

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 7, 2023, MEETING



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL (FPC)  
SUMMARY**

**AUG. 17, 2023**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Grace Absher, Tom Haggard,

**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 also voted on a list of agreements and shared ways to encourage relationship building among educators, families and communities.

**Agenda Item:** Education Updates

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Council members heard updates from Glass about school starting this month and what a special time this is for parents. Glass noted increased staffing shortages across the state and fewer students majoring in education as challenges. Glass also discussed Senate Bill 150 that was passed during the past legislative session which prohibits any instruction around gender identity. The Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Kentucky School for the Blind are having the same challenges as the other school with staffing. Currently, the Kentucky School for the Deaf has an interim principal. The Area Technology Center (ATC) schools had smooth openings. Glass addressed his resignation from the Kentucky Department of Education, and said he is taking a position in higher education. The Kentucky Board of Education will meet later in August to prepare a request for proposal (RFP) to select a firm to conduct a search for the position.

**Agenda Item:** Group Discussion

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

**Summary of Discussion:** The 2007 FPC set four recommendations that the council will use to get an accurate picture of family partnership in Kentucky:

- 1.) What are schools responsible for measuring and reporting related to family engagement?
- 2.) Who is teaching schools and families about relationship-building and communication?
- 3.) Who is providing resources, support and recognition for family engagement efforts? What is being provided?
- 4.) Who is offering professional development and investing toward improving family engagement efforts?

**Agenda Item:** The purpose of the Family Partnership Council

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

**Summary of Discussion:** The group discussed the recommendations on how the Family Partnership Council can support the KDE in 2024. Recommendations included research other state examples and national expertise on School Report Card metrics and the KDE Strategic Dashboard that captures a relationship-building and communications metric for meaningful family engagement, explore a relationship-building and communications metric that can be added to the KDE Strategic Dashboard for Family and Community Engagement, explore Kentucky's and other states' examples where local school boards set the expectation for schools to use research-based, self-assessment tools that capture family input and have a continuous improvement component. In addition, what are other ways local education agencies (LEAs) can help schools prioritize family partnership such as having it as a standing agenda item to review progress and highlight bright spots among the districts. Explore how KDE might sustain a full-time community schools manager at the department to oversee implementation of these strategies, collect and share local best practices, and align family engagement practices within KDE and across state partners. A core function of the Family Partnership Council is to support the KDE or another state partner to launch an online family guide to support families in navigating educational options and rights in the public education system. FPC will support ongoing updates and utilization of this resource. FPC is charged with surveying Kentucky progress across the core 4 Missing Piece recommendations and adherence to the Dual Capacity-Building Framework. Annually, FPC reports findings and new recommendations to the KDE.

Next Meeting  
Sept. 7, 2023

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