

# KSD Advisory Board Agenda

Date: May 7, 2019

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. 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.

## Committee Members

Clyde Mohan, Chair	Bryan Bowen	Dodie Karr
Anita Dowd	Jeff Kassinger	Bridgette Mann
Tina Yance	Professional (Vacant)	School District (Vacant)

## AGENDA

### Chair

- A. Welcome
  - a. Meeting called to order at 6:04 PM
- B. Approve February Minutes
  - a. Page 7, under F, word spelled wrong, should be communicate, change in the minutes
  - b. Bryan Bowen moved to accept minutes with corrections.
  - c. Tina seconds.
- C. Introduce New Committee Member
  - a. Jeff Kassinger, a KSD graduate of 1989. We are honored to have younger generation alumni serving on the board.
- D. Board Vacancies
  - a. Clyde Mohan- Haven't heard anything about nominations. Is there any update?
    - i. Toyah Robey – There had been a self-nomination turned in to the department. I have reached out to district that has a student with us, to see if their superintendent may be interested.
  - b. C. Mohan – We have received a letter of resignation from Bryan Bowen and we will look it over after the meeting. Bryan, thank you for serving. We need to think about replacing Bryan.

### T Hulett

- E. Capital Projects Update
  - a. New Elementary: We are having our Open House reception Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM – 6PM. It is a wonderful building. It is 16,500 square foot classroom and living facility. We are down to last minute punch items being done. Parking lot new school and behind Kerr done as well in this project. We had a phone conference this afternoon about playground, still planning this. Playground will be between gym and Kerr.
  - b. We have started working on roof repairs at Jacobs Hall that was caused by storm damage. This is an insurance claim. We are close to a total reroof at Argo. Still working on leaks at Grow. Will

work at Lee as well. We have a campus wide lighting project in the works and this will be going to bid soon. The new lighting will enhance security for staff and students, especially in winter months when it is dark.

- c. We have been working with Tommy on a project using old capital project money, and will be replacing service lines in Grow Hall to better serve students.
- d. We are in the design phase of a steam line project. This will eliminate use of the boiler system across the street. Hopefully this will be done by October and each building will have stand-alone heat and also stop draining money from operations budget.
- e. A 6 year capital plan completed and submitted for the upcoming budget. We are using these funds for roofing, HVAC and maintenance. This would be \$56 million dollars over 6 years. We are hoping for a good outcome. We have good data and evidence to support our needs. Working with the Department, Tommy, and Mrs. Robey to work on what our needs are for upgrades. Tommy has done a great job with what we have keeping things up and running. I am excited about what has been completed and what is up and coming.
  - i. Archie Harris – What about the pool reopening?
  - ii. Mr. Hulett: We had some issues with the rebar under the pool. We don't any information or identified where we have had 20 million gallons of water go missing. There is a project to remove leaking windows. This is a minimal leak, not the big one. We need to find where the water is going. Then we can move forward.
  - iii. C. Mohan – Where is the money for the playground coming from? Will there be enough money?
  - iv. Mr. Hulett: It is coming from 3 different sources
    - 1. Capital project money from the new school.
    - 2. Haynes-Grow Trust
    - 3. Department is giving \$230,000, worked with operations and finance. Yes, we are looking at all scenarios and trying to plan.
  - v. C. Mohan – Is it the current structure of the pool at fault? Or something over time?
    - 1. The chemicals and the air, with the concrete it can cause it to deteriorate. Core samples have been taken. Pool is not compromised, but still has concrete and rebar issue.
  - vi. C. Mohan – Are there any plans for Lee Hall?
    - 1. Right now just trying to keep it dry. No real plans yet. The money we are asking for, we are using generic terms, so we aren't boxed in to a particular project, so there may be something we can do with that.
  - vii. Archie Harris – Will we still be getting an auditorium?
    - 1. That will still be on the plan. I am committed to that like I said I was in the beginning.

