

# INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

## Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the 2024 Interim

November 8, 2024

### Call to Order and Roll Call

The sixth meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on November 8, 2024, at 11:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Stephen West, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### Present were:

Members: Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Representative James Tipton, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Shelley Funke Frommeyer, David P. Givens, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Reginald Thomas, Lindsey Tichenor, Gex Williams, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Shane Baker, Jared Bauman, Tina Bojanowski, George Brown Jr., Emily Callaway, Josh Calloway, Jennifer Decker, Steven Doan, Kevin Jackson, Scott Lewis, Candy Massaroni, Marianne Proctor, Felicia Rourn, Steve Rawlings, Josie Raymond, Steve Riley, Killian Timoney, Timmy Truett, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Zach Rausch, Associate Research Scientist, New York University (NYU); Dr. David Lawrence, Superintendent, Dayton Public Schools (DPS); Dr. Larry Joe Begley, Superintendent, Bourbon County School District (BCSD); Morgan Adkins, Principal, Bourbon County High School (BCHS); Travis Powell, General Counsel, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE); Dr. Ryan Quarles, President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS); Dr. Phil Neal, Acting Executive Vice President and Provost, KCTCS; and Dr. Reneau Waggoner, Acting Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, KCTCS.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Peter Wright, Joshua Collins, and Landen Holder.

### Effects of Social Media and Cell Phones on School Age Individuals

Zach Rausch, Associate Research Scientist, NYU, presented on the detrimental effects of social media and cell phone use on school-aged individuals. He encouraged schools to implement phone-free policies and called for legislators to fund research to study the adverse effects of cell phones on youth. Dr. David Lawrence, Superintendent, DPS, gave insight into the adoption, implementation, and outcome of a phone-free policy set forth by Dayton Public Schools. He testified that locking phone pouches increased student engagement, decreased violence, and reduced the use of profanity. Dr. Larry Joe Begley,

Superintendent, BCSD, and Mr. Morgan Adkins, Principal, BCHS, outlined the process of adopting and enforcing a phone-use restriction policy for Bourbon County Schools. Mr. Adkins stated student writing, communication, and social skills have improved, with a reduction in behavioral issues, as a result of prohibiting cell phone use in all classrooms.

In response to Representative Calloway, Dr. Begley encouraged superintendents to conduct conversations with fellow administrators and parents of students in their school district about implementing phone use regulations.

Responding to Representative Calloway, Mr. Rausch said establishing an environment free of cell-phone use would provide students with an opportunity to learn, grow, and build skill sets that would otherwise remain undeveloped.

In response to Representative Jackson, Mr. Adkins asserted legislation to prohibit classroom phone use would improve teacher retention.

Responding to Senator Carroll, Mr. Adkins stated that state mandated restrictions on phone use during instructional hours would alleviate potential confrontation for educators and school administrators.

In response to Representative Rawlings, Mr. Adkins said phone use regulation could decrease the amount of student cyber-bullying across Kentucky.

### **CPE's Equal Educational Opportunity Goals Requirements**

Travis Powell, General Counsel, CPE, gave a presentation outlining the annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Plan Reports submitted by postsecondary universities to CPE. These reports are evaluated on a two-section rubric that measures quantitative and qualitative data. A waiver process is offered to institutions that do not meet the minimum required scores for the three focus areas defined in the DEI Policy. CPE instituted a moratorium of these reports after June 30, 2024. Postsecondary institutions will not be evaluated again until a new process is created.

In response to Representative Decker, Mr. Powell testified that regulations establish a framework for evaluating institutions' DEI adherence, but CPE decides how often to conduct evaluations.

Responding to Senator Tichenor, Mr. Powell encouraged legislators to provide feedback regarding the outline of future regulatory amendments which would further specify CPE's role in evaluating postsecondary institution's DEI compliance.

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Postsecondary Institutions**

Dr. Ryan Quarles, President, KCTCS; Dr. Phil Neal, Acting Executive Vice President and Provost, KCTCS; and Dr. Reneau Waggoner, Acting Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, KCTCS, presented the demographics of the KCTCS student body and the impact the various campuses have on Kentucky communities.

In response to Representative Timoney, Dr. Quarles stated KCTCS has eliminated over 200 degree and certificate programs in the past year that are no longer relevant. He added KCTCS plans to comply with all regulations while developing the vision for the future of the institution.

Responding to Senator Thomas, Dr. Waggoner said while recent enrollment has continued to grow, there has been a slight decrease in the population of African-American male students attending KCTCS.

In response to Representative Bauman, Dr. Quarles said most KCTCS campuses across the Commonwealth offer courses for obtaining Commercial Drivers Licenses, but he would provide the committee with more specific information regarding course availability by location.

Responding to Senator Tichenor, Dr. Quarles said KCTCS has submitted to the committee a copy of DEI departmental expenses as determined by the recently completed forensic audit.

In response to Senator Neal, Dr. Neal stated Kentucky tracks the graduation rate of students who transfer from KCTCS to complete their degree at a public university. He added the graduation rate of prior KCTCS students is higher than the national average for transfer students.

Responding to Senator Carroll, Dr. Neal testified KCTCS has program advisory committees for industry employers to provide insight for instruction and communicating the industry vision.

## **Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations**

704 KAR 8:130 - *Current*

Required Kentucky Academic Standards for Visual and Performing Arts,

739 KAR 001:070 – *Current*

Contracting for capital construction projects.

739 KAR 001:060 – *Current*

Management of capital construction projects.

- 102 KAR 001:370 – *Current*  
Annuitization and disbursement from supplemental benefit.
- 102 KAR 001:350 – *Current*  
Full actuarial cost purchase.
- 102 KAR 001:138 – *Current*  
Crediting of interest for TRS 4 members.
- 016 KAR 009:100 – *Current*  
Alternative Route to Certification Institute.
- 016 KAR 009:080 – *Current*  
University-based alternative certification program.
- 016 KAR 009:010 – *Current*  
Provisional and professional certificate for exceptional work experience.
- 016 KAR 002:030 – *Current*  
Substitute teachers.
- 016 KAR 001:030 – *Current*  
Procedures for educator certificate surrender, revocation, suspension, reinstatement, and reissuance, and for application denial.

No action was needed on these items at this time.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM.