

**MINUTES**  
**Joint Meeting of the Council on Postsecondary Education**  
**and the Kentucky Board of Education**  
**April 11, 1999**

The Council on Postsecondary Education met in joint session with the Kentucky Board of Education April 11, 1999, at 2:00 p.m. (ET) at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. Board Chair Helen Mountjoy and Council Chair Leonard Hardin presided.

*ROLL CALL*

The following Kentucky Board of Education members were present: Alcie Ann Combs, Laken Cosby, Gordon Davies, Lydia Carol Gabbard, Helen Mountjoy, Samuel Robinson, Martha Dell Sanders, Keith Travis, Craig True, Jane Adams Venters, and William Weinberg. Jeffrey Mando did not attend.

The following Council on Postsecondary Education members attended: Norma Adams, Walter Baker, Steve Barger, John Cary, Wilmer Cody, Ron Greenberg, Merl Hackbart, Leonard Hardin, Philip Huddleston, Shirley Menendez, Marcia Ridings, Lois Weinberg, and Charles Whitehead. Peggy Bertelsman and Lee Todd did not attend.

*WELCOME AND  
INTRODUCTORY  
REMARKS*

Dr. Cody said that this meeting is an important step for elementary and secondary education as the two boards proceed to work together on issues of common interest.

Mr. Davies said that one of his first meetings after arriving in Kentucky was with Dr. Cody to discuss the relationship between P-12 and postsecondary education. He said that seamlessness of all education must be part of the efforts of government to improve the lives of people in Kentucky. Mr. Davies said that this meeting is a critical first step to knit together these efforts.

Ms. Mountjoy said that the two boards are making history by concluding that more can be accomplished on common issues by working together rather than apart. Neither board wants to take over responsibilities and roles of the other board but each wants to work together to develop solutions where those responsibilities intersect. Ms. Mountjoy shared two goals for this meeting: (1) to formalize a mechanism that will enable each body to consider decisions that impact the people of Kentucky and (2) to forge ties of mutual support and to know that there is another group that shares the commitment and concerns and offers support when possible.

Mr. Hardin agreed that this is a historic day in Kentucky. The people at this meeting are accountable for helping shape and move education forward in our state. He said that this meeting should be the starting point for working together to improve education in this Commonwealth.

Dr. Cody said that a principal purpose of this meeting is to form a joint Pre-K to 16 Council to address common issues. Another objective is for the two boards to help advise the work of that council by identifying the key issues that the council might consider. A discussion followed and a list of common issues was identified.

*PRE-K TO 16  
COUNCIL*

RECOMMENDATION: That the Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education establish a "Pre-K to 16 Council," composed equally of members of the two boards and the Commissioner of Education and the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Mr. Davies explained that eight persons will serve on the new council – three members from each board plus the Commissioner of Education and the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education. The chair, elected by the Pre-K to 16 Council, will alternate from year to year between the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Board, with the chair being a member of the Board of Education during the year ending June 30, 2000. This group will serve as an advisory body to the two statutory boards, which could, in turn, act on the advice of the council in the areas for which they are legally responsible. The council will meet at least quarterly during its first year of operation, although it could meet more often. Staff support will be provided by the Department of Education and by the Council on Postsecondary Education. The Pre-K to 16 Council will consult with bodies such as the Education Professional Standards Board, the Workforce Development Cabinet, the Economic Development Cabinet, and the Office of Early Childhood Development, as appropriate. After discussion, it was recommended that other interested groups, such as the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the Labor Cabinet, the Prichard Committee, students, teachers, and parents, be consulted, depending on the issue.

MOTION BY THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION: Mr. True moved that the recommendation be accepted to establish a Pre-K to 16 Council with three members of each of the parent boards to be an advisory body that will work in conjunction with many other interested parties across Kentucky to make recommendations to the

two parent bodies. It will not remove the final authority or responsibility from the parent bodies to act once those recommendations come back to them. The motion was seconded by Mr. Travis.

