

**The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day one of its regular meeting on March 26, 2025. 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 1:00 P.M. ET.

**II. Roll Call**

Chair Robinson asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Holly Bloodworth, Juston Pate, Julie Pile, Randy Poe, Sharon Porter Robinson, Lee Todd, Steve Trimble, Diane Woods, Lu Young, Lawrence McCrobie, Preston Graham, and Secretary Jamie Link.

**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 attended in-person to comment.

**IV. Internal Board Business**

**A. Summary Minutes for February 5, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; February 6, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; and March 20, 2025 KBE Awards Committee Meeting (Action/Discussion)**

The minutes of the February 5, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; February 6, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; and March 20, 2025, KBE Awards Committee Meeting were distributed to members in advance. Chair Robinson asked for any corrections to any of the minutes. There were no corrections. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve all of the meeting minutes. The motion was made by Holly Bloodworth and seconded by Lee Todd. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

**B. Recipient of the 2025 David Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy (Action/Discussion)**

On behalf of the KBE Awards Committee, Chair Diane Woods presented the information related to the award description. Chair Woods shared that the committee met on Thursday, March 20 and determined that candidate 4 best met the criteria of the award. Chair Woods moved to approve

candidate 4 as the recipient and asked the chair for the board's approval to recognize the recipient at the board's June regular meeting. The motion did not require a second as it came from the committee. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

## V. Consent Agenda

- A. **Assignment of KBE Member to Committee**
- B. **Hearing Officer's Report-** KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen
- C. **Litigation Report-** KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen
- D. **Certification of 701 KAR 5:130, Drug testing of teachers involved in illegal use of controlled substances-** KDE General Counsel Todd G. Allen
- E. **Certification of 704 KAR 8:020, Required academic standards for reading and writing-** KDE Deputy Commissioner Thomas S. Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli, and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Peace
- F. **Certification of 704 KAR 8:040, Required academic standards for mathematics-** KDE Deputy Commissioner Thomas S. Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli, and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Peace
- G. **Certification of 704 KAR 3:307, Recognition of credits when transferring without transcript-** KDE Deputy Commissioner Thomas S. Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli, and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Peace
- H. **Certification of 704 KAR 3:500, Professional Development Leadership and Mentor Fund-** Thomas S. Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Chief Academic Officer Micki Ray Marinelli, and KDE Policy Advisor Sarah Peace
- I. **Certification of 702 KAR 6:010, Local responsibilities-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Lauren Moore, and Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- J. **Certification of 702 KAR 6:020, District school nutrition director-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Lauren Moore, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- K. **Certification of 702 KAR 6:050, Lunch and breakfast requirements-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Lauren Moore, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- L. **Certification of 702 KAR 6:060, Time minimum for meals-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Lauren Moore, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz

- M. Certification of 702 KAR 1:035, Group health and life insurance-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- N. Certification of 702 KAR 1:080, Transfer of annexed property; hearing-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- O. Certification of 702 KAR 1:100, Merger of independent and county school districts-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- P. Certification of 702 KAR 3:045, Withholding funds-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- Q. Certification of 702 KAR 3:050, Application to exceed budget-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- R. Certification of 702 KAR 3:070, Teachers' salary scheduling-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- S. Certification of 702 KAR 3:075, Substitute teachers' salary scheduling-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- T. Certification of 702 KAR 3:150, Audit exceptions and corrections-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- U. Certification of 702 KAR 4:005, Recreational facilities; school and community-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- V. Certification of 702 KAR 4:050, Building Sites; inspection, approval-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- W. Certification of 702 KAR 4:170, Facility programming and construction criteria-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- X. Certification of 702 KAR 4:180, Implementation guidelines – Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz
- Y. 2024-2025 Tax Rates Levied–** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter

**Z. Perkins V State Plan-** KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., and KDE Education Administration Program Manager Lori Looney

Chair Robinson said that “KDE staff identified items in the consent agenda as those that are non-controversial and routine in nature. Consent agenda items D through X are requests for certification of the noted administrative regulations to avoid expiration. All of these regulations are currently in effect and nearing their 7-year expiration date. Staff have reviewed these regulations and determined they should be certified to remain in effect. If the regulations are not certified, they will expire and become ineffective.”

