

# KSD Advisory Board Agenda

Date: February 12, 2019

Advisory Meetings occur on a quarterly basis: August, November, February and May

Per KRS 167.037, this Board is to be composed of nine members appointed by KBE upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Education. The purpose of the Board is to act in an advisory capacity to assist school leadership and make recommendations. Membership on the board shall be statewide and shall consist of two (2) parents of deaf children, one (1) professional in education of the deaf, one (1) former student of the Kentucky School for the Deaf, one (1) member of the Kentucky Association for the Deaf, two (2) members who shall represent school districts, and two (2) members at large. A majority of the board's membership shall be persons who are deaf or hard of hearing.

## Committee Members

Clyde Mohan, Chair

Bryan Bowen

Anita Dowd

Alumni (Vacant)

Bridgette Mann

Tina Yance

Professional (Vacant)

School District (Vacant)

## Chair

### A. Welcome

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM.
- b. Welcome everyone. We have a nice big audience tonight. First, I want to announce the ground rules for new people in audience. It is okay to ask questions, but for discussion, come to the left side of the room, in front of the black curtain. Mrs. Robey will go through everything on the agenda and then we can discuss.

### B. Approve November Minutes

- a. Page 5, # 10: 51<sup>st</sup> in deaf education: State Rankings Study on Postsecondary Outcomes from National Deaf Center
- b. Tina Yance motions, Bryan Bowen seconds. Everyone in favor. Minutes approved.

## T Hulett

### C. New Elementary School

- a. Excited and close to the end of the process. Going through a punch process to fix anything small that needs to be repaired. Systems check passed. New building is very energy efficient. Landscaping is taking place, but weather is not our friend lately, so that is making it difficult to finish. When we have dry, the landscaping will be finished. Working with Commissioner Lewis to plan a reception and to release the name of the building. Tentative date for furniture to be delivered is between March 30 and April 15 and we will be able to stock the building. We will be granted a temporary certificate of occupancy. There will be some trainings with the maintenance staff. This will be a school building, 20 bed dorm facility, has a kitchen/cafeteria, and a living room type area. Looking forward to having the students move in.
- b. We have starting working on 6 year capital plan. With this, we look at all buildings at KSD and KSB and put together a list of needs for maintenance problems. Our needs for everything that we need done, combined with KSB is \$87 million over the next 6 years. This would be for repairs of roofs, doors, etc.

- c. Working on boiler project with an engineering firm. Looking to bring Grow, Barbee, Jacobs and Bruce on their own system, so that it off the old boiler system across the street.
- d. Lighting campus project in the works. Hoping to increase visibility and safety for our students. Also looking into installing a safety alert system on the new lights. We met with Kentucky Utilities a week ago on Friday to discuss taking down some our electric poles on 2<sup>nd</sup> street and relocating them. KU will be putting up new poles and will allow us to add new lighting to the backs of their new poles and this will save us some money, about \$125,000.
- e. Phase 4 of Argo is pretty much done. Greenhouse project is done and has heat. Please visit greenhouse for all you plant needs this season. Going to give a little plug to the AG program. That is where all my tomato plants came from last year.
- f. We have had some insurance claims on weather. On the top of Jacobs Hall, the spire on the cupola is bent. Working with State Risk to repair wind damage on Jacobs as well as Argo and Lee Hall.
- g. Working with a structural engineer on the pool. We stopped usage of the pool in December. We were losing 20 million gallons of water over the course of 6 months. There are cracks on the surface. We are working to fix the problem. We know that the observation windows are leaking and we want to remove those.
- h. Those are all the capital projects. We will be working on small ones on campus.
- i. Asking for maintenance budget be increased to \$1.5 million to meet the needs of the campus from a facility standpoint. This would be a raise from \$650,000.
- j. *Question Jason Smith: What about the leaks at Lee Hall?*
  - i. *Answer from T: There are some leaks. Looking at how to stop them. There is not a price or quote for that work right now.*

## **Toyah Robey**

### D. Budget

- a. Before we start, item H will be addressed in May.
- b. Appropriation of funds at the beginning of the year is \$10 million. Personnel cost consumes \$9 million of this. That leaves the operating balance around \$1 million. Operation costs are below budget right now. Running in the red on personnel cost. Just like other districts, you leave a percentage of money in case of an emergency. We have \$736,000 in reserve in case of an emergency. Anything left at the end of the year in operating will go to deficits for personnel. There are payouts of Annual Leave and Comp Time when people retire and this year we have had some additional payouts.