VOTE BY KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION: The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION BY THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: Mr. Barger moved that the recommendation be accepted to establish a Pre-K to 16 Council with three members of each of the parent boards to be an advisory body that will work in conjunction with many other interested parties across Kentucky to make recommendations to the two parent bodies. It will not remove the final authority or responsibility from the parent bodies to act once those recommendations come back to them. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greenberg.

VOTE BY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: The motion passed unanimously.

*REPORT OF JOINT  
CPE/KDE TASK  
FORCE ON MIDDLE  
SCHOOL  
MATHEMATICS  
AND SCIENCE*

In September 1998, the Kentucky Department of Education and the Council formed the Task Force on Middle School Mathematics and Science to recommend ways to improve student learning at the middle school level. The task force included representatives of higher education, KDE, and content organizations. The group met several times to examine issues and to identify strategies that would help current teachers and students preparing for teaching careers acquire greater knowledge of mathematics and science relating to middle school teaching.

Ruth Greenberg of the Council staff and Gene Wilhoit of the Department of Education staff presented the report of the task force. The task force identified five critical issues that must be addressed to increase student mathematics and science learning in the middle school years and developed recommendations to respond to each issue. The task force anticipates that the Pre-K to 16 Council will consider the recommendations included in the report.

Dr. Gail Wells, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Northern Kentucky University, discussed the Kentucky Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program. NKU and Thomas More College, in cooperation with the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education, began a pilot project during the 1997-98 academic year involving eight high schools and over 900

students in the northern Kentucky region. The purpose of the test is to give high school students advice on their mathematical preparation for college-level mathematics while they still have an opportunity to take corrective action. The test is taken by high school juniors, and the results are returned before students schedule courses for their senior year. Students receive a personalized letter including their test score, their placement level, the number of remedial courses (if any) that would likely be required given their current knowledge, and the approximate cost of this remediation.

Dr. Wells said that teachers have been extremely positive about the program. They report that the test results are a “wake-up call” to many students and a “reality check” of the mathematical skills required for college. Thus far, the NKU Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has absorbed the cost of the program. On behalf of the chairs and directors of departments of mathematics in Kentucky, Dr. Wells recommended that the state, through the Council on Postsecondary Education or some other agency, support an Early Mathematics Placement Program that could be directed by college and university mathematicians and headquartered at a state university.

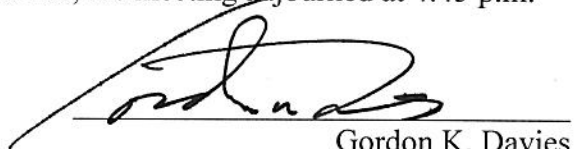
It was suggested that the Pre-K to 16 Council consider Dr. Well’s request.

*REPORT ON  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
KCVU RELATIVE TO  
EDUCATION OF  
TEACHERS*

Dr. Mary Beth Susman, chief executive officer of the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University, discussed current and planned KCVU initiatives that will lead to increased access to educational opportunities for students preparing for a teaching career and teachers seeking quality professional development opportunities.

*ADJOURNMENT*

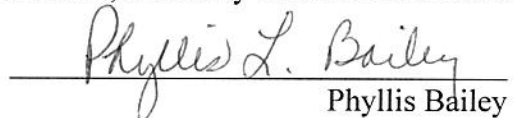
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.



Gordon K. Davies  
President, Council on Postsecondary Education



Wilmer S. Cody  
Commissioner, Kentucky Board of Education



Phyllis Bailey  
Secretary

KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APRIL 11-13, 1999  
SEELBACH HOTEL  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

*SUMMARY MINUTES*

The Kentucky Board of Education met in regular session on April 11-13, 1999, in Louisville, Kentucky, and conducted the following business:

Sunday, April 11, 1999

*JOINT SESSION OF KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION*

*Opening Remarks:*

Chair Helen Mountjoy opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the historic joint meeting of the Kentucky Board of Education and Council on Postsecondary Education. She then recognized Commissioner Wilmer S. Cody and President Gordon Davies and asked them to set the stage for the joint session.

Commissioner Cody characterized the joint session as a very important event for preschool through grade 12 and postsecondary education as the two boards proceed to work together on issues of common interest.

