



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY**

OCT. 13, 2022

ATTENDANCE: (22 members present) Gavin Breunig, Charleigh Browning, Hunter Combs, Joud Dahleh, Delaney Daugherty, Justin Dunning, Raima Dutt, Shraman Kar, Vijaykumar Karthikeyan, Loren Little, Ella Luking, Anastasia Panaretos, Alexandra Perry, Tanvi Rakesh, Chloe Ralston, Sophia Retone, Amy Roblero-Perez, Luke Taylor, Malley Taylor, Sarah Umbarger, Bentley White, Sarah Yu

MEMBERS ABSENT: (7 members absent) Ollie Fegenbush, Macy Spigelmire, Peter M. Jefferson, Arnav Dharmagadda, Nyla Johnson, Kalli Oblander, Spandana Pavuluri

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introduction of New Members (Roll Call of Members)

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

Summary of Discussion: Glass opened the hybrid in-person/virtual meeting and called roll. Council members introduced themselves.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

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

Summary of Discussion: The [Aug. 23, 2022, Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting summary](#) was approved. Motion made by Luke Taylor and seconded by Bentley White.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Mental Health Check In/Activity

Presenter: Nicole Fields, Ed.D., Community Engagement Coordinator; Florence Chang, Ph.D., Strategic Analyst of Learning, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Fields presented an overview of the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) Team of [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging \(DEIB\)](#), which is committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment in which all Kentucky public school students receive equitable access and opportunities. Fields and Chang led a self-reflection exercise, inviting council members to identify positive and challenging moments, as well as growth opportunities, in their lives.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Overview of Supports Provided to Eastern Kentucky following July Floods

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

Summary of Discussion: Glass discussed how KDE has provided ongoing aid and guidance for school districts impacted by devastating July floods. Now the focus is on long-term recovery and helping families and students during the holiday season, he said. Glass invited Hunter Combs, an 11th grade student council member from Knott County Central High School, to discuss how he and his community are doing at this point.

Feedback:

"We didn't think we'd be back to school this year," Combs said. "We're lucky to be back right now." Combs also noted his appreciation to KDE staff for their continued support and communication about recovery efforts. Luke Taylor, a 12th grade student at Daviess County High School, asked what school districts need most at this point. Members discussed student book drives and other aid efforts in their schools to support eastern Kentucky schools. Konz Tatman said these "kids supporting kids" service efforts can be duplicated around the state and invited council members to continue to discuss similar ideas with their school communities.

Follow-up: Glass said he will ask if there is a need for materials at the next superintendents' huddle meeting.

Agenda Item: Updates from the October 2022 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., 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 reported that the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approved its 2022-2023 legislative goals as well as the commissioner's 2021-2022 evaluation and 2022-2023 goals during its two-day meeting on Oct. 11-12. She also said that the board approved 10 regulations relating to

public charter schools in Kentucky, noting that “it was a controversial subject and there was a lot of discussion.” Glass said five of the 10 regulations were emergency ones and that the updates were necessary to conform to requirements set by [House Bill \(HB\) 9](#), a bill that modified Kentucky’s charter school law and set up a funding mechanism for charter schools. Glass invited council members to ask questions about charter schools and the approved regulations.

Feedback:

Council members asked several questions, including advantages of starting a charter school, potential impacts to traditional public schools and services provided to exceptional children by charter schools. Glass said there are several constitutional and operational issues with the statute that have carried over into the KBE-approved regulations. Thomas Woods-Tucker, KDE deputy commissioner and chief equity officer, said that charter schools are a “huge conversation” in the state and thanked the students for their questions.

Agenda Item: Kentucky School Report Card Release for 2021-2022 School Year

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner and Chief Learner; Toni Konz Tatman, Chief Communications Officer; Jennifer Larkins, Education Administration Program Consultant, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Larkins shared an overview of the state’s school accountability system and updated the council on the 2021-2022 [School Report Card](#) that will be released Oct. 18. Larkins said the data, which reflects a new color-coded rating system, does not necessarily tell the full story of the work and learning that transpires each day at schools. “You really have to look further than the color (rating) to determine what’s going on in schools, but it’s a great place to start,” she said. Konz Tatman noted that council member Arnav Dharmagadda, a 12th grade student at Russell High School (Russell Independent), served on the standard-setting committee to determine cut scores.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Student School Safety Project Discussion and Breakout Groups

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner and Chief Learner; Thomas Woods-Tucker, Ph.D., Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer; Meredith Brewer, Ph.D., Director of Education Policy; Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations; and Christina Weeter, Director of Student Success, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Council members discussed the current draft of their collective school safety policy recommendations with KDE staff. The project, which began at the council’s May 31, 2022, meeting in response to the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, includes student-driven policy suggestions to Kentucky legislators and other education stakeholders. Glass, Woods-Tucker, Brewer, Perry and Weeter led group breakout sessions, answered student questions and offered suggestions on additional resources.

Feedback: Groups reported plans to continue to strengthen their collective policy recommendations and identified team leaders to oversee revisions to the shared document.

Perry said the council may want to consider presenting their recommendations during the upcoming legislative session.

Follow-up Required: Council members will continue to develop their recommendations with further review and discussion at the next council meeting.

Agenda Item: Communications Opportunities for Students

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

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman invited council members to follow council news and updates on Twitter (@KDEstuvoice) and shared several upcoming opportunities of interest to high school students.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Discuss Next Meeting Date

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

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman reminded council members of the council's meeting expectations, attendance policy and upcoming meeting dates.

Feedback: None

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m. ET. Motion made by Bentley White and seconded by Luke Taylor. Students were invited to eat lunch with the commissioner.

The next Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting is scheduled to take place virtually Nov. 22 at 9:00 a.m. ET.