

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held day one of its regular meeting on October 1, 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, Diana Woods, Lu Young, Harper Blake, Alfonso De Torres Núñez, and Secretary Jamie Link. President Aaron Thompson and Harold McKinney were absent.

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. Internal Board Business

A. Summary Minutes for the August 6, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; August 7, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; August 7, 2025, KBE State Schools Committee Meeting; August 7, 2025, United We Learn Committee Meeting; and September 25, 2025, KBE Awards Committee Meeting (Action/Discussion)

The minutes of the August 6, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 1; August 7, 2025, KBE Regular Meeting Day 2; August 7, 2025, KBE State Schools Committee Meeting; August 7, 2025, United We Learn Committee Meeting; and September 25, 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 Julie Pile. The motion passed with a voice vote.

B. KBE Mission, Vision, and Goals (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson said that the proposed draft of the board's 2025-2026 goals, which incorporates feedback from members shared during the August 2025 board retreat and regular meeting, were distributed to members in advance. Chair Robinson said included with the draft is the board's current mission and vision statements. Pending the board's review and action, these goals will be shared with KDE's chief performance officer and KDE staff to support the board in developing measurability and reporting related to each goal, thereby reinforcing the board's accountability to its mission. Chair Robinson said the board intends to discuss the measurability and reporting for each goal at a future meeting. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the board's 2025-2026 goals. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Diane Woods. The motion passed with a voice vote.

C. KBE Legislative Priorities (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson said that the KBE legislative priorities were presented and discussed at the August KBE meeting. In consultation with the board chair and vice chair, KDE staff recommended a couple of technical revisions and updates to reflect alignment with outcomes of the 2025 regular legislative session. These revised priorities were shared with members in advance. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the board's 2025-2026 legislative priorities. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote.

D. Board Self-Assessment (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson said that next is an update regarding the board's self-assessment. The Kentucky Board of Education last completed a self-assessment in 2022 in consultation with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). Chair Robinson said that results of the 2025 board self-assessment survey facilitated by NASBE will be tabulated and shared in aggregate for the board's review and discussion at the December board meeting.

E. Amendments to the Kentucky Board of Education Policy Manual (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson said that the next item for internal board business is the consideration of amendments to the KBE Policy Manual. KDE staff reviewed the manual and proposed amendments to align with recent legislative changes and to reflect current practices. The proposed

amendments were provided to members in advance. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the amendments to the KBE Policy Manual. The motion was made by Lu Young and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed with a voice vote.

F. Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and KBE Research Practice Collaborative (Action/Discussion)

Chair Robinson said the next item relates to the continued collaboration between the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and the KBE. In June, members from both boards heard an update on Supporting Kentucky's Educator Workforce from the KDE Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness and Office of Legal Services. Chair Robinson said chairs from both boards have met to discuss opportunities to further support Kentucky's Educator Workforce, and, in collaboration with the Commissioner and KDE staff, have proposed a Research Practice Collaborative to gather insights from Kentucky education stakeholders on what drives educator retention, why mid-career teachers leave, and how vibrant classroom learning environments—especially in literacy and numeracy—influence teacher satisfaction and career persistence.

The proposal was provided to members in advance. The proposal includes four phases, namely: group formation and preparation; small group discussions and stay interviews; analysis and synthesis; and reporting and dissemination. KDE staff have proposed that, pending action from both the KBE and EPSB to create these special committees, that the groups form and meet beginning in January 2026. Chair Robinson asked for a motion to approve the creation of special committees—appointed by the KBE and EPSB chairs and composed of KBE members, EPSB members, KDE staff, and external partners—for the purpose of understanding and supporting Kentucky's educator workforce, with a particular focus on factors influencing educator retention and the role of vibrant learning environments in promoting teacher satisfaction and career persistence. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed with a voice vote.

