



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC)**

SUMMARY

SEPT. 20, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Carrie Ballinger, Doug Bechanan, Buddy Berry, Joe Buerkley, Robin Cochran, Thom Cochran, Robbie Fletcher, Michael Ford, David Gilliam, Damian Johnson, Bob Lawson, Matthew Madding, Chad Molley, Marty Pollio, Patrick Richardson, Shari Satterly, Seth Southard, Tim Spencer, Robert Tuck, Leonard Whalen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Misty Middleton

Agenda Item: Timeline for Filling the Commissioner’s Position

Presenter: Robin Kinney, Associate Commissioner, Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Robin Kinney provided information on the timeline for filling the position of Kentucky’s Commissioner of Education. Three board members will score vendor Request for Proposals (RFPs) to select the appropriate search firm to lead the process. Once a search firm is selected, they will identify and screen potential candidates and share their findings with the Kentucky Board of Education.

Agenda Item: Search for a New Commissioner: Advisory Council Member Feedback

Presenter: Alissa Riley, Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Board Member

Summary of Discussion: KBE member Alissa Riley joined SAC members to pose questions and receive feedback as to what the KBE should be looking for in its new Commissioner of Education. SAC members voiced a need for continued focus on school culture and current initiatives like Profile of a Learner. Members feel the role would be best filled by someone with experience as a Kentucky superintendent.

Agenda Item: Skyrocketing Construction Expenses

Presenter: Chay Ritter, Division Director, Division of District Support, Office of Finance and Operations

Summary of Discussion: Chay Ritter shared information on rising construction costs. There have been extreme changes to projects across the state to save money, a process Chay referred to as “value-engineering.” There are 23 districts presently requesting nickel taxes and without costs coming down, will likely have to cut or drastically change plans for renovations.

Agenda Item: Upcoming Legislative Priorities

Presenter: Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Office of the Commissioner

Summary of Discussion: Brian Perry joined the SAC members to give an update on budget requests addressed during the August KBE retreat. SEEK funds and transportation costs were mentioned. The superintendents were particularly interested in the codifying of all-day kindergarten and where the funds would come from as not all superintendents have the budget or the space for all-day kindergarten.

Next Meeting:

Nov. 15, 2023

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