## **Toyah Robey**

### **F. New Staff/Hires**

- a. Michael Milcznski- Houseparent Coordinator (2nd Shift)
- b. Sharon Gerardo- LPN (3rd Shift)

- c. Dallas Brock- Houseparent I (3rd Shift)
  - d. Judie Wilson- Houseparent I (3rd Shift)
  - e. Loretta Bates- Student Development Associate (2nd Shift)
  - f. Johanna White- Houseparent I (3rd Shift)
  - g. Matthew Keenon- Student Development Associate (2nd Shift)
  - h. Andrew Hourigan – Safety Administrator (Starts May 16<sup>th</sup>)
- G. Elementary School Opening
- a. We have posted information on the opening on the school Facebook page and the webpage. We sent personal invitations to people that were requested by the Marshall Family. Invitations have been sent to superintendents and DoSE’s across the state, KDE, the architects, Dr. Lewis and other guests. We will also be live streaming from 4:00 to 4:45. We will dismiss from gym to the ribbon cutting, followed by a reception in the Multipurpose Room. The Culinary team has made 300 cupcakes, all designed to represent Mrs. Marshall.
  - b. The live stream will be in the gym only, not in school for safety reasons. We do not want people to have access the floor plan of the school
  - c. C. Mohan – I haven’t seen an invitation yet and I don’t have Facebook. Are paper invitations sent?
    - i. Yes, sent last week Tuesday. We will check on that.
- H. 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
- a. Committee
    - i. Rhonda Bodner and Barbie Harris – Chairpersons
    - ii. Members: Ann Arnold, Mary Beth Gay, JoAnn Hamm, Alex Meckes, Paula Meckes, Sarah McCurry, Genise Orberon, CJ Prater, Karen Schulz, Jackie Slay, and Jason Smith.
- I. KSB/KSD Special Education Policies
- a. We received an electronic copy and they have also been posted on KSD website.
  - b. C. Mohan – A friend showed me a cover letter and I noticed a specific section that said they have consulted with our Advisory Board, as well as KSB’s Advisory Board. I don’t remember that happening. I don’t know if that is a typo, or a misprint, or if they met with other KSD employees. KSB Advisory Board chair said they never met with them either. I read the policies and saw a certain section that gave me pause “the definition of deafness- federal policy or guideline, which developed that specific part – pg. 6, #1 and #2 is fine, but you get to #3 “ hearing loss has adverse effects on performance.” Is that a generalization of all students? That is incorrect and not the definition of deaf. I thought that was blatant for them to put in there. Those are 2 things I noticed.
  - c. T. Robey – Melissa do you want to add?
    - i. Melissa Cantrell – That is a concern with the general labeling of students.
  - d. C. Mohan – Can you check and see if that is true or what?
    - i. T. Robey- Yes
- J. Mason-Dixon 2020 Update
- a. Committee established; there has been one meeting so far.
  - b. The main concern is getting dorms ready and making sure we have enough beds.
  - c. We are working cleaning up campus.

- d. We would like to have an admin meeting during Mason-Dixon and inviting admin from the other schools.
- e. We don't have a budget yet, but when we do, I will probably work with Billy Lange and make sure we have the money set aside, using the historical information.
  - i. Clyde Mohan: We have hosted many of these tournaments in the past and we began planning months ahead, for budget, cleaning campus, and for the boy's tournament, there will probably be a need of 100-150 beds. Just bigger picture, don't wait too long to plan.
    - 1. T. Robey - 100 is what we were planning
    - 2. C. Mohan – Maybe we will have to limit the number of students coming?
    - 3. T. Robey – Lisa Kingsley had brought that up already, since some coaches and ADs are coming as well.
    - 4. Todd Batsche – Are there any student life staff on the committee?
      - a. T. Robey: No, but are you volunteering? Amy Hurst is in the committee, but we can use more people.

#### K. Summer School Update

- a. We are still waiting on sign ups.
- b. FLV is coming along
- c. We have about 300 trees that we picked up from the Boyle County Conservation Office. We are looking to start a nursery and propagating the shrubs, so that we can grow and plant them on campus ourselves, instead of buying them. We are thinking this is a good place to break into the market for selling shrubs.
- d. There were about 1100 visitors over the weekend in the greenhouse with Sandy Smock.
- e. Sandy Smock will continue accepting students for AG Camp.
- f. FLV will be accepting CODAs.
  - i. Tina Yance – How many student anticipating for summer school?
    - 1. T. Robey: Limit at 30 students, maybe 40. When school is over that's when sign ups begin. We will know more as we get closer.
    - 2. D. Karr – does the limit include CODAs?
      - a. T. Robey: Yes

#### L. Budget Update

- a. General funds are at \$40,000 to finish the school year. Other pots of money but in gen fund 40,000
- b. We have not received the budget for next year. When we get it, we will begin planning for next year.

