

Kentucky Board of Education Work Session October 4, 2016

Kentucky State University Research Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

SUMMARY MINUTES

The Kentucky Board of Education held a work session on October 4, 2016, at the Kentucky State University Research Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to Order - 9:00 a.m. (ET)

Chair Bill Twyman called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. He announced the following:

- Today is a work session that will be composed of interactive sessions on team building/norm setting, the commissioner's self-evaluation and strategic planning.
- Hard copy materials will be used since we do not have access at this facility to the online materials system.
- This session will not be webcast since we are off-site, but tomorrow's regular meeting will be webcast. An audio copy of today's meeting is being recorded for anyone who wants to hear the verbatim content.

II. Roll Call

Chair Twyman asked Mary Ann Miller to call the roll. All were present except Ben Cundiff and Robert King. The following reflects attendance:

Attendance Taken at 9:15 AM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Grayson Boyd
Mr. Richard Gimmel
Mr. Samuel Hinkle
Mr. Gary Houchens
Ms. Alesa Johnson
Mr. Roger Marcum
Ms. Nawanna Privett
Mr. Milton Seymore
Mr. William Twyman
Ms. Mary Gwen Wheeler

Absent Board Members:

Mr. Ben Cundiff
Dr. Robert King

III. Team Building/Norm Setting Discussion - Gene Wilhoit, Center for Innovation in Education (Review Item - 3-hour presentation/discussion)

Former Commissioner of Education and Executive Director of the Council of Chief State School Officers Gene Wilhoit introduced himself as the facilitator of the team building/norm setting discussion. Wilhoit indicated that the first activity would be for members to pair up and introduce one another using the questions: "What about education motivates me? and What are my passions?" After this activity was accomplished in pairs, Wilhoit had each member introduce the other one to the group using what was learned from the answers to the questions that had been posed. After this was completed, he summarized that all members had mentioned opportunities for all children. Additionally, he pointed out the major issues that were raised included academics as well as skills, career and technical education and teachers being equipped to meet the needs of students.

Next, Wilhoit moved to pointing out the major responsibilities of the board, which can be summarized as follows:

- Hire and evaluate the commissioner of education.
- Set policy and regulations that govern P-12 education.
- Provide oversight of the common schools.
- Recommend a budget to the Governor and General Assembly.
- Suspend local officials for misuse of their office responsibilities.

Once board members discussed their major responsibilities, the next topic was the characteristics of an effective board. Wilhoit shared the following:

- Members have diverse views but agree to speak with one voice.
- Members are always prepared for meetings. The board always works in the sunshine for the sake of transparency.
- The board aggressively reaches outward.
- Members agree who speaks for the board and make it clear if they are giving personal views.
- Members find the right balance of work involving the past, present and future.

After the board discussed being effective, this section of the meeting was concluded.

IV. Working Lunch - Discussion of Commissioner's Self-Evaluation (Review Item) - 12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. ET (Lunch provided for KBE members, invited guests and commissioner's planning committee members only)

Lunch was served followed by a discussion of the commissioner's self-evaluation. Chair Twyman asked members to first express the strengths they gleaned from reviewing the document. The strengths were as follows:

- A willingness to challenge authority if he believes something is wrong.
- The ability to build relationships with constituency groups.
- His accessibility to people across the state.
- The credibility he has established through communication and the ability to listen.

- His emphasis on equity and access.
- The ability to make tough decisions.
- His seriousness about being the superintendent of KSB and KSD.
- The ability to establish relationships on both sides of the aisle in the General Assembly
- His presentation of a consistent message with different audiences.
- His display of toughness when necessary.
- His ability to manage through a time of transition in state government.
- The establishment of a good process for development of a new assessment and accountability system.
- His formation of a Dyslexia Task Force.
- The establishment of student work as the keystone of the new science assessment.
- The embracement of living in Kentucky.
- His cultivation of a culture of collaboration both inside and outside of the department.

Rather than identify areas for growth since the strategic plan is not yet finalized, the board decided to identify potential areas for future goals as follows:

- Develop and implement a new strategic plan.
- Increase the use of social media.
- Identify the audiences for written communications and provide a focus for them.
- Continue to focus on novice reduction.
- Provide clarity around the most effective way to reduce novices.
- Focus on closing the achievement gap.
- Determine how we are going to provide equity and opportunity.
- Make sure the science assessment gets implemented.
- Continue to improve KSB and KSD.
- Draft and implement regulations in response to ESSA.
- Merge career and technical education and academics.
- Move the department into being more involved in the modeling of curriculum and best practices.
- Clarify the department's role in professional learning.
- Strengthen the connection with higher education and also with pre-K.
- Continue to visit schools and districts.
- Clarify innovation as a strategy to address the gap and other issues.
- Work with industry on communication.
- Conduct a 360 survey with department staff on the commissioner's performance/effectiveness.
- Conduct a customer satisfaction survey with constituents.

At the end of this segment, Chair Twyman asked Vice Chair Mary Gwen Wheeler to work with Mary Ann Miller to summarize the discussion so that it could be shared verbally with Commissioner Pruitt at tomorrow's meeting.

V. Strategic Planning Discussion - Commissioner Stephen L. Pruitt and Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer (Review Item - 3-hour presentation/discussion) (Begins at 1:30 p.m. ET)

The last segment of the study session focused on the board coming together around a vision statement. Chief Performance Officer Karen Dodd and Commissioner Pruitt facilitated the session. A draft statement was presented to the board for discussion and after input from all members, they unanimously came to agreement on the following statement: Each and every student empowered and equipped with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to pursue a successful future.

VI. Recess

Chair Twyman then indicated that the board stands in recess until tomorrow morning at 300 Sower Blvd. in Room 514.

VII. State Evaluation Appeals Panel (Will convene upon adjournment of the full board meeting) - Room 517 at 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY

Three members of the board, Nawanna Privett, Grayson Boyd and Rich Gimmel, travelled to 300 Sower Blvd. to conduct the first part of the State Evaluation Appeals Panel.