



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL SUMMARY

DECEMBER 12, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Brooke Leffingwell, Mandy Perez, Kristen Morgan, Wendy Young, Emmanuel Anama-Green, Carla Criswell, Joseph Stivers, Melanie Callahan, Megan Hall, Chad Davidson, Corey Burns, Nick Shoffner, Shane Baker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Dailey, Scot Bratcher, Jessica Hobson, Rosa Cubero-Hurley, Sarah Lizer, Becky Spies, Toni Prater, Casey Page, Carla Lawson

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Meredith Brewer, Associate Commissioner, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion:

Brewer welcomed the Teacher Advisory Council (TAC) members and extended Commissioner Fletcher's condolences for not being able to attend.

Feedback:

None

Agenda Item: Roll Call of Members

Presenter: Melanie Callahan, TAC Chairperson, South Laurel Middle School, Laurel County

Summary of Discussion:

Callahan led the roll call of members.

Feedback:

None

Agenda Item: Approve Agenda

Presenter: Melanie Callahan, TAC Chairperson, South Laurel Middle School, Laurel County

Summary of Discussion:

Wendy Young made a motion to approve the agenda. Chad Davidson made a second.

Feedback:

None

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Melanie Callahan, TAC Chairperson, South Laurel Middle School, Laurel County

Summary of Discussion:

Chad Davidson made a motion to approve the agenda. Kristen Morgan made a second.

Feedback:

None

Agenda Item: Stay Interview Initiative

Presenter: Elly Gilbert, Assistant Director, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion:

Gilbert outlined the process by which the initiative is being rolled out by the GoTeachKY Ambassadors. Gilbert then discussed what the TAC members were going to be asked to do in the presentation. Gilbert then went through each of the eight Stay Interview Questions with the members allowing time for them to provide answers to each of the questions.

Feedback:

Several of the group members provided feedback including a desire to see the information collected actually used to drive policy change and a desire for members of the legislature to receive the information collected to better inform their decisions.

Agenda Item: Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) Update

Presenter: Amber Snell, EPSB Chair, Madison County Public Schools

Summary of Discussion:

Snell introduced herself and shared the EPSB's mission statement. Snell went on to inform the group as to the frequency of the meetings, the location of meeting materials and where the meetings can be watched. Snell then shared the EPSB's Legislative Priorities for the 2026 legislative session which include ensuring ethical educators, funding for internships, financial incentives to support entry to and growth in the profession, legislation that elevates the profession, and some statutory cleanup. Snell also noted that the EPSB recently approved participation with the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) in the Research Practice Collaborative. This joint initiative between the EPSB and KBE will work to better understand and support Kentucky's educator workforce, with a particular focus on factors influencing educator retention and the role of vibrant learning environments in promoting teacher satisfaction and career persistence.

Feedback:

Morgan expressed a wish that the public knew how many wonderful teachers there are out there, instead of being constantly being shown those very few teachers in the media who are not professionals. Snell and Brewer shared how this challenge was being addressed by members of the Division of Educator Recruitment and Development. Brewer then asked Gilbert to share some specific examples of this effort. Young asked if EPSB or KDE had any scholarships available. Brewer informed Young that neither EPSB nor KDE had anything available, however some information on financial support could be found on the GoTeachKY website.

Agenda Item: Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Update

Presenter: Alfonso De Torres Núñez, KBE Member, Jefferson County Public Schools

Summary of Discussion

De Torres Núñez apologized for being late to join the meeting. De Torres Núñez then introduced himself and told the group his teacher journey. He then shared that KBE is working on:

- a collaborative teacher retention initiative with EPSB
- approval of the changes to teacher evaluations outlined in House Bill 48
- the salary schedule for Career and Technical Education teachers

De Torres Núñez closed by asking the group if they had any good news to share with the KBE at their next meeting.

Feedback:

None

Agenda Item: Certification Updates

Presenter: Todd Davis, Director, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion

Davis provided an update on the Certification Structure Work Group's recommendations regarding grade bands and content area certifications. The work group, including principals, teachers, HR directors, legislators, and educator preparation providers, recommended maintaining current preschool and kindergarten structures, expanding elementary certification to grade 6, allowing middle school teachers to teach down to grade 4, and adjusting secondary certifications to reflect current district practices.

The group discussed the possibility of a general science certification to address teacher shortages and compared Kentucky's approach to neighboring states, as well as the complexities of special education certification.

Feedback:

De Torres Núñez asked if there are any changes being looked at for world language teachers citing some ideas that he asked Emmanuel Anama-Green to provide some additional insight on. De Torres Núñez then provided some states to look at as a model if and when this certification is looked at. Davis informed the group that the world language certification isn't currently being looked at but thank them for their feedback.

Agenda Item: TAC Chair Election

Presenter: Justin Edwards, TAC Liaison, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion

Edwards opened the floor for nominations and volunteers. Megan Hall volunteered to become the TAC chair. No other members volunteered for the position. A motion was made by Davidson to accept Hall as the new TAC chair. The motion was seconded by Morgan. Hall was then elected the new chair by unanimous vote of the present members.

Feedback:

None

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Melanie Callahan, TAC Chairperson, South Laurel Middle School, Laurel County

Summary of Discussion

A motion was made by Carla Criswell to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Davidson. The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on March 18, 2026.

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