The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) held its special meeting on Friday, August 28, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. ET, at 300 Sower Blvd., 5th Floor State Board Room 514, in Frankfort, Kentucky. The board conducted the following business:

I. Call to order

Chair Young called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. ET.

II. Roll call

Chair Young asked for a roll call of members. The following members were present: JoAnn Adams, Claire Batt, Holly Bloodworth, Mike Bowling, Alvis Johnson, Cody Pauley Johnson, Patrice McCrary, Sharon Porter Robinson, Lee Todd, Lu Young, Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman and Allison Slone. CPE President Aaron Thompson was absent.

KBE Executive Director Jennifer Fraker stated a quorum was present.

Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the KBE met utilizing a video teleconference. Furthermore, members of the public were not be permitted to attend the meeting in person but were encouraged to view the meeting via the KDE’s Media Portal. Accordingly, Chair Young announced that the meeting still must comply with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Chair Young reminded KBE members to ensure their video is streaming and that they can be seen throughout the duration of the meeting. Chair Young also informed the KBE members that for any items that required a vote, a roll call vote was necessary to record the vote of each board member.

III. Internal Board Business

A. Opening Remarks

Chair Young stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent decision by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association’s (KHSAA) Board of Control (BOC) to move forward with high contact sports at a time most of our school districts are delivering remote instruction. Chair Young stated that it was the KBE’s duty to oversee the common schools, including interscholastic athletics and that is was only reasonable for the KBE to review the recent decision of the KHSAA BOC and to hear from the KHSAA Commissioner, Julian Tackett, district superintendents, as well as the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH).
B. Discussion of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association’s (KHSAA) Board of Control’s (BOC) August 20, 2020 Decision to Begin High School Interscholastic Sports

KHSAA Commissioner Julian Tackett shared background information and made a presentation on the association’s decision to begin high school interscholastic sports.

C. Discussion of District Concerns About the Safety of High Contact Fall Sports (Review Item)

Superintendents David Raleigh-LaRue County, Alvin Garrison-Covington Independent, Mike Borchers-Ludlow Independent and Randy Poe-retired, shared concerns about safely beginning fall sports.

D. Discussion of the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) Covid-19 Guidance and Recommendations (Review Item)

DPH Commissioner Steven Stack, M.D. gave a PowerPoint presentation to share information and concerns regarding COVID-19 from a public health perspective.

E. Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to Develop Written Communication to be Issued to the KHSAA BOC by KBE Chair Young on behalf of the KBE Urging Additional Consideration of Alternative Options for High Contact Fall Sports (Action/Discussion Item)

KBE members discussed the next steps and a motion was made by Mike Bowling to authorize the KDE to develop written communication to be issued to the KHSAA’s BOC by Chair Young on behalf of the KBE based on the discussion during the meeting urging additional considerations of alternative options for high contact fall sports. Patrice McCrary seconded the motion and the motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

IV. Adjournment

Alvis Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Holly Bloodworth seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.