G. Identification of the Strategic Priority and Criteria for the 2025 KBE Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award (Action/Discussion)

On behalf of the KBE Awards Committee, Chair Julie Pile shared the information related to the proposed award priority and criteria. Chair Pile gave background on the award, saying that the priority area for the award

changes from year to year based on the desire of the board. She shared that the committee met on September 25 and identified the following strategic priority area: “The 2025 Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award seeks to recognize a public school district that has demonstrated a strong commitment to developing and/or implementing a localized accountability system. As stated in the ‘Local Accountability Design Guide and Toolkit’ released by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) in September 2025, ‘Well-designed and effectively implemented local accountability systems lead to transformed and vibrant student experiences, enhanced community engagement and partnership, and increased transparency with actionable data to inform educational improvements and decisions.’”

Chair Pile also stated the criteria for the award, which includes:

“Evidence of localized co-creation to define student success. This includes strong consideration of parental engagement, community partnerships and non-academic factors affecting school quality and the overall schooling experience in the development of the local accountability system;

“Evidence of collective commitment to create learning experiences that are relevant, authentic, and joyful for every learner. This includes efforts to design and promote vibrant learning experiences for all students, as well as professional development and support for staff focused on vibrant learning experiences; (and)

“Notable efforts in supporting the development and/or successful implementation of localized accountability systems.”

Chair Pile moved to approve the strategic priority and criteria for the 2025 Kevin C. Brown Strategic Priority Award and asked Chair Robinson for the board’s consideration. Chair Robinson stated that since the motion came from the committee, the motion did not require a second. Chair Robinson called for a vote to approve the proposed award priority and criteria, which passed with a voice vote.

H. Commissioner’s Evaluation

Chair Robinson said that as a part of the Commissioner’s Evaluation plan, board members were asked to review the commissioner’s self-reflection on each of the leadership areas and a narrative detailing progress on the goals established for 2024- 2025. The leadership areas were determined based on the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) Chief Evaluation Tool. Members were asked to provide their comments and

feedback to the Chair, highlighting strengths and any opportunities for growth. She said the feedback was then compiled and summarized into an evaluation report, which was provided to board members in advance of the meeting. Once approved by the Board, this report will serve as the Commissioner's final annual evaluation document.

Chair Robinson then invited Education Commissioner Robbie Fletcher to share a few comments and introduce a short video highlighting notable moments from his first year as commissioner. KBE members also commented on his performance. Chair Robinson asked the board to entertain a motion to approve the Commissioner's Evaluation for 2024-2025. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed with a voice vote.

I. 2025-2026 Commissioner Goals (Action/Discussion)

J. 2025-2026 Commissioner Evaluation Procedures and Communication Plan (Action/Discussion)

Next, Chair Robinson said that draft materials related to Commissioner's Goals for 2025-2026, as well as the Commissioner Evaluation Procedures and Communication Plan for 2025-2026 were shared with members in advance. The commissioner's self-reflection tool and board members' evaluation tool were also included. Chair Robinson outlined the recommendations related to the Commissioner's goals and the Evaluation Procedures and Communication Plan. Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 commissioner's goals, as well as the 2025-2026 Commissioner Evaluation Procedures and Communication Plan. The motion was made by Lee Todd and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed with a voice vote.

V. Consent Agenda

- A. Litigation Report-** KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen
- B. Assessment Alignment Process-** KDE Associate Commissioner Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D.
- C. 2025-2026 Tax Rates Levied-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter
- D. 2025-2026 Unmet Need Report, KRS 157.620(4)-** KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter
- E. Certification of 704 KAR 5:060, Entrance of five (5) year olds into primary school program for compulsory attendance purposes-** KDE

Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz

- F. Certification of 705 KAR 3:141, Area center or public high school, standards for vocational department-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- G. Certification of 705 KAR 4:240, Schools to careers-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- H. Certification of 780 KAR 6:080, Employee Actions-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- I. Certification of 780 KAR 6:100, Appeals and hearings-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- J. Certification of 780 KAR 7:020, Area technology center facility standards-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.
- K. Certification of 780 KAR 7:040, Facility maintenance-** KDE Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis, Ed.D., and KDE Policy Advisor Lauren Graves, Ph.D.