President Davies then referred to one of his first meetings after arriving in Kentucky, which was with Commissioner Cody, to discuss the relationship between P-12 and postsecondary education. He emphasized that the term "seamlessness" is one being used more and more frequently to mean the system works throughout all levels. Dr. Davies stated that the seamlessness of all education must be part of the efforts of government to improve the lives of Kentuckians. He felt this meeting was a critical first step to knit together these efforts.

At this point, members of both boards introduced themselves.

*Kentucky Board Of Education Roll Call*

Present for the meeting were Alcie Combs, Laken Cosby, Gordon Davies, Carol Gabbard, Helen Mountjoy, Samuel Robinson, Martha Dell Sanders, Keith Travis, Craig True, Jane Adams Venters and William Weinberg. Absent was Jeffrey Mando.

### ***Opening Remarks:***

Chair Mountjoy then commented that the two boards were making history by meeting jointly. She agreed that more could be accomplished by working together on common issues. Mountjoy emphasized, however, that neither board wanted to take over the other's roles and responsibilities but instead the purpose is to work together to develop solutions where responsibilities intersect. Her goals for the meeting were: (1) to formalize some form of association in order that decisions on areas of common interest can be considered by both boards and (2) to forge a relationship of mutual support with another group that shares the same level of commitment and concerns.

### ***Council On Postsecondary Education Roll Call***

Chair Leonard Hardin asked for the roll to be called. Present for the meeting were Norma Adams, Walter Baker, Steve Barger, John Cary, Wilmer Cody, Ron Greenburg, Merl Hackbart, Leonard Hardin, Philip Huddleston, Shirley Menendez, Marcia Ridings, Lois Weinberg and Charles Whitehead. Absent were Peggy Bertelsman and Lee Todd.

### ***Opening Remarks (Cont'd):***

Chair Hardin agreed with Chair Mountjoy that the joint meeting was a historic event. He stated that the members and staff of both boards are accountable for moving education forward in this state. Hardin called for everyone to move forward together as a team and said he was pleased to be a part of this joint effort.

### ***Seam Issues Discussion***

Commissioner Cody indicated a central purpose of the meeting is to identify and discuss what the seam or common issues might be. He noted no decisions would be made on these issues today but said he hoped both boards would agree to form a joint "Pre-K to 16 Council" to address these issues.

A discussion followed and the seam issues identified were as follows:

#### **Seam Issues From The 4/11/99 KBE/CPE Joint Meeting**

1. Consistency of grading systems in high schools versus colleges and the relationship to the Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarships (Paul Borden reported 30% applying had GPAs better than 3.8 to 4.0, which is not consistent with ACT scores); Need a fair system that reflects the expectations of universities and matches the grading systems of high schools
2. The remedial system of courses given by colleges; Need for students to understand the demands of the university system

3. More accessible knowledge to students on how to successfully enter college and what opportunities exist for them
4. More courses offered to high school students for which they can receive college credit
5. Closer articulation between the high school and college technical systems
6. Raising the expectations of students and motivating them to take advantage of the opportunities available to them
7. Creation of a system of recruitment for students to enter the teaching profession
8. Content of pre-service for teachers
9. Way of raising the profile of the teaching profession to one of high honor and worth, well-worth pursuing
10. Reduce the time between research findings in education and implementation of these findings in the classroom
11. Assisting all parents to see college as feasible for their children at today's costs
12. Clear articulation of curriculum issues from level to level so that there are no remediation/entrance issues
13. Consideration of the whole education picture and whether we need 12 grades or what configuration should exist
14. Merging the data and information systems of Pre-K through grade 12 and higher education into one so that two separate systems are not maintained
15. Tying higher education to economics
16. Ensuring quality control for both systems; if one level fails it spills over into the other
17. Need for a shared vision of where both systems want to go
18. Low test scores in middle school for science and mathematics and the preparation of teachers in these areas
19. A match between high school mathematics courses and what is needed for success in college
20. Creation of a virtual high school to provide enrichment courses

