

**REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER JON E. DRAUD
FOR
COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 6-7, 2008**

Highlights of the Kentucky Board of Education October 6-7, 2008, meeting are as follows:

BOARD GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO 703 KAR 5:140, REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL AND DISTRICT REPORT CARDS

The regulation that stipulates the requirements for school and district report cards, 703 KAR 5:140, was amended and given final approval by the Kentucky Board of Education at its October meeting. The major change recommended by Kentucky Department of Education staff was to place the school and district report cards on the department's Web site thus eliminating the costs of printing and mailing the school report cards, the expense of staff time in compiling and producing the report cards and the delays in the publication of the cards caused by the process of printing and mailing them. Also, the expanded report cards would be replaced by KDE data reports linked to the school and district report cards as these become available. The School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council and the Local Superintendents Advisory Council were in support of the amendments.

The regulation will now proceed through the public hearing process that will occur on November 24 and through legislative committee review. For information on the public hearing, contact Tina Drury at 502-564-4474 or via email at Tina.Drury@education.ky.gov . For more information on the changes to 703 KAR 5:140, contact Ken Draut at 502-564-2256 or via email at Ken.Draut@education.ky.gov .

BOARD REVIEWS POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR ITS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Kentucky Board of Education members discussed several items for potential inclusion in their 2009 legislative agenda. No final decision will be made until the December 10-11 meeting when the legislative agenda will come forward for approval.

Some of the items that were discussed included:

- School facilities items
 - Amend KRS 157.440 to increase the five-cent equivalent tax rate for facilities to ten cents. All districts should be required to levy ten cents. Those districts already levying ten cents or more are authorized to levy an additional five cents, but are not required to do this. All facility funding (except the growth levy) should become part of the FSPK program.
 - Allow Capital Outlay to be used for maintenance without forfeiting the districts' participation in SFCC upon approval of the commissioner. Maintenance does not include property insurance.

- Modify KRS 157.420 to allow land for new schools or modifications to existing schools to be purchased with restricted cash for projects noted on the District Facilities Plan for use in the next eight years. Land would not be counted in the calculation of need.
- Dropout prevention grants
 - Amend KRS 158.146(4) to remove priority in the awarding of dropout prevention grants to districts with chronically high dropout rates, remove the requirement to direct 75% of available funds to elementary and middle school students and 25% to high school students, and focus the grant program on supporting promising and proven practices that are systemic, scalable, replicable and aligned with the principles of secondary reform.
- Blue Ribbon Panel on Interventions in Low-Performing Schools recommendations
 - Add chronic low student academic performance as a cause for removal of a superintendent or school board member to KRS 156.132.
- Funding
 - Fund the Student Information System in the second year of the biennium (\$6,832,100). The 2008-2010 budget funded the completion of the implementation of the Student Information System (SIS) in the first year of the biennium but not the operation of the system in the second year. The system is critical in providing data for funding, student populations, longitudinal reports, individual student growth interventions and their effects, attendance, timely transfer of student records between schools and districts and the demands of the Military Compact of SB68.
 - Fund Read to Achieve and Math Achievement grants for the full biennium (\$11,918,500). Much of the dollars in these two funds that were needed to complete contractual obligations to the school districts were redirected for other General Fund uses in the 2008-2010 budget. This has necessitated a use of FY'09 funds to complete the FY'08 obligations and will require FY'10 funds to complete the FY'09 obligations, leaving the FY'10 Read to Achieve and Math Achievement Fund programs exhausted by December 31, 2009.
- Assessment and Accountability Task Force recommendations
 - It is anticipated that the Assessment and Accountability Task Force will come forward with legislative recommendations for the Kentucky Board of Education to consider at its December meeting.
- Expansion of preschool learning opportunities
 - The Kentucky Board of Education continues to encourage the General Assembly to build on the traditions established in the 1990 Reform Act and later early childhood innovations to assure that all of Kentucky's youngest citizens have access to quality preschool opportunities in their communities.

For more information on the board's legislative agenda, contact Frank Rasche at 502-564-4474 or via email at Frank.Rasche@education.ky.gov .

LAURA MCGRAIL AWARDED THE DR. SAMUEL ROBINSON AWARD

At the October meeting, Henderson County School Psychologist Laura McGrail was awarded the board's Dr. Samuel Robinson Award. The award was established in June 2004 to be conferred annually on an individual or groups in Kentucky for outstanding leadership, commitment and service in promoting equity and opportunity to learn at high levels for all Kentucky students. These traits – leadership, commitment and service – are the hallmarks of Dr. Robinson's remarkable career as an advocate for all children. Upon his retirement from the board, it was the intention of his colleagues to honor him, to call attention to others in our state who share his passion for equity and opportunity in education and to pledge continuing support for their efforts.

Over the past 22 years, Laura McGrail has made many contributions to her district, community, state and profession. In the words of Bonnie Kitchens, Henderson County Director of Special Education, who nominated her, "Laura has proven herself to be an outstanding leader with a desire and passion for equity and opportunity in education." Additionally, Joan Hoffman of the local chamber of commerce says, "She is a wonderful asset to our school system and to the community." Laura's principal, Rob Carroll, shared, "I have worked with Laura for 16 years and I have found her to put students first in every decision that she has been a part of over that time period."

For more information on the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via email at MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov.

BOARD ENDORSES SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION INSTRUMENT DEVELOPED BY KSBA

David Baird and Mike Oder of the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) appeared at the October Kentucky Board of Education meeting and presented the latest draft of KSBA's *Performance Planning and Review -- For Superintendent Evaluation*. It was conveyed to the board that the document is in a workbook format and is designed to help local school boards make the evaluation of the superintendent a fair, interactive process rather than an annual event. The evaluation workbook was characterized as a tool that focuses on enhancing student achievement. Baird and Oder indicated that the tool will be made available for all local boards to use and said that KSBA will be encouraging them to do so.

At the end of the presentation, the Kentucky Board of Education endorsed the tool and its use.

For more information on *Performance Planning and Review -- For Superintendents Evaluation*, contact David Baird at 502-695-4630 or via email at david.baird@ksba.org.

NEXT MEETING: December 10-11, 2008, Frankfort, KY