



## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Parent's Advisory Council (PAC) SUMMARY

SEPT. 8, 2021

**Present:** Judith Bradley, Carol Cecil, Brooke Gill, Jason Glass, Lisa Meiman, Lauren Mitchell, Kathy Smiley, Leslie Spears, Stacie Strotman, David Weisenhorn, Megan West, Cyndi Wrenn

**Absent:** Cherie Dimar, Melissa Goins, Tom Haggard, Shasta Hensley, Mary Ann Jennings, Carie Kizziar, Rhonda Logsdon, LaMonique Mason, Rachel Noyes, Sara Ruth, Mandy Sapp

### **Agenda Item: Welcome/ Opening Comments**

**Presenter:** Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

**Summary of Discussion:** Commissioner Glass gave updates concerning the General Assembly meeting to consider additional supports in policy structure for school operations due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Flexibility will affect federal funding to schools when this information is used. KDE has provided recommendations on funding stability using historic data instead of current attendance numbers, as well as operational flexibility to address the limit of Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) days and remote instruction days. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) enacted a statewide school mask mandate last month, and it has been challenged and declared deficient, which means the KBE order has been declared null and void. The governor then signed an executive order reinstating the mask mandate. If not passed in legislature, decision will revert to district level.

Challenges that are facing districts and KDE now include the legislation limiting remote learning days to 20 per district, not per student.

### **Feedback:**

*Is KDE or the state looking into doing anything to address bus driver shortages?* This limitation falls on the process for getting your Commercial Drivers License (CDL). If we prioritize bus drivers, then it would bring all other commercial drivers.

*Is KDE or the state looking into doing anything to address the teacher shortage?* Possibly, using part-time and post-secondary, based on content mastery. Legislature is considering this, and KDE has put its recommendations out. KDE isn't lowering any standards while prioritizing

in-person learning. KDE doesn't support provisions to allow non-certified hourly employees as teachers.

***Is KDE or the state looking into doing anything to address the substitute teacher shortage? Is the minimum threshold going to be changed?*** KDE is looking into the "Emergency Pathway" for teacher certification and checking on challenges to further open this up. One of the biggest issues is the labor market and current pay for substitute teachers.

***Are there any studies on quarantined students, the disruptions caused to the classroom and learning? How many quarantined students are testing positive? How many are testing negative? Do we know how efficient the quarantine policy is?*** The Department for Public Health (DPH) and local health departments determine efforts to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission and to try and stop mass outbreaks at schools, not KDE. KDE is not aware of any active research being conducted at this time. It is expected that this research will develop over time.

***Will KDE ask districts to report on "missing students" (i.e. homeschool)?*** Yes, districts and schools are required to report current attendance data even though funding will be determined by historical attendance data.

Concerns were raised regarding "Child Find" (identifying children with disabilities, etc.), and the commissioner acknowledged that this school year will disrupt that.

#### **Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes**

**Presenter:** Leslie Spears, Educational Program Consultant II, KDE Office of Continuous Improvement and Support (OCIS)

**Summary of Discussion:** Judith Bradley moved to approve minutes from the June 9, 2021, Parents Advisory Council (PAC) meeting. Motion was second by Cyndi Wrenn. Council voted to approve the minutes.

#### **Agenda Item: Process for Selecting a Parents Advisory Council Chairperson**

**Presenter:** Leslie Spears, Educational Program Consultant II, KDE Office of Continuous Improvement and Support (OCIS)

**Summary of Discussion:** Talking points of voting in the PAC chairperson were discussed. Historically, the commissioner of education has served as the chairperson of the Parents Advisory Council (PAC). However, Commissioner Glass has requested that PAC members select a chairperson to serve in this role instead. Later today, PAC members will receive a link to a form to select a chairperson and everyone on the council will be included on the form. Members may self-select or choose another member of the council to serve as chair. The deadline for completing the form is Friday, Sept. 10, by noon, and all responses are anonymous. When the form has closed, KDE will contact the PAC member with the most nominations to ensure she/he agrees to serve in this role. The chairperson will work with the KDE liaisons to determine which agenda items are timely and relevant and also will lead the meetings. Since the PAC does not have decision-making authority, the chairperson will essentially introduce speakers/topics, lead discussions, etc. KDE liaisons will work with members beforehand to get them prepared and ready to lead the meetings. It is important for everyone to take the time to complete the form by the deadline.

## **Agenda Item: Updating “The Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle”**

**Presenter:** Brooke Gill, The Prichard Committee

**Summary of Discussion:** Gill discussed the name change from “The Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle” to the “Kentucky Family and School Partnership Guide,” as decided by The Prichard Committee. PAC members were encouraged to review the electronic website and digital playbook included in the Kentucky Family and School Partnership Guide and to let Brooke know of any needed edits or updates before the Kentucky Family Engagement in Education Week (Nov. 15-19, 2021).