#### M. Instructional Updates

- a. Trying to secure a contract for DHH literacy, not PD – ongoing coaching in classroom – focusing on acquisition of vocab – a specific number of vocab words learned over the year for data collection. Vocab tailored to the grade of the student.
- b. PD – rollout with the standards – will fill in as PD dates
- c. KPREP is going on this week – smooth so far – planning takes a lot of time

- d. Calendar – Waiting for final approval. In packet is the draft. Different this year, we will be out the week of Mason-Dixon. Staff advised that this has happened in the past, since we can't house athletes here for MD and meet daily needs if students.
  - i. C. Mohan – Happy that DHH expertise is coming – wish we could do the same for ASL for our students – many students leave here and there is no way to measure it. The grammar and syntax used when I see them is wrong. I know we don't have a lot of deaf teachers to teach in those moments, I know that English is important, but so is ASL.
    - 1. T. Robey: Contract person will be focused on bilingual approach.
    - 2. T. Robey: Looking at an ASL specialist and how we can use them on campus. This year for elementary and middle school, and open to HS – an ASL class for the students. Looking at starting short ASL course. It would be something along the lines of 4-6 students from districts, staying on campus for 2 weeks, and becoming immersed in the language. The ASL specialist would focus on these students. This is still in the very early stages. We don't expect the students to want to stay, but hopefully they would want to and parents could see what is offered. We will be offering 2 classes, one in the spring and one in the fall.
- e. Advisory Groups -
  - i. We would like to start groups consisting of parents, students, staff, teachers, and the community.
  - ii. For issues like with the food we faced in the past, these groups would be the go to for these things.
- f. Celebrations
  - i. We have a high school student who qualified for Governor Scholar Program. Will be attending classes at Centre College.
  - ii. Our chess club just attended a competition in
  - iii. Math club attended
  - iv. Culinary Team recently competed in the Culinary Bowl in Las Vegas.
  - v. We have a high school student that will receive an award from Danville High School for completing NOCTI exam.
  - vi. Some life size chess pieces were donated, so we will be looking for a place to set this up.
  - vii. Frisbee/Disc Golf was donated by BC and we will get more, but in the center part of campus, we will set up. In place by the fall hopefully.
- g. In Denver for CEASD last week, I went to the superintendent conference, and met 5 other superintendents from across the country. This fall, there will be a 3 year mentoring project that we will be attending in Rhode Island. I was also able to spend time with Dr. Bobby Cordano again. The issues we face here at KSD are faced other places. Language deprivation was interesting to me. I have information on it and I will be happy to share. We are looking for all call for teachers. Planning to go to Gallaudet for a visit, they had 5 that graduated this year. 22% of all staff is deaf. Looking for more deaf teachers. Taking the PRAXIS exam is an issue.
  - i. K. Grievson – Is that why ASL teacher would be important for the students?
    - 1. T. Robey: Yes, I agree. That is what we are looking for.
  - ii. Strategic Plan Meeting was supposed to be last week, but it was cancelled because there were some people who couldn't make it.

- iii. C. Mohan – Are there any formal announcement for retirement?
  - 1. T. Robey: One that has announced, but I don't want to share name at this time. I haven't had the chance to speak with them yet.
- iv. C. Mohan – Who is graduation speaker for this year?
  - 1. T. Robey – Bryan Bowen

## Jarod Mills

### N. Technology Update

- a. Working on for at least a year is the new website. We have a new platform. Needs to be ADA compatible, so it was easier to build a new website than updating present one. I would like to show you what I have done so far.
- b. One of the biggest things is to have ASL on the webpage. Any place there is print, there will be ASL. There will be an informational video on KSD, and we have a committee is working on it. We will conduct student, teacher, staff, and alumni interviews. Promoting KSD and what it means.
- c. We have redone the tabs and made them more user friendly. There is a history of KSD written by JoAnn Hamm, with Rhonda Bodner supporting that will be added.
- d. Website will be very visual, there will be pictures that goes along with the tabs and menus.
- e. Resources tab will be filled with resources that any parent or a deaf family can look for and find as many resources that they could hope for. If we promote that we are the statewide center for deafness, then we need to reflect that. Sarah Klaser-Williams has been working on building a library, and there will be link to that. Also a link to deaf parent groups and events, etc.
  - i. C. Mohan – When will it be up and running?
  - ii. J. Mills – Not sure yet. I am hoping by 2020. We have several huge tech projects we are working on, like the new elementary school and the server project. So we have a lot to do.

