

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held the Awards Committee meeting on April 1, 2026. The committee met virtually. The following business was conducted:

I. Call to Order

Chair Julie Pile welcomed the committee members and guests viewing the livestream to the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. ET.

II. Roll Call

Julie Pile asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: Alfonso De Torres Núñez, Julie Pile, and Lu Young. No members were absent. GlyptusAnn Grider Jones stated that a quorum was present.

III. David Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy

A. Review of Criteria for Selecting the Recipient of the David Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy

Chair Pile provided an overview and brief discussion of the criteria for the Karem Award. She said that “each year, the award, which is named for former KBE member David Karem, will recognize a Kentucky policymaker, education leader or citizen who has made notable state-level contributions to the improvement of Kentucky’s public education system.” She also stated that “criteria for the award includes, but is not limited to; demonstrated leadership in policy development, passage or implementation resulting in increased educational opportunities for students, improved educational, postsecondary or workforce outcomes for students, and/or increased capacity of teachers or school staff to better meet the academic, social or emotional needs of Kentucky students.”

B. Review and Discussion of Nominations for the David Karem Award For Excellence in Education Policy

Committee members were asked to review the candidates prior to the meeting using a provided rubric. Chair Pile led members in a review and discussion of nominations. All members positively commented on the qualifications of candidate 6.

C. Approve Recommendation of Individual(s) as the Recipient of the David Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy

The committee determined that its top applicant was candidate 6. A vote was necessary to bring the recommendation before the full board for consideration of approval at its April 8, 2026 regular meeting. Based on

the candidate's extraordinary efforts and contributions in the area of education policy, Chair Pile asked the committee to entertain a motion to approve candidate 6 as the recipient of the 2026 David Karem Award for Excellence in Education Policy. The motion was made by Alfonso De Torres Núñez and seconded by Lu Young. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Pile thanked everyone for their time and a productive meeting. Chair Pile requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Lu Young and seconded by Alfonso De Torres Núñez. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 P.M. ET.