

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the State Schools Committee meeting on August 7, 2025. The committee met both virtually and in-person at the Paul Sawyer Public Library, 319 Wapping Street, 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 following business was conducted:

I. Call to Order

Chair Randy Poe welcomed the committee members and guests to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M. E.T.

II. Roll Call

Chair Poe asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Randy Poe, Sharon Robinson, Steve Trimble, and Diane Woods. Alfonso De Torres Núñez and Harold McKinney were absent.

III. Action/Discussion Items

A. Annual Policy Adoptions and Amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD)

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Division Director Shannon Sparkman and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper presented the item. The presenters explained that the board annually approves updates to policies for the KSB and KSD. The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) provides a model policy service to local school districts, the KSB and the KSD. Policies for the KSB and KSD are updated annually to reflect laws passed during the legislative session, as well as changes to applicable regulations during the past year. Following a discussion with the committee, Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the annual policy adoptions and amendments for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a voice vote.

B. KSB Advisory Board Appointment

KDE Division Director Shannon Sparkman and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper presented the item. The presenters explained that the board would need to act on the proposed candidate to maintain current membership on the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board. The presenters stated that Commissioner Robbie Fletcher recommended Carla Ruschival be appointed to the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board. Ruschival meets the necessary criteria for appointment. Chair Poe called

for a motion to approve the appointment of Carla Ruschival to the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) Advisory Board. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote.

C. KSB and KSD Traceable Communications Systems

KDE Division Director Shannon Sparkman and KDE Policy Advisor Melody Cooper presented the item. The presenters explained that the board was required to act on traceable communication systems for Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), which meet the requirements of 2025 Acts Chapter 149 (Senate Bill 181). Sparkman and Cooper outlined the components included in the traceable communication system. Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the traceable communication systems for the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). The motion was made by Diane Woods and seconded by Sharon Robinson. The motion passed with a voice vote.

D. Annual Amendments to Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the item. The presenters explained that the board annually approves updates to policies for Area Technology Centers. The KDE contracts with the KSBA for annual maintenance, revision and upkeep of the Kentucky Tech policies and procedures. The annual changes are intended to amend outdated and/or inapplicable language and align and update the policies and procedures with pertinent new legislation and best practices recommended by the KSBA. Following a discussion with the committee, Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the annual amendments to the Area Technology Center (ATC) Policies and Procedures. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a voice vote.

E. Annual Amendments to the KY Tech Student Handbook

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the item. The presenters explained that the KY Tech Student Handbook has been updated to reflect alignment with current KY Tech policies and procedures. Other modifications made to the handbook included

improvements to grammar and formatting. Following a discussion with the committee, Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the annual amendments to the KY Tech Student Handbook. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a voice vote.

F. Office of Career and Technical Education Traceable Communication System

KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., KDE Division Director Beth Engle, and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D., presented the item. The presenters explained that the board was required to act on traceable communication systems for Area Technology Centers (ATCs), which meet the requirements of 2025 Acts Chapter 149 (Senate Bill 181). Hargis, Engle and Graves outlined the components included in the traceable communication system. Chair Poe called for a motion to approve the Office of Career and Technical Education Traceable Communication System. The motion was made by Sharon Robinson and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote.

G. Updates from the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB), Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD), and Area Technology Centers (ATCs)

Chair Poe requested that the committee hear general updates regarding the state schools and ATCs. Beth Hargis said they are interviewing for a permanent marketing position to help distribute information about the ATCs. Hargis also responded to questions about FFA (Future Farmers of America) programs. Shannon Sparkman said that a new assistant principal was hired at the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). She also mentioned that multiple KSD students had the opportunity to travel to Vermont and present about their educational experiences.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Poe requested a motion to adjourn the committee. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Sharon Robinson. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 A.M. E.T.