

# HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

January 20, 2026

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education and Workforce Development was held on January 20, 2026, at 10:00 AM in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Kim Banta, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Representative Kim Banta, Chair; Representatives Scott Lewis, Josh Bray, Tina Bojanowski, and Mike Clines.

Guests: Jake Fouts, Assistant Director, Division of Fiscal Management, Education and Labor Cabinet (ELC); Cali Arnold, Executive Director, Office of Legislative Services, ELC; Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE; and Todd Allen, General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, KDE.

LRC Staff: Liz Columbia, Mariah Derringer-Lackey, David Talley, and Benjamin Thompson.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes were not approved due to a lack of quorum.

### Education and Labor Cabinet

Jake Fouts, Assistant Director, Division of Fiscal Management, Education and Labor Cabinet (ELC); and Cali Arnold, Executive Director, Office of Legislative Services, ELC provided an update on the capital project requests of the ELC.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Mr. Fouts stated that the Charles W. McDowell Center for the Blind, which the ELC is asking for funding to renovate is located in Louisville.

In response to Representative Lewis, Mr. Fouts noted that the previous federal funding provided for the facility was prioritized to assist with an increase in services.

### Kentucky Department of Education

Matt Ross, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE); Chay Ritter, Director, Division of District Support, Office of Finance and Operations, KDE; and Todd Allen, General Counsel, Office of Legal Services, KDE provided information regarding the need to replace the existing Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) application.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Mr. Ross said that KDE was hopeful that the cost would be between seven and eight million dollars but an exact number could not be known until a request for proposal was completed.

In response to Representative Lewis, Mr. Ritter confirmed that SEEK is funded with both state and local funds. Mr. Ross noted that the state funding portion is greater than local funds but that the ratio varies by district.

In response to Chair Banta, Mr. Ross said that there was a team and project manager assigned to work with the previous vendor. The previous vendor was unable to complete the terms of the contract, so the contract was canceled. Mr. Allen noted that the previous vendor attempted a change order that would have doubled the agreed upon cost of the service.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.