## Chair

### O. Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations of Advisory Board

- a. Last meeting – a number of things we would like to improve on. There is an article from 2000 and it discusses how to operate an Advisory Board. I would like to revisit the old policy and focus on how we address public comments, the article mentions talks limiting that time- or having advance notice. It also addressed reimbursement for members who come. Is this something that we should be doing? Another thing to revisit is the board doing an evaluation inside the school and outside the school, to see information from all sides. Evaluating the people who are on the board or in the school can be sticky, but this could be a different perspective on the school form outsiders. These are just a few things that we aren't using anymore, but we could be. Not sure if this needs to be approved by KDE or the Commissioner but I have old policy that was adopted in 1994 and updated in 2000. This is a beautiful policy and I think we should be following it. It is already created, so we could follow. We need to check the facts though, since some things could have changed.

- b. Was the agenda for tonight not on the website?
  - i. T. Robey: No, I don't think it got posted.
  - ii. C. Mohan: I know that we talked about it at the last meeting.
  - iii. T. Robey: February minutes can be added now, but the ones from tonight can't be. There are two places that you can look, one is current, and the other one still has old information from 2014. Want to make sure that is deleted and up to date information can be found.
  - iv. D. Karr – I think we should look at that policy and maybe use it.
  - v. C. Mohan – I will send copies.
  - vi. J. Kassinger – Do we still have all the copies of things from Advisory Board from the past?
  - vii. C. Mohan – We have minutes from the 1960's to about 2000 when we no longer had a board. Then it picks back up again.
  - viii. C. Mohan – There are a few people who want to comment- limit to 3 to 4 minutes per person.

P. Nominations

Q. Public Comment

- a. Wilton McMillan – Special Education policy, this is not only happening in KY, but across the country adverse impact on our education – got me fired up – how many people went to deaf school – having an adverse reactions to us, that is not correct information. Consulting with the schools, who did they meet with? AS for ASL classes, I am willing to help with that in a consulting capacity. I have a lot of ideas. Mrs. Robey, I think you should check with the Clerc center and see what recourses they have. (T. Robey- I talked with President Cordano last week.) With CEASD, please push for accreditation form them. (T. Robey - That is part of my plan with Dr. Lewis. Thoughts were before that we weren't ready, I think that we are. The accreditation will help push us to get better.) Go ahead and have that done. Not here to crucify the schools, they are here to help and will keep improving (T. Robey: Dr. Lewis is pushing for that.)
  - i. C. Mohan – Are we members of CEASD?
  - ii. T. Robey – We have reapplied, it had lapsed for one year.
- b. Barbie Harris: With Mason-Dixon being soon, I have a question about 2 of the dorms. Historically speaking, we used to use Barbee Hall and Bruce Hall that Danville High School is using now. When they move to their Central Office, Bruce will be available. Will we be able to use that building for the teams to sleep in? We have had to use cots from military depots. Can we use these buildings? This would allow for more room. Also, when my daughter was on the board 2 or 3 years ago, she asked to make a mission statement for the board, has that been done?
  - i. Tommy Barnett – Bruce couldn't be used due to HVAC and electric. Barbee could be a possibility, we would have to check the showers and HVAC. Possible but it would take some dollars.
  - ii. C. Mohan - No, not yett, but we need to work on it.
- c. Deanna Glasser – update SIWI– ASL is used as an approach to teach English to our students. In the research group, we had 12 students who participated in this project. We were honored to be chosen. Lauren Kirk worked very hard. We had a researcher come last week and help survey

the student data. I can show you from where we started in August to now. I will send you the link, so you can see the data. There is a website that you can see that has ASL on website. Sandy Smock had a great article in the newspaper for the greenhouse. We used the greenhouse for our plants and they were beautiful. Question: I didn't know that ASL was offered to the high school students, was that shared with the HS students? (T. Robey – it was shared with the counselors and they should have shared.)