### E. Summer Programs

- a. Identified dates
  - i. Family Learning Vacation: May 31- June 2
  - ii. K-8<sup>th</sup> Summer School June 9-14, June 16-21
  - iii. We will be working on a list of summer camps for our HS students. We want them to take advantage of free camps that are out of state. There will be a biology camp held in Florida, a drone camp held in Alabama, and GenCyber will be hosted in Texas this year. If our students want to attend the drone camp, they will be transported to Alabama.

- b. *Question T. Yance:* We have the date picked, but I have heard the fees are going up. Are the fees going up?
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* It is going up from \$50 to \$100, but that is still cheap for a 2 week camp. This covers food and boarding for 2 weeks. Resources will be available to parents who need help.

#### F. New Report Card

- a. This is our first year of accountability as a school, in years before the scores went to the home district. What I am showing is the new report card that all districts are using. (Mrs. Robey was showing the School Report Card on the Smart Board)
- b. Go to KDE and enter in School Report Card. This will be added to our website. As with every district, there is a picture of the school, where it is located, and information about the school. Some of the tabs across the top will be blank, because this is new information that has not been collected. Assessment is mostly blank, but there will be a few scores on reading and math. 64% of these scores are on the novice range. This time next year, this will be populated. The report card looks at CCR, grad rates, ACT, safety, end of course, as well as the overview. Looking to have a link on our front webpage of KSD website. When you look it up, you have to search by the school, because right now it is not showing up as a district.
- c. *Question C. Mohan:* I noticed it said Alternative Education Program listed for KSD. Is that like the old term that we are called? Alternative seems like a negative connotation. Can we change to special school or something like that?
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* I agree, it is off-putting. We will look into it.

#### G. New Staff/Hires

- a. 3 New Hire in the Dorms
  - i. Patricia Hammett, Student Development Associate
  - ii. Sapphire Alonzo, Student Development Associate
  - iii. Katelyn Cornette, Houseparent I
- b. Patricia is deaf and moved from Louisville for the job

#### H. Review of Strategic Plan

- a. This will be reviewed in May.

#### I. Instructional Updates

- a. We have the most recent scores of MAP data. At the time this was printed, testing was not complete. We had some strong gains. We do we have some gaps, but these will close as the grades advance.
- b. In culinary, this is not on notes, but the students took a Serve Safe certification test. Students need this when they go into the food service industry. 22 have taken the test and 100% have passed. Billy Gulley JR. and the interpreting department worked together to make videos of the questions in ASL and made them available for whoever needed and wanted to use them.
- c. They did the same for the civics test that was taken by high school seniors. With access to these questions in the air, six students passed the first time. Four passed the second time. We might have some test bias overall, but this has helped our students with tests.
- d. Academic Bowl will be held in Mississippi February 21-24. There will be 4 students attending.
- e. Vex Tournament will be held in Alabama March 1-3. There will be 5 students attending. If you are unfamiliar with this, it is a robot fighting competition.

