

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT JANUARY 2024 MEETING



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

SUMMARY

DEC. 5, 2023

Present: (25 members present): Ava Benson, Reese Blakeman, Owen Borden, Cameron Breier, Owen Cody, Hunter Combs, Joud Dahleh, Raima Dutt, Manas Garla, Nicholas Hazelett, Honette Irakiza, Peter Jefferson, Shraman Kar, Seth Langford, Danica Love, Gabriella MacAdams, Anopa Musoni, Tanvi Rakesh, Jocelyn Reddick, Amy Roblero-Perez, Ian Swenson, Carley Watts, Aliete Yanes Medina, India Young, Joshua Zyzak

Absent: (12 members absent), Justin Dunning, Trey Jackson, Vijaykumar Karthikeyan, Constance Martin, R.J. Osborne, Daniel Ratley, Caleb Robinson, Sophia Staples, Malley Taylor, Sarah Umbarger, Austin Vitato, Bentley White

Summary:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Robin Fields Kinney, Interim Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Kinney shared updates to the council related to United We Learn and her visits to schools in Fayette, Robertson and Warren counties. She also reviewed the agenda.

Feedback: None.

Summary:

Agenda Item: Roll Call and Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., Information Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Jones called roll. The summary notes from the Oct. 18, 2023, Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting were approved. Motion made by Peter Jefferson, a junior at Henry Clay High School (Fayette County), and seconded by Owen Cody, a senior at McCracken County High School.

Feedback: None.

Agenda Item: Mindful Minute Activity

Presenter: Annalee Jackson, Public Policy Fellow, Division of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Jackson asked students what three words came to mind related to the holidays and led council members through a deep breathing exercise. Jackson closed the activity by asking students what advice they would give to classmates who want to support people in need during the holidays.

Feedback: “Family” and “joy” were among the common responses to words that come to mind related to the holidays. Council members said providing emotional support to others is important during the holidays. Seth Langford, a sophomore at J. Graham Brown School (Jefferson County), said, “I know from personal experience that sometimes the biggest problem is that you don’t feel safe in or comfortable during what is supposed to be a break. And sometimes you just need to listen to someone who’s going through that.” Members also said they would encourage others to join or volunteer with organizations in their school or local communities.

Agenda Item: Discussion on Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways

Presenter: Beth Engle, Director, Division of Technical Schools and Continuous Improvement, Office of Career and Technical Education, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Engle said that career and technical education prepares students for high-demand, high-wage and high-skilled labor by combining academic education with employability and technical skills. Kentucky presently offers 12 programs with 146 total CTE pathways. She said students should connect with school counselors to determine specific opportunities available in their area. Engle also updated the council about new pathways that will be available to students in the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, which include supply chain management, generative artificial intelligence (AI) and data science/informatics.

Feedback: Students shared their career plans and what they are actively doing to help prepare them for that future career. Several students said they were surprised to learn the total number of pathways available in Kentucky. One student asked a clarifying question regarding a career and technical education (CTE) certification required to be nurse aide.

Agenda Item: Council Project Activity

Presenter: Raima Dutt, Commissioner’s Student Advisory Council Chair; GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., Information Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Dutt, a senior at duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County) and chair of the council, provided an update on the council’s work to date related to student voice. Dutt presented a list of five questions, narrowed from the council’s work in the previous meeting, to use when members interview community members about student voice. Dutt also said the council plans to seek input regarding student voice from members of five advisory councils run by KDE: the [Superintendents Advisory Council](#), the [Principals Advisory Council](#), the [Teachers Advisory Council](#), the [Local School Board Members Advisory Council](#) and the [School Counselor Advisory Council](#).

Dutt asked students to contribute to a shared working document addressing why they are interested in amplifying student voice. She also asked students to provide research and findings from others related to the value and impact of student voice in a shared working document.

Feedback: Members shared their feedback on Google forms. “We realize as a council how important it is in the education system when students are able to represent your student body and voice their opinions,” said Jocelyn Reddick, a senior at South Warren High School (Warren County). “The result is a community where students feel heard and appreciated, resulting in many benefits such as a safe community for students, unity and willingness to cooperate with one another to work towards a common goal.”

Anopa Musoni, a senior at Lafayette High School (Fayette County), said he likes the approach of seeking feedback from the councils directly, face-to-face.

Follow-up: Dutt and Bentley White, vice chair of the Commissioner’s Student Advisory Council, will invite members from other advisory groups to the council’s next meeting to seek their input regarding student voice.

Agenda Item: Opportunities for Students and Member Announcements

Presenter: GlyptusAnn Grider Jones, Ph.D., Information Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Jones shared upcoming opportunities of interest to Kentucky high school students including a call for nominations for the 2024 Kentucky Teacher of the Year awards. Nominations are due Dec. 15 and may be submitted via the [Kentucky Teacher of the Year Google Form](#).

Feedback: None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m. ET. The next council meeting will be held in person at the Kentucky Department of Education on Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. ET.