



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TEACHER ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY

MARCH 7, 2023

Members Present: Erica Deal, Byron Wilson, Chad Davidson, Kaysin Higgins, Carla Criswell, Sharon Collins, April Jackson, Jamaal Stiles, Kennita Ballard, Amber Ramirez, Amanda Klare, Susan Cintra, Rosa Cubero-Hurley, Donnie Wilkerson, Jane Modlin, Sarah Beard, Melanie Callahan, Carla Lawson, Jennifer Stewart

Members Absent: Jen Davis, Misty Bivens, Gregory Smith, Sara Green, Charlene Martin, Scott Osborn, Amy Leasgang

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner and Chief Learner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Heard an update from Education Commissioner Jason E. Glass on United We Learn, the state's vision for the future of public education. Glass also provided updates and offered to take questions about the current legislative session and proposed bills.

Appreciation was extended to all teachers for their focused efforts to accelerate student learning and success amid the impacts of the pandemic.

Feedback: Susan Cintra expressed gratitude to Glass for his advocacy of teachers during the current legislative session. Jennifer Stewart shared positive news about Floyd County's local learning lab and the partnerships between schools and businesses. Stewart thanked Glass for the support of this work in her district.

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting and Roll Call of Members

Presenter: Jamaal Stiles, Teachers Advisory Council (TAC) Chairperson, Washington County Schools

Summary of Discussion: Donnie Wilkerson made a motion to approve the summary minutes from the December 2022 meeting. Chad Davidson made a second.

Agenda Item: Committee Selection Process: 2023-2024 Non-voting Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Member

Presenter: Meredith Brewer, Ph.D., Director of Education Policy, Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Members of TAC were invited to serve on the selection committee for the 2023-2024 nonvoting Kentucky Board of Education teacher member. The TAC work group will review the nine submitted applications and select three candidates to forward to KBE for consideration at its April regular meeting.

Feedback: The following TAC members volunteered to serve on the work group: Kennita Ballard, Amanda Klare, Sharon Collins, Carla Criswell, Amber Ramirez, Sarah Beard, Chad Davidson, Melanie Callahan, Susan Cintra, and Carla Lawson.

Agenda Item: Visual Performing Arts Standards Update

Presenter: Jessica Green, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: KDE Arts Consultant Jessica Greene from the Office of Teaching and Learning joined TAC to discuss an update to the visual performing arts (VPA) standards revision process. The process began in December 2021, with implementation set for the 2024-2025 school year.

Currently, committee meetings are being conducted to develop the layout of the standards. Once the committee reviews the standards, it will go back to an advisory panel for review and then up for one more round of public comments.

Greene said that once the standards are complete, information will be disseminated through social media, statewide education groups and newsletters.

Feedback: Melanie Callahan, TAC member, expressed the importance of encouraging people to provide feedback during the time permitted for public comment. She noted that other content areas receive a great deal of feedback and she hoped the VPA standards would receive a large amount of feedback as well.

Council members advocated for districts to receive more funding to offer arts programs. Russell County teacher Donnie Wilkerson said that many districts would be glad to implement the standards, but don't have the money to hire a dedicated arts educator.

Agenda Item: Educators Rising State Conference

Presenter: John Paise, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Division of Educator Recruitment and Development

Summary of Discussion: The council received a debrief on the 2023 [Kentucky Educators Rising](#) state conference, held March 2 at Bellarmine University in Louisville. Over 500 students from across the state gathered to compete, attend workshops and network with fellow aspiring educators. This year's event doubled in participation as compared to last year.

Feedback: Several members of TAC shared praise about the state conference and commended Paise and KDE for their focused attempts to recruit future educators.

Agenda Item: 2023 Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Presenter: Mandy Perez, 2023 Kentucky Teacher of the Year

Summary of Discussion: 2023 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Mandy Perez discussed advocacy efforts related to teacher retention.

Perez, a 6th-grade English language arts teacher at Crittenden County Middle School, is currently on sabbatical at KDE as a part of her Teacher of the Year achievement and is using part of her platform to encourage teachers to “shine a light” on why they choose to stay in the classroom. Perez invited teachers to share their own ideas for teacher retention strategies. She encouraged the teachers to explore tools for advocacy, such as letters, policy groups, verbal and written testimonies, op-eds, social media and memos.

Perez closed with a call to action. She stated, “As teachers, you stand at the intersection of policy and practice. Your voice counts, your voice matters and it needs to be heard.”

Feedback: Members of TAC thanked Perez for her advocacy of the teaching profession and shared appreciation for her efforts to shine a light on why teachers stay in the profession. Mentoring was mentioned by multiple TAC members as an important strategy to support teachers and promote longevity in the profession. As well, the issue of compensation was identified as a critical lever for retention and not just recruitment.

Agenda Item: Legislative Updates

Presenter: Byron Darnall, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion: The council heard an update from Associate Commissioner Byron Darnall on the 2023 legislative session and acknowledged the difficulties sometimes associated with navigating policy and practice. A review of HB 319 and the corresponding impacts on education were shared. Darnall also emphasized the consistent work of KDE as an advocate for teaching and learning and expressed willingness to listen and act based on teacher feedback.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Jamaal Stiles, TAC Chairperson, Washington County Schools

Summary of Discussion: Chad Davidson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Cintra seconded the motion.

Feedback: None