- f. Math Competition April 5-7, NTID is hosting in New York. There will be 5 Middle School students attending.
  - g. Culinary Bowl will be held March 6-10 in Vegas. There will be 6 students attending.
  - h. Outreach will be holding ACES meetings for students across the state. They will bring in and work with students for the entire day. They will be held in:
    - i. London, March 7
    - ii. Morehead, March 8
    - iii. Louisville, March 13
    - iv. Florence, March 14
    - v. Lexington, March 21 (this may fall through, we may host at Thomas Gym)
    - vi. Leburn, March 22 (this is near Hazard)
    - vii. Princeton, March 27
    - viii. Bowling Green, March 28
  - i. Professional Development: Worked on component 3c in the evaluation tool which is engaging student in learning. We had someone from our co-op come in and do a Google training. We currently have two people Google certified. We would like to have at least 25% that are certified. Jennifer Brogle and I worked with teachers on growth mindset. We have high expectations for our students.
  - j. *Question J. Brogle:* Reminder about ASL/SLPI training last week.
    - i. *Answer T. Robey:* Billy Gulley JR. led a SLPI training for staff last Friday. We also worked on facial expressions and morphisms.
- J. Introduce Kevin Stull
- a. New Director of State Schools for Kentucky School for the Deaf and Kentucky School for the Blind
  - b. I will share a little about my position: During the November reorganization at KDE under Commissioner Lewis, I was asked to serve as director of both state schools. My main responsibility is to work with both principals to serve students. I met with 4 members of the Advisory Board for an informal meeting. We will work on the things that we discussed and I am committed to do the research. My responsibility is to break the barriers between being considered both a school and a state agency, so we can function more like a school. The Commissioner doesn't want to be here telling us what to do every day, so how do we move forward to support KSD, not dictate what to do. I look forward to meeting you and hearing what the needs are of the school. My experiences have revealed things that I thought I knew, but didn't now.
  - c. *Question:* Do you have an office here?
    - i. *Answer Mr. Stull:* Yes, I do. I actually have three offices. One here at KSD in Brady Hall, one at KSB, and one at KDE. You are welcome to come by anytime that I am here but, my schedule varies.
  - d. *Question:* What is your back ground? Do you have back ground in deaf education?
    - i. *Answer Mr. Stull:* As Principal and Vice Principals. I worked in a school in Texas that taught deaf education, but they were day students, they didn't live on campus. There is no comparison between that program and KSD.

## Chair

- K. Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations of Advisory Board
- a. *C. Mohan:* Barbee Hall renovation; that was supposed to be on the plan for next year. Danville Board Education was supposed to move.
    - i. *Answer T. Robey:* No plans for Barbee at this time.
  - b. *C. Mohan:* Google Classroom training; I was impressed, I was subbing today and google classroom was set up and ready. One student needed to finish, but couldn't due to no Wi-Fi at home. Do you know how many day students have that problem?
    - i. *Answer T. Robey:* No, I don't. That happens across the state. This is something that is on the teacher to know the needs of the students in the class.
  - c. *C. Mohan:* It needs to be something that is addressed, since sometimes we are waiting for the student to finish the assignment.
  - d. *C. Mohan:* While students were working, I was looking at school website. I noticed a few things. I don't feel like it is a very family friendly website. A good example is Colonel Chatter. I saw it and clicked on it, but I couldn't make it an entire page to view it. I asked student if he knew how to do it, and he did. He showed me how to do it, but you have to save document and open it before seeing it. That is too much work. I worked with Jarod, so maybe he can work on it. Also, the calendar is not up to date on meetings and such. Now that we are talking about internet access, with the colonel chatter, is there a paper copy that the students bring home? Is there a way to add the agenda for the Advisory Board meeting, so that people can open it and see it? The daily announcements, which is nice for notices to staff, but there still need to be improvements.
  - e. *C. Mohan:* In the last meeting minutes, Section F mentions a guest coming. Shireen Hafeez was her name. We need to look at that so we can add it to the minutes from November. In November you talked about a link from the training that Gretta went to? It was the article that Bryan was talking about. Did you send link?
    - i. *Answer T. Robey:* No, I did not. Maybe we can add link to website. (The article is: "Optimizing Outcomes for Students Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing" and was published by the National Directors of State Directors of Special Education.)
  - f. *Question D. Glasser:* I just have one google comment: if a student has a smart phone, they can access google documents form their phone. If they don't have internet access at home, they can access google docs form their phone. They can also access their school email. My students with no internet at home do have unlimited data.
  - g. *C. Mohan:* I'm curious about the number of our HS students that do not have internet access
  - h. *Comment: D. Glasser:* 100% of my students can reach me if they need to.
  - i. *T. Yance:* Some students do not have unlimited data. They may go over and when they do, they have no internet access.
  - j. *Question A. Dowd:* We discussed in the past, but about the cafeteria, what kind of food are they getting? What amount are they getting? Is that still an issue?
    - i. *Answer T. Robey:* This fall, someone form cafeteria worked with students to pick some items for the menus. Restrictions are not as tight during the night. There is a grab table

for kids to place things on, if they don't want them, so someone else can get them.

