



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL (TAC)
SUMMARY**

DEC. 10, 2024

Members Present: Melanie Callahan, Chad Davidson, Kennita Ballard, Wendy Young, Becky Spies, Carla Lawson, Mandy Perez, Kristen Morgan, Corey Burns, Casey Page, Joseph Stivers, Emmanuel Anama-Green, Nick Schoffner, Jessica Hobson, Shane Baker, Toni Pater, Carla Criswell, Rosa Cubero-Hurley, Scot Bratcher, Sarah Lizer, Brooke Leffingwell, and Megan Hall

Members Absent: Kevin Dailey

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Thomas Woods-Tucker, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Woods-Tucker welcomed the group and expressed gratitude for serving on the Teacher Advisory Council.

Agenda Item: Approve Agenda

Presenter: Melanie Callahan, Teacher Advisory Council Chairperson, Laurel County

Summary of Discussion: Chad Davidson made a motion to approve the agenda. Kristen Morgan made a second. Members verbally expressed agreement.

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Melanie Callahan, Teacher Advisory Council Chairperson, Laurel County

Summary of Discussion: Chad Davidson made a motion to approve the summary minutes from the September 2024 meeting. Rosa Cubero-Hurley made a second. Members verbally expressed agreement.

Agenda Item: Kentucky United We Learn

Presenter: Susan Strange, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Strange provided an update on the Kentucky United We Learn Council, sharing their "Journey to the Moon" roadmap and a recap of the October convening, where feedback on Prototype 4.0 led to the creation of Framework 1.0. This framework has been shared with Council members and the Kentucky Board of Education.

Strange announced that the Commissioner of Education and the regional cooperatives were hosting town halls in January and shared ongoing efforts to gather stakeholder feedback, including posing the question to teachers: *What does a vibrant learning experience look like to you, and how can your school ensure every student has one?*

Kristen Morgan from Danville Independent shared her district's implementation of a Profile of a Learner from preschool through high school, while TAC members highlighted similar local initiatives. Strange requested help distributing a [form](#) to collect additional feedback and emphasized the importance of broad stakeholder engagement. [Teacher Advisory Council Feedback - December 10, 2024](#)

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Inquiry Based Learning in Social Studies

Presenter: Lauren Gallicchio and Heather Ransom, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary: Presenters detailed the inquiry practices for social studies, including questioning, using evidence, communicating conclusions and investigating using disciplinary strands. Various resources and professional learning modules available to support the practices were highlighted.

Questioning: The consultants discussed the importance of questioning in inquiry practices, mentioning resources like the Inquiry Practices of the KAS for Social Studies professional learning module and resources from additional organizations to support teachers and students in asking, developing and generating questions.

Using Evidence: The consultants explained the module series available called Supporting Students in Using Evidence, which includes designing source sets, building comprehension of text-based sources, and evaluating sources.

Communicating Conclusions: The consultants described how students communicate conclusions by constructing arguments and explanations and engaging in civil discourse,

highlighting resources like Composition in the Classroom and the Collaborative Civic Spaces module.

Additional Resources: The Student Assignment Library and the Elementary Webinar series are additional resources to support inquiry practices in social studies were highlighted. The Student Assignment Library includes teacher notes and Kentucky-specific examples to support inquiry practices in social studies. Furthermore, the webinar series will be expanded in the spring to focus on secondary social studies.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs)

Presenter: Thomas Clouse, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Thomas Clouse provided an overview of the importance of high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs) in providing vibrant grade-level learning for students and emphasized the importance of ongoing support and professional learning for implementation.

Stages of Implementation: Clouse explained the three stages of implementation outlined in the Curriculum Development Process section of the Model Curriculum Framework: launch, early implementation and ongoing implementation. Clouse emphasized the need for ongoing support and curriculum-based professional learning for educators to effectively utilize HQIRs, mentioning the important role of district and school leaders in creating supportive conditions for teachers, students and families.

Curriculum Implementation Framework: Thomas Clouse shared the curriculum implementation framework, highlighting the roles of district leadership, school leadership, teachers and students in the implementation process, showing how their actions support the next group in the framework. Clouse mentioned the collaborative nature of the curriculum development process, with shared responsibilities and distributed leadership at every level.

Feedback: None

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Vocational Education Funding

Presenter: Beth Hargis, Office of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Based on the council's request, Beth Hargis addressed the topic of compensating career and technical education teachers fairly to support better recruitment and retainment.

Hargis discussed the challenges of compensating career and technical education teachers fairly, noting the discrepancies in pay within professions and regions.

Potential solutions, such as basing salaries on business and industry rates and providing extra workdays for externships were shared, but highlighted the complexities involved.

Hargis noted that implementing some of these solutions would require legislative changes, particularly for state-operated centers, and emphasized the need for local district decisions.

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Feedback: TAC member, Scot Bratcher, suggested considering years of industry experience when determining pay scales for vocational teachers, which Hargis acknowledged as a potential option that would require legislative action.

Agenda Item: Mental Health Services

Presenter: Christina Weeter, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Weeter provided an overview of the various funding sources and grants available for expanding mental health services in schools.

Funding Sources: Weeter provided an overview of various funding sources for expanding mental health services in schools, including Medicaid billing, state grants and federal grants.

Medicaid Billing: Weeter explained the potential for schools to bill Medicaid for mental health services, noting the need for proper setup in the system and the possibility of billing private insurance for some students.

State Grants: Weeter mentioned state grants, such as the \$7.4 million appropriated for school counselors and school-based mental health services providers (as defined in the School Safety and Resiliency Act), and the safe schools flexible focus funds that can be used for these purposes.

Federal Grants: Weeter highlighted federal grants, including the Stronger Connections Grant and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grants, and provided information on upcoming webinars to help schools understand the SAMHSA grant application process. Weeter will forward the SAMHSA grant application process webinar link to Stacy Noah for distribution to the council.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Melanie Callahan, TAC Chairperson, Laurel County Schools

Summary of Discussion: Chad Davidson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carla Criswell made a second motion to adjourn.