

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

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

February 10, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 4th meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education and Workforce Development was held on February 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM in Room 154 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, Tina Bojanowski, Adam Bowling, and Mike Clines.

Guests: Representative Vanessa Grossl; Lesley Gilpin, Kentucky Association of School Social Workers; Amy Oates, President-Elect, KY Association for Psychology in the Schools; Representative Bobby McCool; Rhonda Caldwell, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer, Kentucky Association of School Administrators; Chris Brady, Superintendent, Marion County School District; Jesse Bacon, Ed.D., Superintendent, Bullitt County School District; John Siler, Superintendent, Whitley County School District; and Katie Webb, Superintendent, Lawrence County School District.

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

Approval of Minutes

Representative Lewis made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2026 meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Bowling seconded the motion and the minutes were approved without objection.

Incentivizing National Certification for School Social Workers and School Psychologists

Representative Vanessa Grossl; Lesley Gilpin, Kentucky Association of School Social Workers; and Amy Oates, President-Elect, KY Association for Psychology in the Schools provided information regarding national certification for school social workers and psychologists.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Representative Grossl noted that there was no

line item appropriation request for 2026 Regular Session House Bill 500.

School Facility Funding Needs

Representative Bobby McCool spoke on the need for gap funding for school districts in the School Facility Assistance Fund.

In response to Representative Bojanowski, Representative McCool stated that the budget request was \$130 million for gap funding.

Kentucky Association of School Administrators

Rhonda Caldwell, Ed.D., Chief Executive Officer, Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA); Chris Brady, Superintendent, Marion County School District; Jesse Bacon, Ed.D., Superintendent, Bullitt County School District; John Siler, Superintendent, Whitley County School District; and Katie Webb, Superintendent, Lawrence County School District provided the KASA perspective on the 2026 Regular Session House Bill 500 as introduced, school district salary competitiveness, proposed SEEK Transportation funding adjustments, and state equalization of local nickel property tax levies.

In response to Representative Lewis, Mr. Siler stated that the state transportation budget for schools was roughly 70 to 72 percent of actual cost. Districts pay the remaining transportation costs.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.