There are snacks provided in the dorm.

k. A. Dowd: This is a residential school, so kids can't go home and eat like in public schools. I know there are regulations, but we need to do something.

i. *Answer T. Robey:* The dorm has a food budget for snacks for the dorms and we worked with students to make some choices for them.

l. C. Mohan: I have had some interaction with parents, who didn't know that we had an advisory board, so we sat down and talked and I invited them to come tonight. I invite them to make public comments.

L. Retiring Boards Members, Nominations

a. We have discussed filling the open positions. We have accepted a couple of new applications. Governor has signed off on those. Still looking for people to represent schools districts. If you know of anyone, please send them this way.

M. Public Comment

a. Jason Smith: Summer programs: Will CODA students still allowed to attend this year?

i. *Answer T. Robey:* I will have to check on that and follow up with you.

b. Christy Adkins- I have a letter I would like to share with the board. My daughter is a junior. I am concerned with overall concern of students and staff. It is difficult for parents to be made aware of situations that are happening. There are no more doctors to see the students and no more over the counter medicines given to students. There are threats made to individual children and parents aren't notified. We are unaware of not only major concerns, but minor as well, like the pool being closed. Only through direct contact with staff, are we made aware of what is happening around the school. We would like to be informed. These things that concern our children need to be communicated by the principal. The decision to send our children here, was difficult and not made lightly. We would like to be informed.

c. Tammy Cummins: I have a letter to share with the board. My daughter is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader here at KSD. We sent our daughter to KSD 3 years ago when she was 10. At that time, I thought I had made the right decision to send her here. We were able to receive updates then. Then we met with the new principal when she arrived. She let us know that she would have an interpreter Tuesday through Thursday, but does she still do this, and how much does she use ASL? We also talked about the website and it not being user friendly. This meeting was a year and half ago. The parent apartments that were used when we came for meetings were done away with. Can we get the state rate in a hotel when we come to town? The food served in the cafeteria is horrible. Can we work on this? Breakfast and Lunch menu is listed but dinner is not. There was a plan to work on dorm kitchens, and getting more snacks in the dorms. The cafeteria had a program to fund more food. I thought that I could add more money through Infinite Campus to my child's account, but that isn't a possibility. If a child is still hungry, they have to leave hungry. Older students can manage their money, but younger students and students with disabilities cannot. We need more information from staff. Many times, dorm staff would be changed and we didn't know who to contact. If it wasn't for the communication from Amy Hurst, we would have no communication at all. We asked if we could paint the dorm rooms. We were told that there was red tape. We decorate the best we can and then it is all taken down and put into a closet during a ball tournament. The bed bug issue needs to be addressed in the dorms. Why do

the VPs on campus not have a microphone? I have asked repeatedly. With no reply. Students are having to resort to Facetime or Facebook Messenger to call our children. A few parents and myself wanted to set up a PTO group, and at first, we were greeted with a good reception had a place to set up on registration day, then we were moved multiple times. I have copies of the emails if anyone would like to see them. When I made the decision to send my daughter here, I was comfortable with her being here, because there was a doctor that could meet her needs. There were students that were not receiving their speech or other student services they were supposed to in regards to their IEP. There have been death threats and other threats that are gone unnoticed.