### *Creation Of "Pre-K To 16 Council"*

At this point, Dr. Davies put forth the following recommendation from Dr. Cody and himself:

That the Kentucky Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education establish a "Pre-K to 16 Council" composed equally of members of the two boards, the Commissioner of Education and the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Davies further explained that the Council would be composed of eight persons, three members from each board plus the Commissioner of Education and President of the Council. He said the chair would be elected by the Pre-K to 16 Council and would alternate from year to year between the state board and Council on Postsecondary Education, with the chair being from the state board during the year ending June 30, 2000. Dr. Davies noted the new Council would serve as an advisory body to both boards

and would meet at least quarterly. He said staff support would be provided by both of the agencies responsible to the statutory boards. Davies emphasized the new Council would consult with other bodies as appropriate.

Discussion followed on the various bodies with whom the Council would need to consult. Chair Mountjoy felt the people around the table would vary according to the issue. She then asked for a motion from the Kentucky Board of Education regarding the Council's formation.

***Kentucky Board Of Education Motion On "Pre-K To 16 Council"***

Craig True moved to accept the recommendation of Dr. Davies and Dr. Cody to establish a "Pre-K to 16 Council" as an advisory body to each of the parent boards with three members being from each board. He stated the Council will work in conjunction with many interested parties across Kentucky as it formulates recommendations to both boards and it will not remove the final authority or responsibility from the parent bodies once the recommendations come back to them. Keith Travis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

***Council On Postsecondary Education Motion On "Pre-K To 16 Council"***

Chair Hardin indicated he would not repeat the motion but asked for action by the Council. Steve Barger moved to approve the same motion just passed by the Kentucky Board of Education relative to the formation of the "Pre-K to 16 Council" and Ron Greenburg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

***Report Of The CPE/KDE Task Force On Middle School Mathematics And Science***

Dr. Cody explained the need surfaced to focus on why students at middle school were not achieving at high levels in science and mathematics. He cited the formation of a joint task force between the Kentucky Department of Education and Council on Postsecondary Education in September 1998 to examine these issues and make recommendations for solving the issues. Dr. Davies added that Gene Wilhoit and Ruth Greenberg would be making today's presentation.

Gene Wilhoit noted the task force's charge was to come together to make recommendations to solve these issues in middle school science and mathematics. He said the group spent time identifying the problems and then proposed solutions in five critical areas.



Ruth Greenberg then added that the task force's report will become the new "Pre-K to 16 Council's" first assignment. She then briefly went through each of the task force's recommendations and its set of principles. Greenberg concluded by thanking task force members for their hard work.

### ***Kentucky Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program***

Dr. Gail Wells, chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Northern Kentucky University (NKU) presented the piloting of the Kentucky Early Mathematics Placement Testing Program. She stated the pilot was begun in 1997-98 by NKU and Thomas More College, in cooperation with the Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education, involving eight high schools and over 900 students. Dr. Wells pointed out the purpose of the test is to give high school students advice on their mathematical preparation for college-level mathematics while they still have time to take corrective action. She said the test is taken by high school juniors with the results returned to them before classes are scheduled for their senior year. Dr. Wells emphasized that so far NKU had absorbed the program's cost and recommended that in the future, the state support the Early Mathematics Placement Program with direction by college or university mathematicians and perhaps headquartered at a state university.

It was suggested that the "Pre-K to 16 Council" consider Dr. Wells' recommendation.

### ***Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University***

Dr. Davies introduced Dr. Mary Beth Susman, new chief executive officer of the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University (KCVU). He stated she had been in the state for about 30 days. Dr. Davies emphasized that KCVU holds great promise for professional development for teachers and potential teachers.

Dr. Susman then discussed current and planned KCVU initiatives that will lead to increased access to educational opportunities for students preparing for a teaching career and teachers seeking quality professional development opportunities.

### ***Recess***

At 4:45 p.m., Chair Hardin stated there was no other business on the printed agenda and encouraged all to attend tonight's reception and dinner. Chair Mountjoy added that no business would be conducted at the evening's events and reminded state board members that they would reconvene tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m.

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