Chair Robinson said that “KDE staff identified items in the consent agenda as those that are non-controversial in nature. Consent Agenda Items E through K 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 said that the consent agenda items were distributed to members in advance of the meeting for review and asked if any member wished to move an item from the consent agenda. Chair Robinson said, 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 Randy Poe and seconded by Lee Todd. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. Hearing Officer's Report- KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen

1. Expiration of Administrative Regulations Pursuant to KRS 13A.3102- KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen

KDE Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel Todd G. Allen said that KRS 13A.3102 provides that administrative regulations "shall expire seven (7) years after their last effective date," unless certified by the agency to remain in effect. Upon review, KDE staff determined that the regulations detailed in the staff note are no longer necessary for the operation of programs under the control of the Kentucky Board of Education.

Chair Robinson asked asked the board to entertain a motion to recommend regulations detailed in the staff note, specifically:

- 701 KAR 5:140, Districts of innovation;
- 702 KAR 7:130, Approval of innovative alternative school calendars;
- 702 KAR 1:150, Employment of KTRS retiree in full-time position;
- 702 KAR 6:075, Reports and funds;
- 704 KAR 7:070, Guidelines for dropout prevention programs; and
- 704 KAR 10:022, Elementary, middle, and secondary school accreditation

to expire pursuant to KRS 13A.3102. The motion was made by Julie Pile and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed with a voice vote.

2. 702 KAR 5:130, Vehicles designed to carry nine (9) passengers or less, standards for- Statement of Consideration

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross, KDE Division Director Chay Ritter, and KDE Policy Advisor Lindsey Swartz presented the Statement of Consideration. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the Statement of Consideration for 702 KAR 5:130, Vehicles designed to carry nine (9) passengers or less, standards for. The motion was made

by Juston Pate and seconded by Holly Bloodworth. The motion passed with a voice vote.

B. Waiver Request, 2025-WV-001, Elizabethtown Independent School District- KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the waiver request. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to waive the Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual, Sect.501.3 (incorporated by reference in 702 KAR 4:180) requirement to create a “newly constituted Local Planning Committee” for Elizabethtown Independent Schools. The motion was made by Randy Poe and seconded by Juston Pate. The motion passed with a voice vote.

C. Waiver Request, 2025-WV-002, Harrison County- KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the waiver request. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to waive the Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual, Sect. 501.3-501.5 (as incorporated by reference in 702 KAR 4:180) requirement to create a “newly constituted Local Planning Committee” for Harrison County Schools. The motion was made by Diane Woods and seconded by Randy Poe. The motion passed with a voice vote.

D. Barbourville Independent Board of Education Request to acquire property and exceed the ten (10) percent limitation in 702 KAR 4:050 Section 4(5) and Section 5(1)- KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the request. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve Barbourville Independent Board of Education’s request to approve the acquisition of the proposed site and existing building for the new 6-12th grade Career Exploration Center and 6-12th grade Multi-Purpose Field House for which the site acquisition cost exceeds ten percent (10%) of the maximum budget for the project. The motion was made by Steve Trimble and seconded by Julie Pile. The motion passed with a voice vote.

E. Knox County Board of Education Request to exceed the ten (10) percent limitation in 702 KAR 4:050 Section 4(5) and Section 5(1)- KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter

KDE Associate Commissioner Matt Ross and KDE Division Director Chay Ritter presented the request. Following a discussion with the full board, Chair Robinson called for a motion to approve the Knox County Board of Education's request to approve the proposed acquisition of the site and existing building for which the site acquisition cost exceeds ten (10) percent of the maximum project budget for the Knox County Career and Technical Center (CTC) and Central Office. The motion was made by Juston Pate and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Robinson thanked everyone for their time and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Holly Bloodworth and seconded by Steve Trimble. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 P.M. E.T.