

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** Kentucky High School Athletic Association Board of Control Appointment

**Date:** June 2015

**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 recommends Dr. Gavin Washington for re-appointment to the KHSAA Board of Control for the term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029.

### 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:  
Chuck Mullins (Hazard), Term Expires 6/30/28  
Gavin Washington (Versailles), Term Expires 6/30/25  
Randy McCallon (Murray), Term Expires 6/30/26  
Mandi Hudson (Georgetown), Term Expires 6/30/27

The KBE must appoint an at-large KHSAA Board of Control member to fill the seat currently held by Dr. Gavin Washington. Having served one term on the Board of Control, Dr. Washington is eligible for re-appointment.

The Commissioner recommends Dr. Gavin Washington for re-appointment to the KHSAA Board of Control. Dr. Washington resides in Versailles, Woodford County. He serves as an Assistant Professor at Midway University teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in sports management, sports marketing, exercise science, and coaching and sports leadership. Dr. Washington previously served as an Assistant Professor at Kentucky State University, as well as a teacher and coach in Kentucky public schools. One of his recommendations states: “Examples of [Dr. Washington’s] leadership in the sports field can be seen by his record of academic presentations at regional and national conferences, his service as the Faculty Athletic Representative at two different universities and selection by his peer as the Professor of the Year.” Another recommendation states that Dr. Washington has “showcased his ability to advocate for policies that enhance student experiences while ensuring the highest standards of safety, inclusivity, and sportsmanship in school athletics.” While the Commissioner received several strong applications for appointment, Dr. Washington’s education and experience in the field of sports and physical education, coupled with his previous Board of Control service, cause him to be the most uniquely qualified for appointment.

*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 20, 2025, 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.

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**Commissioner of Education**

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