**KSD Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date: August 10, 2021**

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 related to: (1) school goals and objectives; (2) budget requests; (3) student services; (4) public relations; (5) construction and maintenance; and (6) program evaluation. 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.

**Advisory Board Members**

Scott Haun, Professional; Chair

Jeff Kassinger, Former Student

Debbie Martin, Member at Large

Dodie Karr, KAD

Nancy Perry, Member at Large

Bridgette Mann, District

Joshua Matthews, District

Principal Robey

**AGENDA**

**Chair, Scott Haun**

1. Welcome and Call to Order at P.M.
   1. Virtual meeting today
   2. Quorum met, all members present, meeting held virtually
   3. Proposed additions/changes to Agenda: change Feb. to May on the listed minutes
   4. All board member received copies of today’s agenda and presentations, emailed to each.
2. Approve May 11, 2021 Minutes
   1. Jeff Kassinger made Motion to accept May Meeting Minutes
   2. Joshua Matthews Second (2nd) the Motion
   3. All in Favor - Motioned Passed

**Toyah Robey**

1. Principal Updates:
   * 1. COVID-19 Campus Expectations: School started Monday 8/9/21, masks are mandated for both state schools. Staff and students have returned with a positive attitude. Monitoring staff and students closely to ensure masks, hand washing, social distancing. Internal processes in place for instances of needed quarantine, possible exposure, contact tracing. Masks must be worn on buses / in state vehicles. Registration Day, parents attended presentation which outlined expectations regarding COVID. Goal is to keep school open while ensuring safe for all. Students having symptoms while at school will be isolated (under health center staff supervision) and will be sent home.
     2. Graduation: several KDE and KBE staff attended graduation, which went well despite changing from outside to inside due to weather.
     3. Summer School: approximately 30 students attended, and majority stayed for entire 4 weeks. Morning focused on reading and math, with afternoons for enrichment activities. MS and HS decided they wanted to set up frisbee golf, developed plans and presented those plans with reasons justifying poles placements. Plans presented to KSD Leadership and MS and HS team will build the course and managing the budget. Will have mentors to guide them. Do not plan for this to be a competitive course. Another project was stained glass under supervision of Dr. Roher. Plan on using same approach again for next summer. Mr. Haun had opportunity to be present for summer school under WHAS grant as an ASL tutor, and very impressed with program, especially lessons from alumni Kelly Martin.
     4. Registration Day: Started in gym with parents for principal’s presentation. Registration process moved outside of Kerr due to COVID. Food and water provided for families / students. Parents seemed pleased overall, teacher feedback was good also. One parent wasn’t at first sold on coming, and they ended up staying longest and really enjoyed. 44 families in all attended the day.
     5. New Hires: Haley Brock, Student Development Associate. Marilyn Nichols, Houseparent I. Beverly Harris, Houseparent I. Logan Wiley, Speech & Language Pathologist. Ashley Adams, HS Social Studies teacher. Todd Batsche, HS Eng. / LA teacher. Other positions still have open (Culinary, Shop). Currently working with Garrard and Mercer counties for those CTE pathways until new hires. Todd Batsche’s dorm position will be posted. Student Life supervisors have supports in place for new hires to learn ASL if needed. New staff introduced themselves on staff’s opening day, and all of them signed when they stood and did so. Very proud of them. Retired staff: Mandy Byrne, Ginger Mitchell, Toni Jackson, Jerri LaFavers. Mr. Haun will ensure they are recognized at the next Board meeting.
     6. SLPI Policy: No changes in policy at this time. Billy Gulley, Dawn Calbert, and Principal Robey are looking through and refining, and sharing that with Carol Ann Morrison to see if any barriers on implementation. SLPI (Sign Language Proficiency Interview) is a rating of individuals’ skills in sign language, and is used to assist those in understanding their proficiency level and how to improve.
     7. Update on 200th Planning: First 200th event will be next month, memorial 5K run on campus. When date is confirmed will share with the Board. July 2022 will begin events with mini-deaf Olympics. All lease agreements Barbie Harris has submitted have been approved. Communication plan is being developed between Carol Ann Morrison, Principal Robey, Rhonda Bodner, and Sarah McCurry. Principal Robey met with Virginia and discussed possibility of doing Deaf Festival, but unfortunately KSD campus is not set up for the volume of people that has become Deaf Fest today. Discussing doing campus tours, bringing in Gallaudet teaching program students possibly. Rhonda Bodner is leading fundraising account. This is separate from KSD school. Will get some of those details to share at our next Board meeting. Mr. Haun stated Boyle Co., City of Danville, are very interested in contributing to our 200th Celebration. Also looking into doing banners across campus, and pictures of KSD historical figures for the banners. Running those across light poles on campus from Brady to Kerr. Would also like to figure out how to place banners on 2nd street. KCDHH has been working with Barbie Harris, Principal will share updates / info as become available from 200th Committee. Hotels in Danville may be willing to hold a block for 200th / Deaf Fest. KSD is doing a stained glass project to be placed over doors at Thomas Gym. Doing research at Jacobs Hall for preparation. Principal Robey took down notes of Board member suggestions for 200th celebration. KSDCF is willing to help KSD students only, but if need assistance with 200th, can reach out.