- d. Kim Meadows – My son is a junior here. KSD is 3 hours away from home. Last year, the nurse called because he was sick, so I debated on whether or not to drive down, but I did. While on the road, the nurse called back and said doctor had prescribed him medicine. Now without a doctor here, he can't have access to that or even a Tylenol that he needs, unless I have sent it. Like I said, I am three hours away. I can't come just to bring him some Tylenol. There are PTO issues: in my job I work with our PTO closely in Muhlenberg County, and I can't believe that we don't have a PTO here. One parent, that lives local is never invited or encouraged to be here. I know there are a lot of parents that just put their kids on the bus and don't worry about their child for the week. I'm not like that. I don't have the time to go into the complete history of my child, but I adopted him when he was 2, and after making the decision to send him here, I hate not being involved. I spend \$200 a month for ordering food because he is hungry. An Independent living program is something my child and others have expressed a want for. This is their home and I can't be here all the time to teach him these things. The biggest thing for me is communication. I sent my child here to be immersed in communication. I sent him here for him to have to communicate, but because of lack of communication of another kind, I don't know if I will leave him here. I have been told there aren't interpreters in the classroom. If he is in a classroom with a teacher who isn't fluent in ASL and doesn't have an interpreter, he was better off at home. I work in my off time with Hands and Voices to guide them through the process to parents who are just starting this journey. I want to be able to tell parents that this is a good place for their children.
- e. A. Dowd: As a member of the board and a mother, I want to extend my sincerest apologies. I will do everything in my power to make sure your concerns are met and changed.
- f. Jason Cullen: My son is in Kindergarten – age 5 – we found out he was deaf a couple days after he was born. We have 7 other children and never faced anything like this before. We were lucky to get involved with Hands and Voices while we lived in Lexington. It is a great opportunity for my family to live in this small town of Danville, but also for my son to have this community around him. It is heartbreaking to hear about the issues from the other parents that do not live locally. He loves to communicate with his hands and being here communicating with his friends. I was on the advisory committee when we were looking for a new principal. There were a lot of things that were promised that haven't come to fruition. We are struggling with the idea of leaving our child here now. I appreciate being advised about this meeting tonight. I hope these concerns are met on a state level, because our kids deserve to be taken care of. I feel KSD is moving backwards.

- g. *Repose from T. Robey:* To the parents who spoke tonight, I would be happy to meet with you individually. We can meet with Mr. Stull. Email me and we can set up a time to meet.
- h. Comment Tammy Cummins: Where can a breakdown of the budget be found?
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* I have that. It is not posted.
- i. Comment Tammy Cummins: Is this something that parents can see?
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* I don't see why not.
- j. C. Mohan: Its public record, right?
- k. Comment Wilton McMillan: To Mr. Stull and Mrs. Robey: I want to make sure that you are aware of the national organization CEASD. I have to say that it has been way too long since someone from KSD has attended. Public Comment: There were 4 people who went to the conference last year). Until last year, it had been many years. Mr. Stull, I wonder if you, Mrs. Robey and the Commissioner can attend this training. We have no deaf administrators on our campus and that is concerning to me. If you three go, you can learn ideas on what makes a school for the deaf tick. I think it is important for there to be deaf administration on campus for our children. RMDS in Denver will be hosting the conference this year, April 26-29. I cannot see any administrators for deaf schools not attending. I've been here at the last couple of meetings and have brought up the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration that is coming up in 4 years. I have asked for there to be a committee of staff that is starting and communication on the planning.
- l. C. Mohan: Thank you for your comments. They are very heartfelt. Is there any way that us as a committee or maybe a small group can come together to get the ball rolling on starting a PTO?
- m. A. Dowd: I remember a long time ago this was a discussion, but there was some kind of law when it comes to the PTO.
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* There are rules that we have to follow. I worked with KDE last spring and last summer, but have found no answers.
- n. C. Mohan: Is there something that prevents there being a PTO? Can we have one?
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* It has to do with the way they collect money and use it. Mr. Stull can we work on this?
- o. Meadows: Is this a Redbook issue?
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* No, it is a not a Redbook issue. We are combination of a district and a state agency, so we have to follow the rules of both.
- p. A. Dowd: I'm sure both schools have faced many frustrations with the red tape. But unless we become rich and separate from the state, we are stuck. So maybe we can work with Mr. Stull to come up with a solution for having a PTO. We don't care what we are called, we just want to have something set up for parent involvement.
- q. Comment Jason Smith: What happened to the booster club for athletics?
- r. C. Mohan: I think it was the same issue. Maybe if we figure out the PTO, we could bring the booster club back for the athletic department.
- s. Comment Kim Meadows: Can we go through Hands and Voices and the parents be involved in that way? Can we set up something for Family Learning Vacation? We just want to be involved. We want a voice.
  - i. *Answer T. Robey:* Anyone is welcome to come and volunteer anytime. But understand that this is a long process. They have to have background checks. My email is available to you as well as Jennifer Brogle.

t. C. Mohan: Thank you all for coming tonight. Meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M.

N. Next Advisory Meeting Date:

a. Tuesday May 7, 2019