KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)
Local School Board Members Advisory Council (LSBMAC)
SUMMARY

DECEMBER 7, 2023

PRESENT: David Webster, Simpson County; Joanna Hinton; LaRue County; Venita Murphy; Webster County; Julia Fischer, Bellevue Independent; Brenda Rose, Whitley County; Brandon Rutherford, Madison County; Larry Dodson, Oldham County; Diane Berry, Nelson County; Joanna Freels, Shelby County; Carl Wicklund, Kenton County, Felix Akojie; Paducah Independent

ABSENT: Ruschelle Hamilton, Breathitt County; Linda Duncan, Jefferson County

SUMMARY:

I. Agenda Item: Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Presenter: David Cook, Facilitator, Director of Innovative Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Nominations for chair and vice chair of the Local School Board Members Advisory Council were presented. All members agreed to reappoint David Webster as chair and Larry Dodson as vice chair with each accepting the nomination.

II. Agenda Item: Interim Commissioner's Update, Open Discussion and Feedback

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

Summary of Discussion:

Kinney discussed her background at the Kentucky Department of Education that led her to her current position as interim commissioner of education. She said that the search for a new commissioner is underway. Kinney asked the council to share what qualities they would like to see in the next commissioner of education.

Rutherford stated the importance of focusing on core curriculum and life skills rather than on social issues. He expressed the need to return to core basic educational skills, so students are

well prepared for life after high school. Kinney acknowledged that kids today learn differently so they need to be taught differently.

Kinney discussed two critical issues in education at this time: teacher recruitment and retention and chronic absenteeism. Dodson added that funding is another huge issue within the school system. Kinney acknowledged that funding is a huge issue and that the Kentucky Board of Education is requesting additional funding to include full funding of transportation.

Wicklund stated that artificial intelligence (AI) is going to change the future of education and when thinking about bringing in new teachers, superintendents need to know if they are aware. Kinney stated that David Couch, associate commissioner for the Office of Education Technology at KDE, has been having discussions about AI with district technology officers.

Fischer said the importance of having a commissioner who stays for the long-term and invests in the state. Kinney acknowledges that this is highly important and said that there is a new legal requirement once a new commissioner is selected by the Kentucky Board of Education. The commissioner needs to be confirmed by the Senate and can then serve up to four years.

Rutherford added that he would like to see the State of Kentucky adopt a cell phone policy like Florida's policy that bans cell phones in schools. Rutherford said in the Florida school district bullying has decreased, and learning has increased due to this policy. Kinney said this is something districts can discuss in their co-op regions to allow for discussions on a regional basis.

Kinney briefly highlighted Kentucky's Portrait of a Learner and the goal to make sure every single district, and every single child, has the opportunities that Portrait of a Learner can afford them.

III. Agenda Item: 2023 School Report Card Data

Presenters: Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education

Jennifer Stafford, Division Director, Office of Assessment and Accountability, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Sims discussed Every Student Succeeds Act. She talked about Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools, Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools and the Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) schools and explained how they are identified. Sims discussed the Kentucky Reporting requirements and how they are obtained.

Stafford discussed the Assessment and Accountability results and how the Kentucky Department of Education supports next steps. Stafford provided some guidance on the responses to data results.

IV. Agenda Item: The 2023 Election Results and Legislative Update

Presenter: Brian Perry, Governmental Relations, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Perry stated that in 2024, the entire Kentucky House of Representatives will be up for election as well as the State Senate. He said there are several budget requests being considered including Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK) base and SEEK transportation, Universal Preschool, Workforce Supports, Kentucky Educational Recovery Fund, Kentucky Education Technology System, Read to Succeed, CTE Funding Formula Proposal, Kentucky State Schools, Advanced Placement Funding Changes, Statutory Clean-Up of data collected but not used, and facilities which includes House Bill 678 for construction.

Perry said to expect conversations about Early Literacy and Teacher Prep Programs, numeracy, and diversity, equity and inclusion from the General Assembly.

V. Adjournment

Summary of Discussion: Cook is pushing the Portrait of a Learner conversation to the next meeting in February. There are now 97 districts in or developing a Portrait of a Learner (PoL). PoL is how the standards are taught, and they will be discussed during the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. ET.

Next Meeting:
Location: Kentucky School Board Association Annual Conference
Galt House, Louisville

Date: Feb. 29

Time: 6 - 7:30 p.m. ET

> **Commented [TRDoC3]:** Write out since it is the first time the acronym was used. Put the acronym in parenthesis