



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

SUMMARY

FEB. 25, 2025

Present: Lisa Abrampah, Mary Beth Bolen, Graham Borden, Ani Cockerham-O'Donnell, Isabella Edghill, Aniji Fox, Manas Garla, Preston Graham, Honette Irakiza, Peter Jefferson, Allan Kalambayi, Sophia Langford, Gabriella MacAdams, Tanvi Rakesh, Daniel Ratley, Luisa Sanchez-Almenarez, Abigail Sears, Sophia Staples, Koah Ta, Austin Eric Vitato, Aliete Yanes Media, India Young

Absent: Samarah Higgins

Summary:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher welcomed the council and provided several updates. He discussed the impact of recent severe weather on school districts, including flooding in western Kentucky and Pike County, which led to school closures and cleanup efforts. He congratulated Ashley Billiter and CSAC Chair Peter Jefferson for being selected for the U.S. Senate Youth Program, which includes a \$10,000 college scholarship and participation in Washington Week. He announced the first statewide Agriculture Education Week in Kentucky, scheduled for March 17-21, and encouraged elementary schools to engage students in learning about agriculture. He also highlighted the launch of the Futurity website, which helps students find their future career paths, and thanked the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council for their input in improving the website. Fletcher gave an update on the town hall meetings held across the state to gather input on the new accountability system. Fletcher recognized Taylor County bus driver Sam Graham and Latonia Elementary School Administrative Assistant Kim Franks from Covington for their dedication and contributions as classified staff. They are recipients of the 2024-2025 Kentucky Education Support Staff Professional Award and were nominated for the national RISE award. He also praised the Somerset Independent Solar Car Team for their achievements in the national solar car race, highlighting their record-breaking performance.

Agenda Item: Roll Call and Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Daniel Ratley, CSAC vice chair, a junior at Grayson County High School, and Rosalind Turner, CSAC Liaison

Summary of Discussion: Ratley called roll. The [summary notes from the Dec. 10, 2024, Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting](#) were approved. Motion made by Ratley and seconded by Preston Graham, a junior at Woodford County High School.

Agenda Item: Mindful Minute Activity

Presenter: Thomas Woods Tucker, Ph.D., KDE Deputy Commissioner of Education

Summary of Discussion: Thomas led a mindful minute and journaling activity, encouraging students to reflect on meaningful quotes and share their thoughts.

Agenda Item: Non-Voting Student Member Applications

Presenter: GlyptusAnn Jones, Ed.D., Director of Education Policy, Office of the Commissioner, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Jones provided information on the application process for the non-voting student member of the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). Graham, who held the position in 2024-2025, shared about his positive KBE experience in that role.

Agenda Item: Updates on the February 2025 Kentucky Board of Education meeting

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, KDE

Summary of Discussion: Fletcher provided updates on the February KBE meeting, including the recognition of Career and Technical Education Month, the Support Education Excellence in Kentucky or SEEK funding program shortfall, and Kentucky Teacher of the Year Jennifer Montgomery's presentation on her background and her goals.

Agenda Item: Agriculture Education Week

Presenter: Bethany Mattingly, Division Director Agriculture Education and Outreach, Department of Agriculture

Summary of Discussion: Mattingly explained the initiatives and activities planned for Agriculture Education Week, including literacy lessons, career exploration and community

involvement opportunities. During Agriculture Education Week, which is March 17-21, younger students will be exposed to ag education in their classrooms.

Member Sharing and Announcements: Chair Peter Jefferson, a senior at Henry Clay High School (Fayette County Public Schools), said he is honored to be representing Kentucky as part of the U.S. Senate Youth Program during Washington Week. Sophia Langford, a junior at J. Graham Brown School (Jefferson County Public Schools), congratulated everyone who was selected in the first round of the Governor’s Scholars Program. Also, Langford said she is helping with a “poetry slam” at her school and encourages other members to do the same at their schools.

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Jefferson and a second by Allan Kalambayi, a senior at Owensboro High School (Owensboro Independent).

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