



**Kentucky Department of Education
Local School Board Members Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
July 19, 2024**

SUMMARY:

I. Agenda Item: Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

Presenter: Sarah Snipes, Division of Innovation Director,
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support
Kentucky Department of Education

Jodi Dempsey, Program Consultant, Division of Innovation, Kentucky Department of Education

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: David Webster, Simpson County; Venita Murphy; Webster 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; Felix Akojie; Paducah Independent; Linda Duncan, Jefferson County

ABSENT: Ruschelle Hamilton, Breathitt County; Carl Wicklund, Kenton County; Joanna Hinton; LaRue County

Summary of Discussion:

Minutes from the Feb. 29, 2024, meeting was reviewed and then approved first by Diane Berry and then by Larry Dodson.

II. Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: Sarah Snipes, Division of Innovation Director,
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support
Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Snipes welcomed members and introduced Robbie Fletcher, commissioner of education for the Department of Education.

Snipes asked each board member to introduce themselves and to provide one highlight from their district.

III. Agenda Item: Visioning and Facilitated Open Discussion

Presenter: Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Fletcher began by praising board members for working together to benefit kids. He highlighted the feeding program and stated the program fed 2.5 million meals last year and has increased to 3.9 million this year. He said when the physical needs of students are met, it makes meeting academic needs doable. Fletcher briefly discussed his background as a teacher and superintendent. Then the focus was on test scores, he explained, adding, there was pressure for that accountability, which made it difficult to focus on the joy of teaching. He said to strive for accountability with vibrant learning experiences focusing on the Portrait of a Learner (PoL) and student defenses gives students empowerment. He offered Shelby County as a model for PoL which gives empowerment to students. He said every student in the system will be successful in some way. It will just vary in what capacity, so holding them accountable is key. Fletcher identified that the Career and Technical Education programs are important for all districts. Rutherford said the ACT/CTC program is wide open in Madison County and engagement is the focus because their students are the future of the community. Freels said Shelby County has a high Hispanic population, and they struggle with the language barrier when testing. Fletcher said these students can be successful with accommodations. In Jefferson County, Duncan said, there are also a lot of language barriers that skew test scores. Fletcher specified that it is important to communicate these issues to the state and to focus on student growth rather than a proficiency score. Akojie said they realize not all students will go to college so engagement can be difficult. Fletcher said to focus on the kids and their own personal journey.

IV. Agenda Item: Legislative Update

Presenter: Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations

Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Perry said there are 250 bills that impact education and about 30 became law. He reminded members that education is about 60% of the state budget. Perry discussed the following:

- House Bill 2 focuses on whether public tax dollars should be spent on private education outside of the public school system. If approved in November, the general assembly will have to come back and decide what is next. Perry specified that it is okay to discuss this bill at a board meeting. Fletcher and some of the board members commented that there is some misinformation out in the public regarding this bill.
- Senate Bill 2-student safety and mental health. Perry stated that there is money in the budget for school resource officers (SRO's) up to \$20,000 per campus.
- Senate Bill 11 focuses on juvenile justice which focuses on closing the gap between the time a student is involved in the system and when the school district is notified.

- Senate Bill 265 is the alternate teacher certification pathway. The Kentucky Teacher Induction Program (KTIP) and the Kentucky Principal Induction Program (KPIP) have had a lack of consistency and funding so a new induction model will be developed and advocacy for funding will begin.
- House Bill 22 removes the requirement for medical oversight of an automated external defibrillator (AED) program in schools.
- House Bill 142 is an anti-vaping bill. This bill gives schools more flexibility in providing preventions and interventions with a focus on keeping kids in the school building and giving them the help they need. Rutherford brought up that their school uses the sensors and that it is helpful.
- House Bill 162 focuses on numeracy. This is a bill that is like the Read to Succeed. This bill puts \$10 million toward numeracy.
- House Bill 169 is the second AED bill. This requires AEDs in all school buildings and school-sanctioned athletic events. The Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Finance and Operations is working on a reimbursement program for these devices.
- House Bill 377 is the teacher recruitment and retention bill. The bill changed the amount of money for teacher scholarship from \$1 million to \$2 million. A paid student teacher pilot program was created. A student loan forgiveness program was created.
- House Bill 446 focuses on student conduct on school buses.
- House Bill 535 is the civics action bill. Before the next school year, districts will have to decide whether to give half a credit for civic courses or remain within the existing tests but the threshold for passing moves up to 70%.
- House Bill 727 is the general obligations bond which provides authorization for the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to intercept debt service payments when due for a general obligation bond issue.
- House Bill 449 relates to the local school boards of education. This bill removes the limitation on the number of depositories districts can use.
- House Bill 829 relates to medicinal cannabis. This bill will require each local board of education to establish policies related to the use of medical cannabis by a pupil.

Perry concluded by reminding members that all districts are provided overall guidance for all the bills that pass related to education, and he offered the internet link within his slides. They also provide supplemental guidance regarding different pieces of legislation.

V. Agenda Item: Bullying Resources and Discussion

Presenter: Blake Konny, Safe and Support Schools Program Consultant, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Konny expressed thankfulness to the members for being interested in discussion the topic of bullying. He began by identifying the definition of bullying which involves:

- Aggressive behavior
- An imbalance of power
- Pattern of behavior repeated over time or potential to be repeated

Konny reviewed the statutory requirements for local school board of education related to bullying which include:

- Be responsible for formulating a code of acceptable behavior and discipline.
- Prohibit bullying and contain procedures for identifying documenting and reporting.
- Specify procedures for investigating and responding to bullying.
- Strategy or method of protecting from retaliation.
- Information regarding the consequences of bullying.

Results from the 2023 youth risk behavior survey were shared. Konny and members discussed the gap between reporting incidents in Infinite Campus (IC) and the incidences beyond those that are occurring. A zero-tolerance statement means that districts need to move bullying to the forefront and address the issue which involves prevention, intervention and postvention. Members agreed that social-emotional learning needs to start at a young age to help educate students. Administrators need to teach teachers how to intervene in the moment. To conclude, Konny shared two bullying prevention resources with members:

- The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP)
- Sources of Strength

VI. Agenda Item: Kentucky Innovation Guide

Presenter: Sarah Snipes, Division of Innovation Director, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Snipes briefly reviewed the Innovation Guide and highlighted the six action areas the guide highlights. She passed out a copy to each member for their review and encouraged members to reach with any questions or needs. She thanked members for their contributions and encouraged them to continue to pose agenda items.

VII. Agenda Item: Facilitated Open Discussion and Feedback

Presenter: David Webster, Local School Board Advisory Council Chair

Summary of Discussion:

Webster thanked members for their contributions and to the presenters for their knowledgeable information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m. CT.

Next Meeting: Kentucky School Board Association Winter Symposium

Location: Galt House, Louisville, KY

Date: December 2024

Time: To Be Determined