

**SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT MAY 2022 MEETING**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Commissioner's Student Advisory Council**

**SUMMARY**

April 26, 2022

**PRESENT:** Logan Justice, Bentley White, Soleila Elliot Gonzalez, Dyllan Tipton, Delaney Daugherty, Vinessa Frissola, Anastasia Panaretos, Rohin Dutt, Sam Smith, Solyana Mesfin, Sophia Retone, JuLeah Edie, Alexandra Perry, Jacob Lyons, Jack Johnson, Ella Luking, Loren Little, Trevin Bevins, Gavin Breunig, Charleigh Browning, Spandana Pavuluri

**ABSENT:** Madelyn Blankenship, Drake Calhoon, Ollie Fegenbush, Arivumani Srivastava, Dejah Armstrong

**SUMMARY**

**Agenda Item:** Welcome

**Presenter:** Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Glass welcomed the members and outlined the meeting agenda. He said he really values the voices of the students and this council is one of his favorite groups to interact with.

**Feedback:**

None

**Agenda Item:** Roll Call and Communication Updates

**Presenter:** Toni Konz-Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Konz-Tatman took roll call through the meeting chat. She also shared that there is a new non-voting student member for the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). Solyana Mesfin, the current non-voting KBE student member, is graduating. Members of the Student Advisory Council

assisted in the selection process. The new member is Boone County sophomore, Joud Dahleh. Konz-Tatman said she expects that Dahleh will join the council during next month's meeting or the meeting following. Additionally, she shared the name of the new non-voting KBE teacher member from Garrett County, Joanna Howerton Stevens. Stevens was the former 2014 Kentucky High School Teacher of the Year. Both new members will begin their terms on July 1.

**Feedback:**

Solyana Mesfin, a senior at Eastern High School (JCPS): "I'm just really excited that we get to open up this position for future members because we did have a hiccup a little bit in 2021, and so that that kind of put us back a little. But I'm just so glad that we were able to secure this spot and that has a lot to do with you guys as well. And a lot of student allies and advocates around the state. I'm so glad that, you know, I'm able to pass the torch to Joud and I'm always here to support any student entering a decision-based council or board, I think it's highly important. So yeah, I'm glad to see this process moving forward and, hopefully, there will be many after Joud."

**Agenda Item:** Legislative Update on Key Bills Passed During the Session

**Presenter:** Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Perry shared updates on bills that were enacted during the legislative session, including Senate Bill (SB) 138, related to Critical Race Theory (CRT); House Bill (HB) 9 related to charter school funding; and SB 9, an early literacy bill aimed at early reading intervention. SB 9 includes \$11 million each year in the biennial budget to help KDE implement some professional development. The biennial budget will go into effect July 1 of this year and run through June 30 of 2024. Perry also said the budget has doubled the amount of funding for career and technical education (CTE).

He said the attorney general announced that the non-emergency and non-appropriation bills will go into effect on July 14.

**Feedback:**

Solyana Mesfin, a senior at Eastern High School (JCPS): "What exactly is changing in SB 9? I know Read to Succeed was mainly to fill in gaps of the previous program." Perry said he will send the KDE guidance on SB 9 to the council members to provide more information.

Anastasia Panaretos, a junior at South Oldham High School (Oldham County): "I know there was a financial literacy bill early on. Did that pass?" Perry said no.

Perry also shared information about HB 63, which is related to School Resource Officers (SRO). He said HB 63 originally was a mandate requiring an SRO in every school by Aug. 1, 2022, but it was amended along the way. First, it became by campus, not by school building. Also, he said

the legislature put in a clause that districts can work with the state school marshal to get a waiver if funding or personnel is not available. The bill does not include an appropriation to help fund that mandate.

Logan Justice, a senior at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Fayette County): “Do you foresee KDE releasing guidance on HB 44 or what that would look like?” Perry said yes, guidance will be released in June regarding bills that have an emergency clause, and more guidance will be released closer to the implementation date of July 14.

Bentley White, a sophomore at the Kentucky School for the Deaf: “Is there a precedent for KDE or KBE to set HB 44 as a best practice guideline?” Perry said he does not know for sure, but it might be part of the guidance document.

**Agenda Item:** Portrait of a Graduate Discussion and Activity

**Presenter:** Sarah Snipes, Program Manager, Division of Innovative Learning; and Kelly Foster, Associate Commissioner, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Snipes said KDE is working in local design teams to be inclusive and rethink the future of assessment and accountability by welcoming everyone to the table to design new experiences. Snipes asked for feedback from members on the portrait of a graduate. Snipes asked various questions and asked members to respond in the chat. Members also gave responses verbally.

**Feedback:**

None.

**Agenda Item:** Update on New Members to Student Advisory Council for 2022-2023 School Year

**Presenter:** Toni Konz-Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Konz-Tatman shared the on-going process for adding new members to the council. KDE received 91 applications this year. Communications staff divided the applicants by KBE district and sent the applications to a panel of judges who will score the applications with a provided rubric. Once all applications have been scored, interviews will be scheduled with students who scored the highest. She said she hopes the new members will be able to join virtually during the next meeting and will officially begin their terms in August.

**Feedback:**

None.

**Agenda Item:** Advisory Council Member Sharing

**Presenter:** Toni Konz-Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Konz-Tatman gave members the opportunity to share what is going on in their districts, such as student activities, school events, etc. Members did not share any information.

**Feedback:**

None.

The next meeting will be held in-person on May 31 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET.