

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT 12/8/2022 MEETING



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Local School Board Members Advisory Council (LSBMAC)
SUMMARY

NOV. 9, 2022

SUMMARY:

I. Agenda Item: Welcome and Roll Call

Presenter: David Cook, Facilitator, Director of Innovative Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

PRESENT: Carl Wicklund, Kenton County

David Webster, Simpson County; Ruschelle Hamilton, Breathitt County; Julia Fischer, Bellevue Independent; Brenda Rose, Whitley County; Brandon Rutherford, Madison County; Larry Dodson, Oldham County; Diane Berry, Nelson County; Joanna Freels, Shelby County

ABSENT: Rajiv Johar, Muhlenberg County; Charlie Wise, Hardin County; Christina Dressler, Bowling Green Independent; Linda Duncan, Jefferson County

II. Agenda Item: Discussion of Recommended Changes to Meeting Schedule and Cadence and Membership Requirements

Presenter: David Cook, Facilitator, Director of Innovative Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Cook expressed concerns about in-person attendance. He presented an idea to change the meetings to the same day as the state meetings where members are already present. This will promote increased attendance and participation for the council meetings. Next month during the symposium in Louisville, the council will conduct its next meeting.

He asked for opinions/feedback from members and for a vote on changing the meetings.

Feedback:

Dodson liked the idea of these meetings but suggested a specific focus on Kentucky School Board Association meetings which are sometimes scheduled on that same date so focusing on the time of the Local School Board Members Advisory Council meetings would be important.

Cook said the council will work on those times when nothing else is occurring so that council members can focus on the meeting.

Seeking clarification, Fischer asked if the LSBMAC meetings will be the day prior to the conference or the same day?

Cook said the council meeting will be on the first day of the conference during the late afternoon.

Julia said she would prefer the same day of the conference rather than a day prior.

Rutherford said he likes the idea of the meetings. He asked if Commissioner of Education Jason E. Glass will be attending as he is important for interactions and feedback. Glass said he would prioritize his attendance at these meetings and everyone agrees on the meetings change, the council will work diligently and have consensus to make it easy for all members.

Hamilton stated that he is not always there for the entire conference and it would be good to have the meetings close to the beginning of the conference rather than later.

Berry said to be aware that some of the members are on the Kentucky School Board Association as well as the Local School Board Members Advisory Council.

Rose said that the evening prior to the conference starting would be ideal for all members involved.

Freels said that it's a great idea and it would allow the council members to meet all together, but not the night before because some of the members wouldn't be in town yet.

As the members focus on filling vacancies, Cook said the council wants to formalize that there are at least two members from the KSBA Board of Directors on this council so there is constant communication between the two councils.

Berry likes the idea of having unity between the councils. The directors will be able to discuss current events and needs.

Cook asks how many of the members are on KSBA? Dodson starts with KSBA in January, Rose is currently on the board as well as Berry.

Motion to caveat to council membership that we have at least two KSBA members on this council as well. Rutherford makes the motion. Rose seconds the motion. ALL committee members agree to this change.

ALL members voted "yes" to alignment between KSBA conferences and LSBMAC meetings.

III. Agenda Item: Commissioner's Update, Open Discussion and Feedback

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Glass asked for questions from members.

Rutherford said bids have just been opened for a new middle school in Madison County. The bid came in over projection. He asked if anyone has discussed how to address these high bids?

Glass said KDE always advocates for increased funding for education. KDE prefers it to be as flexible as possible for school districts. There was an increase in school construction funding made available in the last legislative session though there seems to be some mixed conversation about reopening the budget for the next year. He said he also hears there are exceptions, so this may be one of those items the legislature would make an exception given the cost inflation that schools are experiencing.

Rutherford said attendance is down 2-3% across the state because if someone thinks they're sick, they stay home because they are scared of COVID. Is the council looking at ways to adjust their Average Daily Attendance to help boost some of their funding?

Glass says Kentucky State Representative James Tipton introduced a bill last session that would have on the number of students enrolled on a daily basis rather than the number in attendance. The council discussed uneven attendance with COVID and now RSV, and other disruptions to schooling that are going on, and Kentucky is really facing a potential decline in school funding for next year because of all the absences. The council will have to have some conversations with the associations and KSBA to understand the rationale behind why the State would want to attach funding to attendance given all the disruption. Glass said Tipton has some influence in the House, but he will need assistance from the associations to get movement in the Senate.

Hamilton asked Glass not to forget what has been happening in Eastern Kentucky since the flood with a loss of students to other districts. Hamilton expressed a fear that some districts would lose money because of the flooding. Also, Hamilton would like something that could help the council prepare more for these meetings. Glass said KDE is still dealing with the superintendents of all those impacted districts every other week and getting updates from them plan to continue that. The issue of property tax stabilization needs to be discussed further. The legislature did not act this issue in the special session, but left the door open to the possibility of further discussion.

In response to the agenda request, KDE has really tried to empower the members of the advisory to decide the agenda and to tell us what are the things that the council wants to talk about.

Berry wants to know if there are other options to teach. Berry would like to better understand the options for teaching. Glass responded that KDE can bring Byron Darnell and his team to walk the council through the nine different options that the council has for certification in state. A little less than 20% of the teachers in the state come through option 6, which is a master's or bachelor's degree plus another year. The traditional path and Option 6, which is a masters or a bachelor's degree plus another year, account for the alternate pathways. That's something that KDE can cover with you when we have Byron.

Dodson said that this year Kentucky had to give back \$25 million to the state. In an effort to retain teachers by giving raises, districts are having to spend additional funds. Dodson asked if KDE can do anything so the districts do not have to return that amount of money to the state.

Glass said that there's not a Support Education Excellence in Kentucky formula written into statute, so KDE does not have flexibility on making changes to it from a KDE perspective. KDE is responsible for administering the funds, but it would be require a statutory change ies. Dodson asked if KDE could promote the legislature making such a statutory change? Glass responded that districts would not want to look at the implications of what's being suggested- the positives and negatives of such a change.

Fischer asked Glass if he had any further information about the tax credit case before the Supreme Court? He said he doesn't know the Supreme Court's timeline so he will ask KDE Director of Public Relations Brian Perry after the meeting. If Perry has information, Glass said they would update the members through email.

Hamilton discussed concerns with the teacher shortage. She said her district used some of their Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds to pay for option six for people to finish their master's degrees with an agreement that they would fulfill a contract after that. She said she is finding that people are struggling with education because of the extra work and burden placed on them. Glass acknowledged that the lack of respect is another one of the major factors in retention.

IV. Closing: David Cook, Facilitator, Director of Innovative Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary: The chair asked members to consider if they would be willing to serve.

Feedback:

Berry said to take into consideration where members are in their term so that there is more stability on the committee from members who are not near the end of their term. She asked if members could possibly have a list?

Cook said he will send out the list to all members and the council will vote at the next meeting. Glass said he is excited about these changes and will follow up where needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m. ET

Next Meeting:

Location: Louisville Downtown Marriott (Room TBD)

Date: Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022

Time: 6:30 p.m. ET