

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT MEETING

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## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL (FPC)

**Sept. 7, 2023**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brooke Gill, Melissa Goins, Amity Kukla, Natasha Lucas, Chris Medley, Lauren Mitchell, Jennifer Skidmore, Mona Smith, Julie Staton and Elizabeth Bruce

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Tom Haggard and Rhonda Logsdon

**SUMMARY:** The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) Family Partnership Council (FPC) discussed family engagement and the council's core beliefs. FPC serves in an advisory role to KDE and provides input regarding topics of interest to families, such as ways that families and communities can assist schools in ensuring a higher level of achievement for all students. The council came to an agreement on a list of agreements and shared ways to encourage relationship building among educators, families and communities.

### **Agenda Item: Education Updates**

Kelly Foster, Associate Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Council members heard an update from Kelly Foster about the search for a new commissioner and that an interim commissioner will be in place until a new commissioner is selected. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been publicized to find a search firm. In the meantime, business at KDE will continue.

Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) member Julie Pile asked council members what qualities they hope the KBE will consider in the next commissioner. Council members said they want a commissioner who values families' voices and has a heart for education and students. Additionally, they hope the new commissioner will have diverse work experience within education and working within different communities. Council members also discussed what they hope the new commissioner will prioritize in his or her first year, like the continuation of the listening tours and improving efforts to retain educators. Pile concluded the discussion by saying she will bring these concerns and suggestions to the board as they continue to search for a new commissioner.

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September 8, 2023

**Agenda Item: Review Draft Recommendations**

Brooke Gill, Senior Director Family Engagement Policy and Practice and Council Chair, Prichard Committee

**Summary:**

Brooke Gill began the meeting with a discussion on why family engagement is important in schools. The council discussed the four recommendations that they plan to present to KDE. There was discussion on supporting English learner (EL) families and being culturally sensitive and offering communication modes in different ways.

**Adjournment** Brooke Gill, Senior Director Family Engagement Policy and Practice and Council Chair, Prichard Committee

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