

KEA President's Points

August 21, 2018



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We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Dear Member,

This special edition of *President's Points* is coming out a day early to update everyone on the actions taken at the EPSB (Education Professional Standards Board) meeting that occurred on Monday August 20, 2018.

The board's a new chair, Sarah Burnett, announced that because Bevin abolished the old EPSB, all the members of the board would have to be sworn into their new offices. The board members were then sworn in.



Jimmy Adams, the former executive director, left to take a position in the Jefferson County Public Schools.

Rob Akers, has now been given the title of "[Associate Commissioner of the Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness](#)" at KDE. Cassie Trueblood still has the title of General Counsel of the EPSB, but the KDE's new General Counsel, Deanna Durrett, observed today's meeting as well.

Four new members of the board were introduced, they are: Derrick Ramsey, Jerri Ellen Murphy, Justin Mitchell, and Kim Chevalier. You can see a full list of ESPB members [here](#). Commissioner of Education, Wayne Lewis, said Governor Bevin had not "abolished" the EPSB as a board; he had only abolished the EPSB as an agency. The board was still in operation with the administrative support of the KDE. Second, Lewis proposed eliminating the required Master's Degree for teachers, and described it as a "waiver" of the regulation that required that Rank II educators earn a master's degree within five years. He claimed that the waiver was justified because (1) there is "little or nothing" to support the idea that a master's degree increases a teacher's skills, and (2) a Master's degrees is too expensive for new teachers. Lewis said that he expected that many teachers would still earn Rank II by getting a Master's degree, but that getting a graduate degree should not be required.

The board took the following actions by **unanimous** vote:

1. Approved June 18 minutes.
2. Approved science and math training programs at Morehead State University.
3. Approved and accredited the educator preparation program at Eastern Kentucky University.
4. Temporarily approved the educator preparation program at [Boyce College](#).
5. Approved the educator preparation program at [Western Governor's University](#). This is in Salt Lake City, UT.

6. Approved a new program of school principal preparation based upon the University Principal Preparation Initiative (UPPI).
7. Approved the use of PSEL standards at University of the Cumberland instead of the customary ISLLC and TSSA standards. The Professional Standards for Education Leaders (PSEL) is based on UPPI
8. Refused to grant a waiver to an individual who wanted certification as a school principal based on his past service as FRYSC coordinator.
9. Granted waivers to a group of people who wanted to extend their emergency certificates for a second year or who wanted an additional year to complete their existing master's degree programs.

Significant action taken:

Waived the existing requirement that Rank III teachers earn a master's degree within five years after their initial certification. With this waiver, teachers can choose to increase their rank through six semester hours of graduate school, or three years of successful teaching experience, or NCBT certification. In response to a question, Lewis said that similar rules could be used in the future to earn Rank I pay, but that was not the point of today's vote.

KEA asked members for input on this issue during the 2017 legislative session. At that time, Senator Mike Wilson filed a bill to do away with the Master's degree requirement for teachers. The hundreds of responses KEA received on this topic prompted the Senator to hold off on pushing the bill due to the lack of preference for or against the idea.

Whether the action taken by EPSB on Monday is good or bad has been debated for many years. There are positive and negatives to this waiver.

PLEASE ACT NOW:

- 1) Contact your legislators and ask them to vote **NO** to the confirmation of the reorganization of the EPSB
 - a. KEA believes that the EPSB should remain a separate entity from KDE
 - b. EPSB should be made up of individuals that understand the teaching profession and not lay people who are unfamiliar with the requirements to be an effective educator or administrator
- 2) Contact the members of the EPSB and let them know how you feel about the elimination of the Master's degree requirement. Ask your questions about timelines, process, and consequences of their actions to them directly. Their contact information can be found [here](#).

The complete agenda for today's meeting may be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

KEA President

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