

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE AUGUST 2023 MEETING



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY
MAY 30, 2023**

Present: (13 Members Present) Charleigh Browning, Hunter Combs, Joud Dahleh, Justin Dunning, Peter M. Jefferson, Shraman Kar, Vijaykumar Karthikeyan, Loren Little, Anastasia Panaretos, Tanvi Rakesh, Amy Roblero-Perez, Luke Taylor, Sarah Umbarger

Absent: (14 Members Absent) Gavin Breunig, Delaney Daugherty, Arnav Dharmagadda, Raima Dutt, William Oliver Fegenbush, Nyla Johnson, Ella Luking, Kalli Oblander, Spandana Pavuluri, Alexandra Perry, Chloe Ralston, Malley Taylor, Bentley White, Sarah Yu

Summary:

Agenda Item: Welcome (Roll Call of Members)

Presenter: Toni Konz Tatman, KDE Chief of Communications Officer

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman opened the virtual meeting and explained the work of the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council. She also called roll.

Feedback: None.

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Toni Konz Tatman, KDE Chief Communications Officer

Summary of Discussion: The council approved the [April 11, 2023, meeting](#) summary. Motion made by Joud Dahleh and seconded by Peter Jefferson.

Feedback: None.

Agenda Item: Announcement and Introduction of New Members to the 2023-2024
Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, KDE Commissioner and Chief Learner; Toni Konz Tatman, KDE Chief Communications Officer

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman invited graduating council members to share their post-graduation plans. She also recognized the 25 new high school students who will join the 2023-2024 Commissioner's Student Advisory Council. Glass welcomed the new members and expressed his appreciation for the work of the council.

The new members to the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council include:

- Ava Benson, 11th grade, Henderson County High School
- Isaac Reese Blakeman, 11th grade, Somerset High School (Somerset Independent)
- Owen Borden, 11th grade, Highlands High School (Fort Thomas Independent)
- Cameron Breier, 11th grade, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County)
- Owen Cody, 11th grade, McCracken County High School
- Manas Garla, 9th grade, Western Hills High School (Franklin County)
- Nicholas E. Hazelett, 11th grade, Paintsville High School (Paintsville Independent)
- Honette Irakiza, 10th grade, South Warren High School (Warren County)
- Trey Jackson, 11th grade, South Laurel High School (Laurel County)
- Sophia Langford, 9th grade, J. Graham Brown School (Jefferson County)
- Danica Rose Love, 11th grade, Meade County High School
- Gabriella MacAdams, 9th grade, Williamstown High School (Williamstown Independent)
- Constance Martin, 11th grade, Johnson Central High School (Johnson County)
- Anopa Musoni, 11th grade, Lafayette High School (Fayette County)
- Ronald (R.J.) Osborne, 10th grade, Whitley County High School
- Daniel Ratley, 9th grade, Grayson County High School
- Jocelyn Dawne Reddick, 11th grade, South Warren High School (Warren County)
- Caleb Robinson, 9th grade, Kentucky School for the Blind
- Sophia Staples, 10th grade, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Fayette County)
- Ian Swenson, 9th grade, Paducah Tilghman High School (Paducah Independent)
- Austin Eric Vitato, 9th grade, J. Graham Brown School (Jefferson County)
- Carley Isabella Watts, 9th grade, Hazard High School (Hazard Independent)
- Aliete Yanes Medina, 9th grade, Fern Creek High School (Jefferson County)
- India Young, 10th grade, Marion County High School
- Joshua Zyzak, 11th grade, Beechwood High School (Beechwood Independent)

Feedback: Recent graduates said they plan to pursue higher education at a variety of higher education institutions. Incoming council members introduced themselves and described what they most look forward to regarding the council. Gabriella MacAdams, a rising 10th-grade student at Williamstown High School (Williamstown Independent), said, “I am excited to make a lasting impact on the Kentucky school system.”

Agenda Item: Mindful Minute Activity

Presenter: Heather Bushelman, KDE Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling

Summary of Discussion: Bushelman explained why mindfulness is important and invited students to reflect on their legacies: “What was your legacy at your school? What would you want your classmates to say about you?”

Feedback: Students discussed what they hope their peers remember about them. Peter Jefferson, a rising 11th-grade student at Henry Clay High School (Fayette County), said, “I want my friends to say that I had truly listened to them.” Constance Martin, a rising 12th-grade student at Johnson Central High School (Johnson County), said that she wants to be remembered as caring and kind. Sophia Langford, a rising 10th-grade student at J. Graham Brown High School (Jefferson County), wants to be remembered as someone who is responsible and ready to help anyone in need.

Agenda Item: Council Project Activity

Presenter: Toni Konz Tatman, KDE Chief Communications Officer; GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, KDE Awards and Recognition Coordinator

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman divided students into two breakout rooms to discuss ideas and perspectives related to “student voice.” Questions included: What does “student voice” mean? Why is it important for students to be in decision-making spaces? How could you identify the impact of student voice? What are some criticisms you have heard about student voice? How is student voice currently represented in your school?

Feedback: Students discussed the questions in small groups and shared their answers in a collaborative online document. Loren Little, a graduating 12th-grade student at Clinton County High School, defined “student voice” as “the ability of students to speak their ideas and opinions and be heard by others.” Justin Dunning, a rising 12th-grade student at Lyon County High School, noted: “Student voice is going to have to start locally.” Anastasia Panaretos, a

graduating 12th-grade student at South Oldham High School (Oldham County), said that she has heard criticisms that “students are not old enough to know what is best.” Council members also discussed barriers to student voice including fear of sharing their opinions with adults in authority.

Agenda Item: Update from the Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Presenter: Mandy Perez, 2023 Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Summary of Discussion: Perez explained how her journey as Kentucky’s Teacher of the Year has impacted her, her students and her career as an educator. Perez shared a message of inspiration and encouraged council members to “share their light” and “be the change.” Perez said, “You are the change makers, and you are going to make a huge impact on the world.”

Feedback: Students thanked Perez for meeting with the council several times this year and for her work as Teacher of the Year. Joud Dahleh, a rising 12th-grade student at Ignite Academy (Boone County), said, “Every conversation with [Mandy] has been so meaningful and impactful. You are such a wonderful teacher and human being.”

Agenda Item: Opportunities for Students

Presenter: Toni Konz Tatman, KDE Chief Communications Officer

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman discussed opportunities for students this summer, including an opportunity to serve on the 2023 Accountability Standards Setting Committee through KDE’s Office of Assessment and Accountability. She also mentioned career and technical student organizations (CTSO) opportunities. Konz Tatman presented council meeting dates for the 2023-2024 term, which includes three in-person meetings.

Feedback: None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m. ET.

The next Commissioner’s Student Advisory Council meeting is scheduled to take place virtually on Aug. 22, 2023, at 9 a.m. ET.