- d. Parent Jennifer Backfish – My son is a former KSD student. I want to talk about the lack of communication from KSD. There was an allegation was made against my son's former teacher, and I found out from CPS, not the school. I didn't receive a letter from KSD until many months later. The incident happened on Oct. 3, 2018 and I received the letter in December. At an IEP meeting, they had no idea that the incident happened. During the time his teacher was suspended, there was no education plan for him in place. In the IEP meeting there were also other services that he wasn't receiving, so what was he doing for those 3 months? In January, when the teacher returned, I was still not notified that she was coming back. I took him out of KSD and enrolled him in a new school, and within a month, he had the services he needed.
- e. Archie Harris:
  - i. Have you had a chance to meet deaf superintendent from Lexington School in NY? He came to school at KSD from elementary school until in high school, but graduated somewhere else. KSD produces wonderful, intelligent people who become successful.
  - ii. Enrollment – What is the number today?
    - 1. T. Robey – not exact number, but around 100 – as low as 87 as high as 103 this year.
  - iii. I'm curious, is there a policy or a mandate that everyone should be signing at all times? I came to the magic show performance, there were a number of teachers who were talking, but not signing. Our students need that access all the time.
  - iv. There are several of the buildings that are not deaf accessible. I can be ringing doorbell and not know what is going on behind closed doors.
- f. Jason Smith:
  - i. Driving through campus, there is a small sign that says please sign at all times. I was disappointed to see how small the sign was.
  - ii. New safety officer, do they know ASL? (T. Robey – No, not yet.) I have a lot of concern with that. There are students that have problems and they can't communicate with them. There was a deaf applicant that applied and wasn't even considered. We need to have deaf employees.
    - 1. T. Robey - When we hire, there are criteria that have to be met before we go forward with interviews. The people that we have picked to interview have met this criteria. If they do not, then they will not pass through to interviews.
    - 2. J. Smith - Is this listed on the job announcements, that ASL is required?
    - 3. T. Robey - It says that ASL is preferable, and that there is an expectation for ASL to be learned.
    - 4. C. Mohan – The safety officer role will not be like we are used to in the past. Can you explain?

5. T. Robey - In the past, this person would work with student safety. That is not the case with the new applicant. They will work on our campus safety with local law agencies. Being up to code. Working with other deaf schools to see what their safety plans are. We have been working with first responders about knowing where to go on campus. This person will make sure that our policies and procedures are up to date. Their tasks initially is very busy.
6. J. Kassinger – I’m new to the board, but it seems we need to reevaluate all the job descriptions and see which ones need to be deaf individuals. Then maybe we could offer internships with these people, as they may not completely understand the process for hiring.
7. T. Robey – The new safety office will attend ASL classes and ASL Immersion Program this summer.
8. W. McMillan – When I came here to work and between Frankfort, I was quick to hire deaf individuals because that is what we needed. Then I was blasted by someone for hiring too many deaf people. We went to human resources to ask about having 161 positions that will stay open until filled, but merit positions cannot be. This needs to change. I know that it is a systematic problem. I am concerned too about the safety officer not knowing how to communicate with our students. Work with super from Kansas school for the deaf – they are close to the way we operate- were patient with filling positions – had interim people to hold positions.
  - a. T. Robey - 47-50% of hires are deaf. I am on all interview committees, and we have left some open on purpose, because we weren’t happy with applicants. And they will stay that way until we are happy with the applicants.
9. Bryan Bowen – What is the shift of the safety officer?
  - a. T. Robey - Will be first, but be expected to learn the other shifts. And what their needs are.
10. B. Bowen - Will there be an interpreter here at night with that person if there is an emergency? If there is an emergency and there is no communication then that is a safety issue.
  - a. T. Robey - No, there is not a plan, but we will work on that.
11. Jennifer Backfish: Was Rita up to date on her certifications?
  - a. T. Robey – I cannot discuss personnel issues at this time.
12. J. Smith – We have a new safety officer who can’t sign, and the dorm staff is here to supervise the students, not interpret. If they have to interpret for the new safety officer, then that takes away from the students.
13. D. Karr – Since I have been on Advisory Board, I have been asked questions about dorm programs and how many of them are deaf to work in evenings? Is that correct? Is there any way to have them come to first shift so the students can interact with these deaf individuals?

- a. T. Robey – They are hired to work in the dorm. There are deaf aides that work with students during the day, and we have fluent teachers they interact with during the day.
- 14. C. Mohan – Let me rephrase that question. What is the percentage of student life staff that are deaf? I think that is what people are asking Dodie is how many of the SL staff are deaf.
- 15. J. Smith: Last Saturday, we had KAD meeting. KCDHH came and said they were concerned about the school and wanted to help. Partnering with groups to promote and recruit for KSD. To get more deaf applicants and hires.

R. Next Advisory Meeting Date:

- a. C. Mohan: Looking at the calendar going forward, here are our meeting dates for next year.
  - August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019
  - November 12, 2019
  - February 11, 2020
  - May 5, 2020

S. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.