

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) Board of Control Appointment

Date: June 2024

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board State Schools United We Learn

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action to appoint an at-large member to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) Board of Control.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner of Education recommends Mr. Chuck Mullins for appointment to the KHSAA Board of Control.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

702 KAR 7:065, Designation of Agent to Manage Middle and High School Interscholastic Athletics.

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

In July 1993, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) appointed a Commission on Interscholastic Athletics to study the optimum methods and best practices to deliver quality high school interscholastic athletic programs. At the January 1994 KBE meeting, the Commission on Interscholastic Athletics presented a report outlining recommendations for improvement of the governance of interscholastic athletics. One of the recommendations of the Commission adopted by the KBE was the amendment of the KHSAA Constitution to require the appointment to the Board of Control of four outside, at-large members recommended by the Commissioner of Education.

702 KAR 7:065 designates the KHSAA as the KBE's agent to manage middle and high school interscholastic athletics. "To remain eligible to maintain the designation as the agent to manage interscholastic high school athletics, the KHSAA shall: (1) Accept four (4) at-large members appointed by the Kentucky Board of Education to its high school Board of Control." The KHSAA Constitution, incorporated by reference in 702 KAR 7:065, provides that "[t]hese members are to be at-large appointments recommended by the Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education. These appointees shall not be an employee of any member school or its central administration or the administration of the Kentucky Department of Education. At least one of these appointees shall be an African American and one shall be a female."

The KHSAA Constitution further requires that "[m]embers of the Board of Control shall serve a four-year term of office unless filling an unexpired term created by the death or resignation of a member, in which case the balance of the remaining term is the term in office. The term year for the Board of Control is July 1 through June 30." Furthermore, "[n]o member is eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive four-year terms with no further limits as to lifetime eligibility."

Summary of Issue:

Current KBE appointed at-large members serving on the KHSAA Board of Control are:
Darrell Billings (Clay City), Term Expires 6/30/24
Dr. Gavin Washington (Versailles), Term Expires 6/30/25 (African-American)
Randy McCallon (Murray), Term Expires 6/30/26
Mandi Hudson (Georgetown), Term Expires 6/30/27 (Female)

The KBE must appoint an at-large KHSAA Board of Control member to fill the seat currently held by Mr. Darrell Billings. Having served two consecutive terms on the Board of Control, Mr. Billings is not eligible for re-appointment.

The Commissioner recommends Mr. Chuck Mullins for appointment to the KHSAA Board of Control. Mr. Mullins resides in Hazard, Perry County. He serves as an engineer and long-time employee of Kentucky River Coal. Mr. Mullins has a demonstrated record of community service, including as a coach, student mentor, and other board service. Mr. Mullins states: "I have been very active within my engineering profession's efforts to introduce advanced math and science into the classroom setting." Those providing recommendations for Mr. Mullins appointment describe him as "a beloved coach in his community after years of coaching soccer, little league baseball, and basketball." One recommendation spoke of Mr. Mullins' "strong community spirit" and indicates he "is dedicated to assisting youth, the southeastern Kentucky region, and the Commonwealth." Mr. Mullins was described in one recommendation as a "common sense, hard worker who genuinely cares about people, especially our youth." Mr. Mullins eastern Kentucky residence provides geographic representation among the KBE appointees that will otherwise be absent with the expiration of Mr. Billings term.

Budget Impact:

Approval of this appointment to the KHSAA Board of Control has no fiscal impact on the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) or KBE.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

On February 26, 2024, KDE advertised the Board of Control vacancy and called for applications. Each applicant was required to provide at least two letters of support for their appointment to the KHSAA Board of Control.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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Commissioner of Education

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