Chair Robinson remarked that the consent agenda items were distributed to members in advance of the meeting for review, however, if an item is moved, the chair may decide to take up the matter immediately or move it to a discussion item later in the agenda. None of the items were moved and Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was made by Lee Todd and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

**VI. Kentucky United We Learn Assessment and Accountability Framework 3.0 (Action/Discussion)**

KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., and KDE Division Director Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D., presented the Kentucky United We Learn Assessment and Accountability Framework 3.0 and feedback gathered on the assessment and accountability model gathered from other stakeholder groups including the Kentucky United We Learn (KUWL) Council, School Curriculum Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC). The presenters shared that throughout January and February, the department held multiple town hall meetings to collect input from educators, students, families, legislators and community members on Framework 2.0 and how new assessment and accountability systems could work locally. Alongside the town halls, educational cooperatives hosted discussions about the Framework with their boards of directors (superintendents) and Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff. Additionally, Commissioner Robbie Fletcher and Division Director Jennifer Stafford gathered feedback on Framework 2.0 from Town Hall meeting attendees, the Local Superintendent Advisory Council (LSAC) and the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) at its February regular meeting. The presenters covered participation and other information gathered from the last town hall meetings. Feedback from the town halls led to changes in the framework, such as options for interim assessments, clarification

on off-grade testing, and the inclusion of K-2 assessments. The updated framework aims to prioritize student agency, collaboration, local innovation, and vibrant learning experiences.

Lu Young moved to approve the advancement of Kentucky United We Learn Assessment and Accountability Framework 3.0, as presented to the board, to the advocacy and budgeting phase, with the following revisions: (1) amend the language referring to federal accountability to state accountability with federal requirements; (2) reduce social studies and writing requirements to be consistent with the approach for science; and (3) seek additional feedback from the School Curriculum Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) and Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC). Diane Woods seconded the motion. During discussion of the motion, Randy Poe discussed a desire for further review by the KBE. Lu Young moved to amend her previous motion to include subsequent reporting and review of the matter at the June 2025 KBE meeting. The proposed amended motion would read: Approve the advancement of Kentucky United We Learn Assessment and Accountability Framework 3.0, as presented to the board, to the advocacy and budgeting phase, with the following revisions: (1) amend the language referring to federal accountability indicators to state accountability with federal requirements; (2) reduce social studies and writing requirements to be consistent with the approach for science; (3) seek additional feedback from the School Curriculum Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) and Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC); and (4) report updates to the KBE during its June 2025 meeting for further review. The amendment to the motion was seconded by Diane Woods. The amendment to the motion was unanimously approved. The motion, as amended, was unanimously approved.

The KBE took a 15 minute recess to welcome new board member, Harold McKinney. The board reconvened at 2:53 P.M.

## **VII. Swearing In of Board Member**

Erin Gaines from the Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Legal Services was onsite to issue the oath of office. Harold McKinney was newly appointed to the Board of Education.

## **VIII. Review Items**

### **A. Boyd County Update**

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the financial report from Boyd County Schools. District representatives, including Superintendent Bill Boblett, also attended the

meeting virtually to address the board. The presentation updated board members regarding the loan KDE provided the Boyd County School District and the district's steps moving forward.

**B. KDE Strategic Plan Update**

KDE Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd presented the update. Dodd said that strategic objectives include reimagining assessment and accountability, improving early literacy, improving early numeracy, increasing the rate of teacher retention and decreasing chronic absenteeism. The plan also focuses on improving operations in the areas of customer satisfaction, organizational process management and building leadership capacity within KDE. Smart goals have been established and key performance indicators have been identified along with strategies that have been carefully considered.

**C. Area Technology Centers Update**

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D. presented the update. Hargis provided an overview of the history, purpose, and benefits of area technology centers (ATCs) in Kentucky. She discussed the funding, regional approach, and partnerships with business and industry to ensure relevant curriculum and post-secondary opportunities for students.

**D. National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) High School Transformation Network Update**

KBE Member Juston Pate, Ph.D., presented the update. Pate said that Kentucky has been selected to become part of the High School Transformation State Network, established by the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). The network aims to build and enhance the capacity of state boards of education over the next two years to enable student experiences that foster content master and durable skills. Kentucky is one of six states invited to participate. NASBE and the team from Kentucky are currently collecting feedback to identify how state policies are impacting the ability to transform high schools through a survey sent to school superintendents and state lawmakers as part of the early work. Commissioner Fletcher said it was an honor to be asked to join the network and the goals of NASBE tie directly into KDE and KBE's goals.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by

Juston Pate. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 P.M.