140. The presentation explained that KRS 158.140(5)(b) requires the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, to promulgate administrative regulations establishing the guidelines for use by local boards of education when awarding an authentic high school diploma to an honorably discharged veteran who did not complete high school prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam War. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the proposed amendments. The motion was made by Patrice McCrary and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

C. Waiver Request from the Jessamine County Board of Education Related to Section 1(3) and Section 2(1) of 702 KAR 4:090, Property disposal

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the waiver request. Ritter said that the Jessamine Board wants to accept a Kentucky Transportation Cabinet appraisal in lieu of their own commissioner appraisal, and this was not abnormal. Chair Robinson said that there was quite a bit of extra information in the portal regarding the waiver. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the waiver request. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

D. Waiver Request from the Henderson County Board of Education Related to 702 KAR 4:090

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the waiver request. Ritter said that the waiver was similar to the previous request from Jessamine. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the waiver request. The motion was made by Diane Woods and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

E. Kentucky Minimum Specification for School Buses

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Branch Manager Elisa Hanley presented the proposed specifications. Hanley listed some of the changes, including lights, illuminated school bus and stop signs, heated cross-view mirrors, battery shut off switches for summer months, more comfortable and ergonomic seating, air conditioning requirements, and cross-view mirror lighting. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the proposed specifications. The motion was made by Jamie Bowling and seconded by JoAnn Adams. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

Next, Chair Robinson called for the board to take a short break.

Chair Robinson called the board to order.

XI. Presentation of the 2024 Robinson Award for Diversity and Equity in Public Education

Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney facilitated the award presentation. Kinney explained that Dr. Samuel Robinson was a former member of the KBE from 1991-2004, who made diversity and equity in education his life's work. Each year the Kentucky Board of Education grants the award to a Kentuckian or Kentucky organization demonstrating extraordinary efforts and contributions in the area of educational diversity and equity. Commissioner Kinney then announced that the winner of the award was Emily Lehman, a 5th grade teacher in Bowling Green Independent School district. Lehman said she felt humbled and grateful to accept the award.

XII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson congratulated Emily Lehman and invited her to join the board for lunch following the meeting. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.