While conducting focus groups, The Prichard Committee has found that family engagement is more important than ever. It expands the capacity of schools by providing more helping hands. The Prichard Committee also learned that when families are at the table, they are more understanding when things don’t go as planned. Family engagement sets a strong foundation for remote learning when needed. A strong foundation creates better schooling.

There is now the opportunity to re-imagine engagement as relationship-building, and not in-person events. New Family and School Partnership Statewide Resources were shared with the PAC. Testing of the site for anyone to edit and update will be Sept. 1, 2021, through Nov. 15, 2021. These resources include: 10 individual mini-session trainings, or two 90-minute training sessions (equals three hours); school self-assessment (built a lot on the original “Missing Piece” document, with added elements of equality and student voice and an updated “Dual Capacity Framework” of the school self-assessment); a Digital Playbook (aligns with five objectives from the school self-assessment); and an application to be a “family-friendly” school. The application windows open in October and March and schools will be announced in November and April.

Since the Digital Playbook is online, it will be kept up to date and fresh, and includes a breakdown by month with tip sheets developed with the help of advisory councils. Councils can help support the work of the Kentucky Family and School Partnership Guide by: supporting the unified approach and intention of Kentucky family engagement efforts; by knowing and supporting Family-Friendly Learning Schools (list located in resources, will be in testing phase cohort from May 2021 through May 2024); applying for and/or supporting schools that have received a Family-Friendly School certificate (statewide); and signing up to participate in the Family Engagement in Education Week (Nov. 15-19, 2021).

Proposed responsibilities of the PAC include:

- Ongoing annual reviews and suggested updates (with standing dates on PAC agenda);
- Exploring what other states are doing in terms of family engagement, school accountability and regulatory policies, and reporting to KY Collaborative annually;
- Recognizing family-friendly school certification with congratulation letters (perhaps in partnership with KDE’s Teachers Advisory Council);
- Connecting guide content and assessments to policies and practices within individual member organizations; and
- Supplementing PAC orientation materials with content and webinars to help with awareness and skill-building with KDE staff.

PAC members will research and items will be added to the next PAC meeting agenda on Dec. 8, 2021.

### **Feedback:**

Please keep in mind that not every family has the capacity to engage as we ideally would like them to.

Having building leaders on board is crucial.

**Is the Kentucky Family and School Partnership Guide district and school based or parent based?** Materials are intended for educators, families, students, building leaders, community leaders, etc. Anyone can pick any up any of these materials and be able to do something with them.

**How do we get this in more parent's hands?** KDE is working on this now. There are organizations and schools that already have engagement events scheduled for the Kentucky Family Engagement in Education Week (Nov. 15-19, 2021). The Prichard Committee and KDE are asking other schools and districts that already have events planned if they could change the theme of their event to family engagement.

**How can PAC, as a group, support the Kentucky Family Engagement in Education Week?**

This issue is still being discussed. KDE is looking into how the PAC can get into school council meetings, or possibly creating a message for parents on school-based decision making councils (SBDM). Brooke is going to check with Natasha Stein to see if there is a contact list or schedule of all SBDM meetings.

**How can we ensure the responsibilities with the document align with the responsibilities and purpose of the PAC?** PAC members need to ensure the mission of the council with the commissioner and clarify the role. Members also discussed a possible council name change.

### **Agenda Item: Advancing Education Updated**

**Presenter:** Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer, KDE

**Summary of Discussion:** Dodd discussed the purpose of the Advancing Education project, which is to utilize effective listening techniques and co-create tools and resources with diverse stakeholders for the purpose of meeting the needs of students, families, educators and community leaders by changing how we educate in Kentucky. The components of the Advancing Education project include the “Keep, Stop, Start” survey, the Commissioner’s Virtual Listening Tour, Courageous Conversations, the Kentucky Coalition for Advancing Education, Local Laboratories of Learning (L3), student mental health forums and the Kentucky Future of Education Summit.

The Advancing Education project timeline was discussed as follows:

- **Fall 2020:** “Keep, Start, Stop” survey sent out and completed.
- **March-May 2021:** Commissioner’s Virtual Listening Tour and Courageous Conversations
- **June 2021-Spring 2022:** Coalition met every Tuesday in June 2021, for a total of 5 times), and will come back together next week to finalize the reports and put together a “Learning Agenda,” which consists of a list of questions to help the next step – the formation of L3s to get from the current state of education to the future state.
- **Fall 2021-Spring 2022:** L3s will use the questions to get farther down the road to advancing

education and report back to the state coalition.

- **Sept.-Oct. 2021:** Student Mental Health Forums (conducted through the lieutenant governor's office, working with the Commissioner's Student Advisory Council (SAC), by region).
- **Nov. 1-2, 2021:** Kentucky Education Summit (release of all reports and information gathered).