

COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REPORT
9/16/07
FROM INTERIM COMMISSIONER KEVIN M. NOLAND

August 8-9, 2007, Kentucky Board of Education Meeting, Frankfort, KY

Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

➤ ***BOARD DISCUSSES STRATEGIC WORK PRIORITIES AND BUDGET PRIORITIES***

In order to provide a focus to the work leading to proficiency, the state board discussed both strategic work priorities and budget priorities. The strategic work priorities were grouped under the three goals from the Board's strategic plan (high student performance, high quality teaching and strong and supportive environment for each school and every child) and an added fourth goal, high performing schools and districts. For budget purposes, initiatives were discussed under the headings of mandated increases by statute/budget instructions, mandated increases by federal or state statute, essential increases and discretionary increases.

The Board gave Department staff input on revisions to the strategic work priorities and asked for more information on budget initiatives. Both of these will come back to the Board for a final decision.

For more information on this topic, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via email at MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS***

As part of the August 8-9, 2007, meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education elected its officers for 2007-08. Those officers were:

- Chair – Joe Brothers of Elizabethtown, KY
- Vice Chair – Bonnie Lash Freeman of Louisville

The officers began their duties immediately and will serve for one year. For more information on the election of officers, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via email at MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***STATE BOARD TO CONTINUE SEARCH FOR NEXT COMMISSIONER***

The Kentucky Board of Education set forth its plan for moving forward with the search for the next Commissioner of Education as follows:

- the full board will serve as the screening committee for reviewing applications
- the position will be advertised both statewide and nationally

- the review of applications will begin after September 30
- the Kentucky Board of Education will meet October 3 to screen the applications and develop a short list of 3 to 7 candidates
- following background checks, the names still under consideration from the short list will be publicly released and opportunity for public input through the Kentucky Department of Education website will occur
- on November 13, the Kentucky Board of Education will interview finalists

For more information on the search process, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141 or via email at MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov.

➤ ***ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL NORM-REFERENCED TEST DISCUSSED***

The Kentucky Board of Education continued the discussion on norm-referenced testing at the August meeting. Specifically, the Board examined, beginning with the new biennium in 2008-2009, adding a single uniform elementary norm-referenced test and including this elementary test and middle school EXPLORE results in school accountability calculations. In order for this to occur, during 2007-2008 the following must occur:

- Continue to administer district-selected elementary norm-referenced tests allowing flexibility and following the current regulation
- Administer EXPLORE to 8th grade students
- Report norm-referenced test and EXPLORE results publicly, discuss individual results with parents and use results in the development of the Individual Learning Plan
- Release a Request for Proposals (RFP) and negotiate a contract for a uniform single elementary norm-referenced tests
- Secure a reserved form of EXPLORE for state administration
- Revise the regulation titled 703 KAR 5:020, The formula for school accountability

Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff consulted the members of the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council on issues related to these changes. They then made the following recommendations to the Board:

- Administer the single uniform elementary norm-referenced test in grade 3.
- Do not administer the single uniform norm-referenced test during the KCCT spring testing window.
- Continue to research and discuss with stakeholders issues related to the best time for administering the single uniform elementary norm-referenced test.
- Seek vendor bids for either a fall (September/October) or winter (January/February) administration.
- Include the single uniform elementary norm-referenced test for 5% of school accountability.

- The School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council (SCAAC) will continue to work on a recommendation on the percentage of school accountability that should be derived from the middle school norm-referenced test (EXPLORE) as regulatory language is developed.
- Reduce reading and mathematics from 22% each to 20% each and reduce science and social studies from 14.5% each to 14% each. (SCAAC's recommendation)
- Seek the advice of the Office of Education Accountability.
- Bring revised regulatory language to the Kentucky Board of Education for its first reading.

For more information on this topic, contact Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256 or via email at Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov.

September 4-5, 2007, Kentucky Board of Education Meeting, Louisville, KY

Highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- On the evening of September 4, the Board hosted a reception for area superintendents, area local board of education chairs and area higher education officials.
- On the morning of September 5, the Board visited several schools in the Jefferson County School District and that afternoon met with Jefferson County staff to discuss getting to proficiency by 2014.
- Following the meeting with Jefferson County staff, the Board held a short meeting to finalize its strategic work priorities and give Kentucky Department of Education staff input on budget priorities.

Next Meeting: October 3-4, 2007, Frankfort, KY