**KSD Advisory Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Date: February 21, 2023**

**6:00 pm EST**

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

Vacant, Parent of deaf children

Vacant, Parent of deaf children

**Chair, Scott Haun**

1. Welcome and Call to Order at 6:11 P.M. Quorum met with 4 Board members in attendance: Nancy Perry, Debbie Martin, Scott Haun, and Bridgette Mann. Absent: Jeff Kassinger, Dodi Karr, Joshua Matthews.
2. Agenda was approved and all members have copies.
3. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
   1. Nancy Perry made Motion to accept 12/06/2022 Meeting Minutes
   2. Bridgette Mann Second (2nd) the Motion
   3. All in Favor - Motioned Passed

**Toyah Robey**

1. Principal Updates:
2. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment:

Continuing to capture formative assessments each day with overall completion rate of 97%. Have been meeting with KDE equity group: DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging). 70 schools in KY have been selected to receive coaching which KSD is a part of. Tool has been developed to assist with looking at Policies and Procedures. Also have developed a walk through tool to look at classrooms which is aligned with our evaluation instrument. Looking at doing some training next fall for teachers to do their own internal walkthrough to assist with ensuring equity. Our coach is pleased with some of our tools such as formative assessment tool.

1. Campus Events
2. Senate Proclamation – Recognizing April as Deaf Education Month in the Commonwealth and honoring KSD’s 200th:

Byron Wilson, Todd Batsche, Rhonda Bodner, Jeff Kassinger, Rick Westerfield and Principal Robey attended this event which was honoring and very exciting. Pictures were taken on the Senate Floor and in President Stiver’s office. Our group was invited to the Governor’s office for pictures.

1. Clays Mill Baptist Church – April 16 invitation to all to attend “Deaf Education Sunday”:

Jeff Harris will be ministering, and anyone is welcome to attend.

1. Boyle County Leadership (BCL) will be coming to KSD on March 7:

Next month Education Day will include KSD, and will design an experience for this group such as language deprivation / access perspective. Students will do a presentation on KSD campus and group will tour Marshall Hall elementary.

1. New Staff:

Melissa Norton, Emily Mulholland, Brianna Wamble all three are new dorm staff. Hannah McGowan is a new instructional aide. 3 internal promotions have happened in the Student Life Program.

1. Academic Bowl is coming up mid-March. 20 teams will be visiting KSD to participate in Academic Bowl.
2. Homecoming was a great time. Stevy Brewer and Jerri LaFavers did a great job setting up the social event. The students really enjoyed themselves, especially the limbo. This was the first event we’ve had since COVID, and was the same weekend that Marvin Miller was here. Mr. Miller’s message was incredible. The Board recommends the KDE invite this gentleman to speak to them for some great insight into the Deaf experience.
3. CEASD Spring conference is coming up in April and the KSD team will attend this event.
4. 200th Report from Rhonda Bodner:

April 10-14 will have a meeting with Principal and others for the 200th events kick off. The Gala is expecting up to 400 people.

**Rick Westerfield**

1. Campus Updates:
2. Jacobs Hall: 4 new LED lights were installed in front which are adjustable with 3 different settings. Brick sidewalks have been replaced with new concrete borders which look really good. Hoping to start on repainting the columns in the front as soon as the weather breaks. The ramp on the west side has new steps and ramp, and working on getting new door knobs. A meeting with the JHM committee can be arranged for more suggestions on beautification. Rear parking lot has been painted and rear of the building will be painted as soon as possible. Old brick was used in combination with the new construction to retain the historic feel of the renovations. There is plenty of leftover brick to use for picnic area to be constructed, and open to suggestions as to where to construct this area.
3. Fencing: Andrew Hourigan and Toyah Robey have taken care of the fencing project very well. We are close to installing the gates for entrances to campus.
4. KSD is getting a new 84 passenger school bus. The bus has tinted windows, AC, with a rear engine and pass through luggage compartments. The bus has been ordered last month and it typically takes a year to get it. KSD was very fortunate and another district gave us their spot, meaning the bus should be here before the end of the school year.
5. Roofing: Kerr is 95% finished. Gym is 40% completed. Weather has been an issue. Work on Grow Hall was started today, which is not the best time for it with Academic Bowl coming up. Meeting on that tomorrow.
6. Reconstruction on Brady Hall lower level dorms is slowed down until after Academic Bowl to avoid any hasty decisions being made. The bathrooms will be redone, all new carpeting in bedrooms and all new flooring everywhere else. Once this project is done, Middleton Hall dorms will move to Brady so reconstruction on Middleton can be done.

**Tony Peavler**

1. Outreach
2. Current data:

Board members were provided with a copy of Outreach Report. 3 new temporary staff have been hired through COVID funding. One of them in conjunction with KSB targeting Deaf/Blind supports across the state. Also have started a Language Deprivation program which 13 districts are participating in with one of these new staff members. From July through September has seen 1,358 support events, an average of 226 events monthly. Of the 177 districts, Outreach has supported 144. 517 individual students have been supported, with 226 family supports. 7 regional and 1 statewide Deaf/Hard of Hearing spelling bee competitions have been held. 10 regional, 5 week sign language classes were provided. 1 state-wide sign language class was provided for preschool teachers, aides, nurses and parents.

1. Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events include 9 regional student events, and Family Learning Vacation in June.

1. Notes: Since onboarding with Outreach, Director has worked to align all the district’s programs in the state. Specific supports for D/B students are provided by 2 people for the whole state. The new staff member covering Language Deprivation covers the whole state for that specialty. Difficult to really provide really strong language supports with this type of a caseload, so having staff which can support these endeavors will really make a big difference.