**Campus Safety update**:

Jarod Mills is looking into communications system. Fence: submitted to KDE, and Carol Ann Morrison is following up on it. Looking at using ESSER funding as monetary source to go toward school safety. Looking to add RFID (keyless entry) like at KDE. Mr. Hulett working with us to get a bid for this as well as new cameras. Sense of urgency as we are coming closer to having visitors on campus for 200th.

**Strategic Plan**:

Principal Robey will share what we currently have via a link. However, this will be streamlined in our Accreditation process for 2021. Some of the strategic plan has become our Accreditation Plan. Trauma-informed care is imbedded into our Strategic plan. Strategic Plan work has shifted into a self study toward our accreditation goals.

**PR Person for KSD:**

Mr. Kassinger is willing to assist with Public Relations for KSD. Have noticed that KSD is becoming weak in the PR area, seems to have shifted toward Frankfort and noticing a big disconnect. Networking needs to improve. Mr. Kassinger will work with Toyah in providing suggestions on how to improve PR.

**Chair**

1. Discussion of Jacobs Hall Renovations past and present: Concerns shared with Board. Time is running out until 200th, and the last renovations made to Jacobs Hall were in 1978. Recommend we begin the conversation as to how we look to legislators / government offices to enlist assistance with upkeep. Heating system renovation has not been completed. Still a lot of ongoing construction in the back which does not make it conducive for tours. Very close to completion but cannot give a date for completion of job. Construction has been slowed due to COVID.
2. Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations of Advisory Board:
   1. renovate Jacobs Hall, and to remind KDE to put language into the legislative bill that includes Jacobs Hall, and that any profit from sale of KSD property go directly back to the school.
   2. Hire a PR person
   3. Debbie Martin work with Mrs. Robey to find 2 KSD parent representatives to serve on the Board. The Bylaws do not specify as to if the parents must have students currently enrolled at KSD. They simply state that we need 2 parents of deaf children.

**PRAXIS update:**

Looking like PRAXIS is reviewing removing questions which are regarding deafness / auditory subjects. Still need conversations, but several people are pushing to alleviate content that negatively impacts Deaf / Hard of Hearing individuals. Commissioner takes this seriously and we are starting to see some fruit from our efforts. We have built up some supports at KSD for our teachers to help them study and prepare for the test (tutoring from other KSD teachers)

1. Advisory Board dates for 21-22 School Year: Next meeting 11/9/2021 at 6:00 pm EST. Whether in person or via Zoom is TBD.

**Comment / Concern from a parent (Mrs. Robey shared):**

A parent, Ward Frahler, shared concerns regarding the JAMA report, and that wearing masks can have negative consequences for deaf / hard of hearing students losing language development opportunities by inhibiting visual of lower part of face. New type of masks have been ordered, they are better quality than the other ones. The clear masks that have glasses were not approved for KSD because they are open at the bottom.

1. Meeting Adjourned at 7:27 pm EST