



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

OCTOBER BOARD NOTES

(NOTE: The agenda and materials for all Kentucky Board of Education meetings can be found on the board's online materials site at: <http://portal.ksba.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&AgencyTypeID=1>. Also, a recording of the October 4-5 work/study and regular sessions can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx>.)

Volume 24, No. 5 -- Report of the October 4-5, 2016, Work Session and Regular Meeting

COMMENTS FROM WILLIAM "BILL" TWYMAN, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR



The first day (work session) of the October Kentucky Board of Education meeting provided an opportunity for board members to discuss what motivates them to serve on the board. Also, for a board that has five relatively new members and six more experienced members, it offered a time to get to know one another better and come together around common focuses that have a positive impact on the education of Kentucky's students.

The outcome of our discussions made it evident that as has been the tradition for this board in the past, the members want to make decisions on the basis of what is best for students. While we may not always agree on what strategies to use, this serves as common ground on which to base future discussions and decisions.

All members indicated support for providing opportunities for all children, emphasizing both academics and career and technical education, equipping teachers to meet the needs of all students and designing a simpler, more balanced assessment and accountability system. We came to agreement on a vision statement that is found below in the first article of the newsletter. The statement is student-focused and expresses the board's hope for all students. As we proceed throughout the year, we will refer back to this vision statement to see if the decisions we are considering align with what we have indicated we want for our students.

VISION STATEMENT SET BY BOARD

During the strategic planning portion of its October 4 study session, the Kentucky Board of Education came to consensus on a vision statement. The statement reads: "Each and every student empowered

and equipped with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to pursue a successful future.” Board members were unanimous in support of the vision statement and expressed this was their hope for all students.

This statement will provide the basis on which to build state level goals at the board level and then establish the Kentucky Department of Education’s mission statement and work plan. The strategic planning process will continue over the next several board meetings.

For more information on the strategic planning process, contact Karen Dodd at Karen.dodd@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-2102, ext. 4700.

BOARD AGREES TO SET STUDY SESSION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

After a lively discussion on whether it is time to consider supporting the concept of charter schools as part of its legislative agenda, the Kentucky Board of Education agreed to set a date for a special meeting in November on this topic and discuss the pros and cons of it before making a decision on whether they can support the concept as a board. The topic was raised in relation to the recent release of test scores and the continuing need to close achievement gaps.

Commissioner Pruitt noted that no silver bullet exists to solve achievement gaps but felt it was wise to look at all options for school improvement. He shared that he had seen some charter schools implemented well and others not so well. Pruitt indicated that this could be another tool in our utility belt to apply in certain situations.

For more information on the upcoming study session, contact Mary Ann Miller at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840.

ASSESSMENT RESULTS SUMMARIZED AT OCTOBER MEETING

The last results under the Unbridled Learning Accountability System were summarized for the state board at its October meeting. It was reported that statewide, student achievement is up at almost all grade levels with notable improvement in middle school mathematics. Improvements also were noted in graduation and college/career-readiness rates.

Other positive highlights included:

- The Kentucky Department of Education’s strategy for reducing the number of students scoring novice, the lowest performance level, showed promise with schools/districts in the novice reduction pilot recording a lower percentage of novice learners than those not in the pilot. The state recorded 3,000 fewer novice learners in the 2015-16 school year than the year before.
- During an update on districts in state assistance, the board learned that Fleming County improved to a distinguished school district and Robertson County improved to a distinguished/progressing school district, according to the latest accountability results.
- As for state-managed districts, Breathitt County celebrated its first school of distinction and the fact that ACT scores increased by nearly two points at the high school. In Menifee County, the high school improved to be a proficient/progressing school.

Staff pointed out that the results continue to underscore the state's struggle to reduce the achievement gaps for students in groups that have historically lagged behind their peers across multiple content areas and grade levels. Commissioner Pruitt emphasized that collective ownership of this serious problem must occur and a culture change at the department, in schools and districts and in communities has to be undertaken in order to ensure students are prepared for a bright future.

The press release about the data release can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/comm/news/Documents/R16-115%20%20Unbridled%20Learning%20Results%20released.pdf> and the state Briefing Packet can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/comm/news/Documents/Unbridled%20Learning%20Briefing%20Packet%20State%20Release%202016%20FINAL-rev%20%284%29.pdf>.

2016-17 PROGRAM REVIEW AUDIT PROCESS APPROVED

In response to issues elevated by schools and districts, the Kentucky Board of Education approved changes to the Program Review Audit Process for 2016-17. The suggested changes came from former Program Review Audit Teams, feedback from the audits conducted between 2015 and 2016 and recommendations from Commissioner Pruitt's Program Review Task Force.

The changes include increasing the number of schools to be audited, providing a more concise audit team report to schools, focusing the school report on best next steps for program improvement, adding a phone/skype meeting with the school leadership prior to the site visit and eliminating site visits for the K-3 Program Review.

It was made clear to the board that the changes would only apply to the 2016-17 school year. Decisions regarding Program Reviews beyond the current school year will be part of the discussion related to the new accountability system that is being designed under the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

For more information on the new Program Review Audit Process, contact Division Director Karen Kidwell at Karen.kidwell@education.ky.gov or via phone at (502) 564-2106, ext. 4139.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING WERE:

- Minutes from the August 3-4, 2016, Retreat and Regular Meetings
- Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Appointment of Susan Norton
- KY Tech Policies and Procedures Amendments
- New District Facility Plans for Johnson and Owen County School Districts
- 2016-17 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- Request for Waiver from 702 KAR 4:050, Section 4(4)(a), Requirement that the Hopkins County Board of Education Acquire Mineral Rights Forbearance Prior to Purchasing a Property in Madisonville, Kentucky
- Travel of Bill Twyman to the October 19-22 National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Annual Conference in Kansas City, Missouri
- Travel of Roger Marcum to the November 17-18 Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) State Leaders' Forum in Atlanta, Georgia

- Creation of an Award to Honor David Karem’s Board Service and Leadership

OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED AT THE OCTOBER BOARD MEETING WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:

- Update on Kentucky’s Plan to Close Achievement Gaps Through Novice Reduction
- Audit Update and Review of the Kentucky Board of Education’s and Commissioner of Education’s Expense Reports
- Status Update on State Assistance in Fleming and Robertson Counties and Caverna Independent
- Status Update on State Management in Breathitt and Menifee Counties
- Hearing Officer’s Report
- KDE Employment Report (All offices except the Office of Career and Technical Education)
- KDE Employment Report (Office of Career and Technical Education only)
- Sharing Results of Discussion on Commissioner’s Self-Evaluation with Commissioner Pruitt
- Strategic Planning Discussion

KBE MEETING DATES FOR 2016, 2017 AND 2018

KBE Meeting Dates for 2016

December 7, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
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KBE Meeting Dates for 2017

February 8, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 12, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 7, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2017	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 3-4, 2017	Commissioner’s Evaluation Discussion & Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6, 2017	Regular meeting	Frankfort

KBE Meeting Dates for 2018

February 7, 2018	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 11, 2018	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 6, 2018	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 1-2, 2018	KBE Retreat & Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 2-3, 2018	Commissioner’s Evaluation Discussion & Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 5, 2018	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840 or via e-mail at maryann.miller@education.ky.gov.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the October 4-5, 2016, regular meeting, conducted in Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in

summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, 300 Sower Blvd., 5th Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Kentucky Board of Education Executive Director, at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840.

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