

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Consent Item:**

Appointment to the State Textbook Commission

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.405 (2)

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for appointment to the State Textbook Commission?

### **History/Background:**

*Existing Policy.* In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

John W. Hardy, administrator, Campbell County Schools (Campbell County)  
Katrina Slone, district-wide teacher, Hindman (Knott County)  
David McFadden, teacher, North Laurel High School, London (Laurel County)  
Catherine R. Fernandez, district-wide teacher, (Henderson County)  
Donna Lovell, administrator, Berea Independent Schools, (Madison County)  
Dr. Deneia Thomas, parent, (Fayette County)  
Barbara M. Waltrip, teacher, Audubon Elementary, Owensboro (Daviness County)  
Cherissa Eden, parent, (Shelby County)  
Dr. Cynthia Houston, higher education, Western Kentucky University (Warren County)  
Vasco Perry, teacher representative, (Hardin County)

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of June 2011, the term of John W. Hardy will end, creating a vacancy on the Commission. Mr. Hardy has served one term and is willing to serve a second term.

If this member is approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of three (3) males and seven (7) females, will

be composed of two (2) African-Americans and eight (8) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute.

**Staff Recommendation and Rationale:**

Staff proposes that the board approve the appointment of the following person to the State Textbook Commission. The applicant is fully qualified to be a member of the Commission.

Re-appoint John W. Hardy. Mr. Hardy is an associate principal at Campbell County High School in the Campbell County District. Mr. Hardy has served as an administrator for six years and previously as a classroom teacher in Technology Education in grades 7-12 for fourteen years. As a teacher he was actively involved in the evaluation of instructional resources for his classroom. He believes that this experience will serve the Commission as it considers technology components of both print and electronic basal materials. On his application for the Textbook Commission he stated his belief that textbooks selected for the state multiple lists should “meet the core content of Kentucky and lead to better planning of lessons.” He views textbooks as one of many “tools that must be used to ensure the students are achieving at a high level.”

Mr. Hardy served as chairman of the State Textbook Commission last year and was voted as chairman again, pending re-appointment.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

**Contact person:**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

June 2011