



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Principal Advisory Council (PrAC)
SUMMARY**

APRIL 22, 2020 1:00 PM -2:00 PM

WELCOME

Interim Commissioner Kevin Brown welcomed the group and thanked the PrAC members for joining the meeting. He expressed great pride and appreciation to the school leaders for the resilience shown by all during these unprecedented times and offered insight regarding the thought process that resulted in the decision to continue NTI instruction for the remainder of the school year.

ATTENDANCE: Josh Blevins, Lester Diaz, Melanie Erwin Michael Goodenough, Tamala Howard, Jennifer Hutchison, Bryne Jacobs, Robert King, Darla Payne, Lisa Perdue, Kym Rice, Michelle Ritchie, Toyah Robey, Michael Kelly

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lenville Martin, Martin Monson, Shervita West-Jordan

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Presenter: Jenny Ray, Kentucky Department of Education, PrAC Liaison

Summary of Discussion:

Motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2020 meeting. A second was made. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Feedback: None

Follow-up Required: None

Agenda Item: Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI)

Presenter: David Cook, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

David Cook commended the group for the exceptional effort exerted to provide support to Kentucky students during this unusual time. Cook shared key facts about present statewide NTI implementation and emphasized a 93% participation rate thus far which is a match to the statewide rate for regular NTI days pre-COVID. Additionally, Cook shared insights about Opportunities and Lessons Learned since the March 16th NTI implementation.

The group was asked for comments regarding NTI implementation by David Cook. No member provided feedback.

PrAC Facilitator, Jenny Ray, asked for volunteers to unmute and share NTI implementation feedback. No group member responded.

Feedback: None

Follow-up Required: None

Agenda Item: Graduation Requirements

Presenter: Amanda Ellis, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Amanda Ellis provided an update about action taken regarding graduation requirements in response to the current situation the Class of 2020 is facing.

KDE is offering two options.

Option 1 allows districts to waive local policy and only make students complete 22 credits recognizing that almost all districts require something beyond the state required 22 credits.

Option 2 requires the completion of all core courses but waives the elective courses. Thus, students would only have to earn 15 credit hours of identified core courses and no elective credits.

An update to a statutory requirement that was mandated for the Class of 2020 was also shared. Ellis informed the group that 2020 graduates would not have to take the required Civics Test as that statutory requirement was waived for this year.

The topic of graduation was also brought out by Ellis. Local districts decide the format for graduation ceremonies; however, the importance of working closely with local public health agencies to guarantee compliance and the health and safety of all was emphasized as a priority.

Feedback: None

Follow-up Required: PrAC member, Darla Payne, asked the following question: As a middle school principal, our 8th graders were told if they were proficient on this year's KPREP they would have met the future sophomore requirements. Are there alternatives on the radar yet?

Ellis assumed responsibility to follow up with OEA to find out a definitive answer to Payne's question.

Agenda Item: End of the Year Questions and Concerns

Presenters: Amanda Ellis & Kelly Foster, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Ellis explained that the Education Task Force has been planning supports for schools/districts in response to the current reality. The Task Force has identified three pressing areas that needed immediate attention. 1) How do schools end strong? 2) How do we approach summer and support families and students during the summer? & 3) How do we re-enter in the fall? Ellis asked the group if they were in agreement with the identified areas and if PrAC had other suggestions for priority support.

Ellis provided a survey for participants to complete in an effort to garner additional information and insight regarding immediate school/district needs and ideal supports.

Kelly Foster shared examples from the field that have already been collected that are informing the designing of supports. Foster shared the following examples: How will Chrome books be collected? How will library books be collected? Return process for school uniforms and other equipment? How should lockers be cleaned out?

Recognizing the need to have guidance around end-of-the-year issues such as these, the goal is to come up with guidance, in conjunction with public health, to share with schools/districts.

Foster encouraged PrAC members to respond to the survey so that KDE can give the most useful guidance and consideration to topics that matter the most.

Foster shared information about the CARES Act. It is a federal relief act that will provide federal funds to help schools/districts through this crisis. Local districts will have access to dollars for intervention services once it is safe enough to come back together. Foster encouraged participants to be thinking about the ideal way to use the funds. Questions to consider were: What would it look like? What might be best practice for this?

Ellis encouraged all PrAC members to attend and share with others some upcoming webcasts focused on how to keep engagement high for the remainder of the school year and how to be proactive in addressing gaps that will be present when school convenes in the fall

Feedback: PrAC members brought up several concerns related to this agenda item.

Jennifer Hutchinson: Staff mental/emotional health is a significant concern. Our last day isn't until May 27. I am concerned that students and families will stop participating when the districts around us begin to closeout mid-May.

- Ellis emphasized the upcoming webcast to address engagement.

Kim Pryce: I worry about a possible additional spike of this virus as well as the flu which is projected to be really bad this winter. Are we thinking ahead to how attendance may be impacted again if this does occur? I am also concerned that parents will begin to believe that sending their child to school (physically) is no longer necessary since we have been able to technically "have" instruction in a virtual setting.

- Ellis emphasized the upcoming webcast that is focused on transitioning to schools opening in the fall.

Lisa Purdue: On the superintendent's call yesterday with the governor, it was alluded that maybe in the fall we would have to go to some type of alternate schedule - not all students every day. How much planning do we need to make for that know? How much time would we have if we think that is the plan?

- Commissioner Brown emphasized the importance of planning conversations happening now. Planning conversations to address the unknown are highly encouraged. At this time it is uncertain which CDC phase we will be under in the fall so it is important to be thinking about innovative structures now. Brown acknowledged that is very possible the state of Kentucky may just be in Phase 2 of the federal government's three-phased plan that provides guidance to states on benchmarks they will need to meet in order to begin the reopening process. As Kentucky has not yet entered phase one, Brown stressed the necessity of developing options in case all students were not allowed in the building at the same time as a strategy to be most prepared for the 2020-2021 school year.

Melanie Erwin- Grading NTI assignments and impact of NTI instruction on calculating grades.

- Amanda Ellis encouraged participants to access the COVID 19 KDE page. A link was provided to the COVID 19 KDE page that provides information regarding grading. Under educate on the page, you will see a specific link for grading. There are guiding questions.

Follow-up Required:

Links for the two webcasts Amanda Ellis referenced need to be sent to PrAC members.

Presenter: Rob Akers, Kentucky Department of Education

Agenda Item: Delaying Impact Kentucky Survey Results

Summary of Discussion:

Rob Akers shared that over 43,000 Impact Kentucky Surveys were completed. The original plan was to publicly release the results in March but the COVID crisis halted the original release date. Akers solicited input from the group regarding the best time for release.

Akers shared that teachers and superintendents have already been asked about timing and method for release of results.

PrAC members were encouraged to share their preferred time frame and method for release.

Feedback:

- Bryne Jacobs: Could you send to principal so that we can at least see them now?

Follow-up Required:

Share decision with PrAC members regarding the process and release date of survey results.

Agenda Item: Questions and additional feedback from advisory group members.

Presenter: Jenny Ray, Kentucky Department of Education, PrAC Liaison

Summary of Discussion:

Jenny Ray asked participants to unmute and ask any questions or provide feedback. No PrAC member responded. She also encouraged participants to email additional comments or concerns.

Feedback: None

Follow-up Required: None

Motion to adjourn and second.

A motion to adjourn was made. A second was given. The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

DRAFT