



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY
DEC. 13, 2022**

PRESENT: (19 members present) Gavin Breunig, Charleigh Browning, Hunter Combs, Joud Dahleh, Delaney Daugherty, Peter M. Jefferson, Nyla Johnson, Shraman Kar, Vijaykumar Karthikeyan, Loren Little, Kalli Oblander, Anastasia Panaretos, Alexandra Perry, Tanvi Rakesh, Chloe Ralston, Sophia Retone, Luke Taylor, Malley Taylor, Bentley White

ABSENT: (9 members absent), Arnav Dharmagadda, Justin Dunning, Raima Dutt, Ollie Fegenbush, Ella Luking, Spandana Pavuluri, Amy Roblero-Perez, Sarah Umbarger, Sarah Yu

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Education Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education; Toni Konz Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Glass opened the virtual meeting and reviewed the agenda.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Toni Konz Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: The council approved the Nov. 22, 2022, Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting summary. Motion made by Bentley White and seconded by Malley Taylor.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Mindful Moment

Presenter: Nicole Fields, Community Engagement Coordinator, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Fields led a mindful moment exercise with council members. She discussed mental health issues that may occur during the holiday season, including elevated stress and anxiety. Fields presented several tips to help during the holiday season, including creating a healthy schedule, carving out time for peace and quiet, sleeping and seeking assistance.

Feedback: Students discussed activities to include on their healthy schedules.

Agenda Item: Update on the Kentucky United We Learn Council

Presenter: Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, Kentucky Department of Education; and Bentley White (Kentucky School for the Deaf)

Summary of Discussion: Dodd presented a KDE-produced video highlighting the goals and purpose of the [United We Learn Council](#)'s kickoff meeting on Nov. 29-30. White discussed his experience at the meeting and his committee's work related to "Building a Bold New Future." Dodd said council committees will meet monthly moving forward to establish goals related to the United We Learn vision. She noted that meeting recordings and materials are available on the [United We Learn Council website](#).

Feedback: Konz Tatman noted that three student advisory council members serve on the United We Learn Council and said that student voice continues to be at the forefront of KDE efforts.

Agenda Item: Updates from the December 2022 Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Meeting

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Education Commissioner and Chief Learner, Kentucky Department of Education; Joud Dahleh, Kentucky Board of Education Non-Voting Student Member, Ignite Institute (Boone County)

Summary of Discussion: Dahleh shared [highlights from the Dec. 6-7 KBE meeting](#), including discussion on student assessment scores; KDE efforts to increase efforts related to diversity, equity and belonging in school districts; and the approval of changes related to the *Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies* and *Kentucky Academic Standards for Science*. Glass discussed why both sets of standards were considered at the same time and presented background information related to [Senate Bill 1 \(2022\)](#), the Teaching American Principles Act. Dahleh also discussed her participation on the Making High Schools Relevant panel at the National Association of State Boards of Education conference and the role of student voice in thinking about education and deeper learning efforts.

Feedback: None.

Agenda Item: Deeper Learning Activity

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Education Commissioner and Chief Learner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Glass discussed the concept of deeper learning and why KDE has not officially defined the term. He asked council members to review and react to his recent [Kentucky Teacher column on deeper learning](#). He also asked students to provide examples of “deep learning” or “deeper learning” from their own educational experiences, as well as examples that were not “deep” or “deeper learning.” Glass said allowing students more opportunities to reflect on their own learning experiences may deepen the experience for the students, as well as help refine lessons or projects for future students.

Feedback: [Students discussed several examples of deeper learning](#) in their classrooms, from project-based learning to simulations, as well as how deeper learning experiences often take place outside of their classrooms. Students also discussed how deeper learning is an exploration, rather than an expectation, and the importance of lifelong learning.

Peter Jefferson, a 10th-grade student at Henry Clay High School (Fayette County), said he believed deeper learning can’t be forced.

“We need to create a place where students and teachers can have experiences that are categorized as deeper learning,” he said.

Nyla Johnson, a 12th-grade student at Eastern High School (Jefferson County), shared her experience with deeper learning when students applied marketing techniques and worked with businesses in the community to create and promote a spirit night for a classmate diagnosed with cancer.

Agenda Item: Brief on the 2023 Kentucky Legislative Session

Presenter: Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Perry provided an update regarding Kentucky’s November general election and the upcoming 2023 gubernatorial and statewide constitutional officer elections. He encouraged eligible council members to register to vote. Perry noted changes in leadership slates for the Kentucky House and Kentucky Senate, as well as changes in chair roles for each chamber’s Appropriations and Revenue and Education committees. He said teacher recruitment and retention are high priorities for KDE and other education stakeholders and said that he expects to see legislation related to teacher scholarship and teacher apprenticeships in the upcoming legislative session.

Feedback: One student asked how students can preview bills for the upcoming legislative session. Perry directed students to the [Legislative Record](#), summarized [how a bill becomes a law](#) and discussed how students can watch committee and chamber meetings online.

Agenda Item: Student School Safety Project Discussion and Breakout Groups

Presenter: Meredith Brewer, Director of Education Policy; Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations; and Christina Weeter, Director of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Brewer asked council members to read and reflect on the latest draft of the students' school safety recommendations policy brief, a project that began at the council's May 31, 2022, meeting in response to the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Brewer and Perry offered suggestions on how to disseminate the final document, including to share it with school and district leaders and lead targeted presentations to key constituents who may have the authority to implement the students' recommendations. Another suggestion was to invite legislative leaders to the council's next meeting to discuss the project and student recommendations.

Weeter said that the group has put forth thoughtful, positive and practical recommendations related to school safety and encouraged group members to add more specific examples in the document. She said students should not feel discouraged if they receive legislative pushback regarding the group's recommendations, particularly on topics related to mental health supports.

Feedback: Jefferson said the draft is clear in its recommendations but noted that recommendations may not coincide with current legislative priorities. Luke Taylor, a 12th-grade student at Daviess County High School, suggested a change to one of the proposed recommendations.

Follow-up: Brewer asked students to share changes to the document by Dec. 16 and let KDE staff know if they are interested in serving on the presentation committee. She said another draft of the document would be shared for final review by early January.

Agenda Item: Communications Opportunities for Students

Presenter: Toni Konz Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman asked students to [nominate deserving teachers for the 2024 Kentucky Teacher of the Year award](#).

Feedback: None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. ET.

The next Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting is scheduled to take place Jan. 24, 2023, at 9 a.m. ET.