Evaluation: some evaluations are done through Outreach: Functional evaluations to help a district determine how their hearing loss impacts them in the educational setting. Also may provide guidance as to how they might approach their assessment in the district, but also encourage them to get their evaluations at KSD. KSD Evaluations are sometimes booked 1 year in advance, however.

Communication of needs to KDE: Mrs. Paynter clarified we are currently working with EKU educational programs to get that contract renewed. We’ve proposed to them and asked that they work with their legal department to include a clause stating that if KDE pays for students to get their interpreting licensure through EKU they will remain in KY to work in the educational setting. We aren’t sure this will happen, but the state pays a great deal of money to both EKU and UK for their VI program and O&M programs, so we feel like there needs to be a little skin in the game for those students to get their education paid for and we reap the benefits of this. We are fortunate in Danville to have KSD and our interpreting referral service, but other districts in KY seriously struggle with interpreting supply.

The impact of the interpreter shortage is felt throughout the state currently. Many factors influence this, and it seems that many interpreters have taken the opportunity to work remotely or pay better than the school districts perhaps are able to. Also the licensure component may have a negative effect on the state’s supply of interpreters. Nancy Perry’s greatest concern is that some colleges / universities may get a degree with ASL certification which isn’t really an interpreting degree. Some districts may hire someone to interpret that isn’t really certified. District educational staff may not have the knowledge of what certifies or qualifies someone to be an ASL interpreter. Outreach staff may make a district aware of certifications / required licensure, but are not the enforcers of that. In the end all HI students deserve everything that can help them access their education and be involved in their environment.

Early Intervention: Principal Robey and Outreach Director have an upcoming meeting to discuss possible options for age 0-3.

**Dr. Lee Roher**

1. Robotics Program:

Last week the HS Robotics team went to Alabama and competed in the Deaf / Hard of Hearing competition (over 100 students total). For HS, we only have Robotics club which meets every 2 weeks for 30 minutes, which isn’t enough time to really be involved in competition level activities. The coaches are hand-off, this is the students’ club. There are 4 students which make up 2 teams. Each team made a robot for the competition. The students designed the robot, built it, and practiced with it. Each year is a different challenge, so for May a new challenge will be announced. The competition consisted of 3 different fields of play. Points are earned a variety of ways: Rolling, connect colors, and basket. 35 teams total competed, and KSD placed 14th and 23rd. A High School playing field was set up at KSD for practice work. This is donated to KSD every year, and also pays for a robotics kit for both MS and HS. Mr. Haun subbed in Dr. Roher’s class, and noted how motivated and knowledgeable the students were. It was obvious they wanted to do this more. One of KSD’s HS teams ranked 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, but ranking is constantly changing depending on wins / losses. KSD Robotics team has the ability to win, and next year a Robotics class will be offered year-round. If KSD has a large turn-out of students enrolled in Robotics Team, the donating school NRFC will give more kits to KSD. So far KSD Robotics classes have built 4 different types of robots ranging in actions / builds. Thursday this week the Middle School robotics team will be going to Alabama to compete.

**Jane Paynter**

1. Kentucky Department of Education Update:

At the February Board meeting there were 3 KSD representatives awarded the Stillwell award. These are people who did a great job during COVID to ensure all students / staff were prepared and able to continue learning. Jarod Mills, Jonathan Woodall, and Renee Combs received this award.

The state department has worked out a loaner bus for KSD from the Bell County Board of Education for the meantime while KSD waits for the new bus to arrive. The Bell Co. Board of Ed. is meeting tonight to finalize that agreement.

Worked with Karen Worth on some Capital Projects preliminary work for our 5 year plan. Toyah has also worked with her some. One proposal is not to have any new projects, just to maintain lighting, fixtures, and ADA compliance for both state schools.

**Chair**

1. Discussion:

Would like to discuss Early Intervention at the next Advisory Board Meeting. Paula Goff is the First Steps Director, and planning to meet with her and Gallaudet University (Toyah Robey, Jane Paynter, and Tony Peavler).

No dates have been set for the Commissioner and legislators touring KSD on Legislator’s Day. Jane will communicate that information with the office of the Commissioner.

Legislators’ Day: need to remind KDE again to set it up.

ASL Immersion: it would be awesome for KDE and KBE to participate in this at KSD / EKU. Have been discussing this with Rebecca Kreutzer, and need to have more discussion with her. This would be good for them to gain a good perspective on how it feels to be Deaf, and perhaps they could also consider inviting Marvin Miller to come talk. It would also be great if they could come to the Gala since KSD is a state school under KDE/KBE.

Nancy Perry inquired as to KSD’s plan in case of gunman: Principal clarified the school has a Safety Plan in place under the guidance of the Safe School Officer Andrew Hourigan. Additional lights outside will be added to aid in alerting those on campus grounds to get inside to a safe area as marked by designated staff with flags outside to let them know which building are safe to enter.

SRO officer Todd Davis has been hired and works during the school day. In the future we are looking for someone to come on for evening shifts. The students love officer Davis, and he’s learning to sign. SRO Appreciation day was last week.

1. Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations of Advisory Board:

About Legislators’ Day: need to remind them again and Commissioner to meet with KSDAB sometime.

ASL Immersion: it would be awesome for KDE and KBE to participate in this at KSD / EKU. Have been discussing this with Rebecca Kreutzer, and need to have more discussion with her. This would be good for them to gain a good perspective on how it feels to be Deaf, and perhaps they could also consider inviting Marvin Miller to come talk. It would also be great if they could come to the Gala since KSD is a state school under them.

1. Public Comments:

Samantha Fowler asked if any renovations have been done at Brady Hall to prepare for Academic Bowl. Scott Haun refers KSD to answer that questions after the meeting.

1. Next Advisory Board Meeting will be May 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm EST
2. Nancy Perry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bridgette Mann seconded the motion. All in favor and Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm EST.