

**SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT MARCH 2022 MEETING**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
**Commissioner's Student Advisory Council (CSAC)**  
**SUMMARY**

**PRESENT:** Bentley White, Delaney Daugherty, Alexandra Perry, Soleila Elliot Gonzalez, Sam Smith, Charleigh Browning, JuLeah Edie, Ella Luking, Sophia Retone, Jack Johnson, Jacob Lyons, Logan Justice, Arivumani Srivastava

**ABSENT:** Gavin Breunig, Emma Whitehouse, Drake Calhoon, Gracie Smith, Madelyn Blankenship, Arnav Dharmagadda, Rohin Dutt, Solyana Mesfin, Willian Oliver Fegenbush, Vinessa Fressola, Loren Little, Roxanne Lockard, Joy Ntakarutimana, Anastasia Panaretos, Spandana Pavuluri, Dyllan Tipton

**Agenda Item:** Welcome

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

**Summary of Discussion:**

Glass welcomed the students to the meeting and invited them to give feedback on the agenda, as well as provide new topics of discussion for the next meeting.

**Agenda Item:** Communications Updates

**Presenter:** Toni Konz-Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Konz-Tatman gave updates on the recent awards given by KDE. The Kentucky Education Support Staff Awards were given to Paula Rust of Kenton County and Velda Kissick of Rowan County. The award was created in 2020 by Gov. Andy Beshear and Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman to recognize the state's more than 46,000 classified school employees. Kevin Dailey, a social studies teacher at Ballyshannon Middle School (Boone County), received the Milken Family Foundation National Educator award. The Milken Educator Awards provide public recognition and individual financial rewards of \$25,000 to elementary and secondary school

teachers, principals and specialists from around the country who are furthering excellence in education.

**Agenda Item:** Kentucky Board of Education Update

**Presenter:** Meredith Brewer, Ph.D., Director of Education Policy, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Brewer shared updates on the application process for the ex-officio non-voting student member and teacher member on the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE). The student must be a public high school student from the 4th congressional district and a rising sophomore. The teacher must be from the 6th congressional district. Brewer said she wants to ensure that a student member is part of the board.

The application review subcommittees for both students and teachers were shared. The subcommittees will receive applications, along with a rubric to score them. Three applicants will be selected to be sent to KBE. KBE also will have a subcommittee to review applicants and make final recommendations to the board.

Brewer said no student applications have been received and the deadline is March 7. She called on the council members to reach out to anyone they know who may be interested in applying.

**Feedback:**

Soleila Elliot Gonzalez asked what steps have been taken to spread the word, how they can reach out to people, and how the application process last year differs from this year. Brewer said the student was selected by the council last year. She said she has been calling student representatives and giving information to school guidance counselors. A video from the current KBE student member, Solyana Mesfin, was shared to KDE social media. Brewer recommended students share the information within their schools if they are in the 4th congressional district or know someone who is.

Gonzalez asked if this could be shared with the teacher newsletter. Brewer said yes. They also will be sharing the information with the Commissioner's Teacher Advisory Council (TAC).

**Agenda Item:** 2022 Impact Kentucky Results

**Presenter:** Bryon Darnall, Ed.D., Associate Commissioner, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Darnall began by asking the students what books they are currently reading. Students gave responses in the chat. He asked how many students have made decisions regarding their next steps after high school. Many students said they are going to college but haven't decided where.

He then explained that KDE released [results for the 2022 Impact Kentucky survey](#), which is a survey for certified staff such as teachers, counselors, etc. The survey includes a series of questions regarding school environments and working conditions for staff. The initial survey was given in 2020 and is meant to be given in two-year cycles. The next survey will be given in 2024. In 2021, 38,179 responses were recorded.

Darnall said out of all responses, 48% felt favorable toward emotional well-being and belonging. He said he wanted to share the data because he knows the members understand the importance of these results. He said the system should be serving these teachers and students and giving them the experiences and skills that they need to thrive. He said while it is unfortunate to keep going back to these heavy pieces of information, he is grateful for the support of the students.

**Agenda Item:** Legislative Update

**Presenter:** Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:**

Perry provided the members with updates on the General Assembly and Senate seats up for re-election this year. He explained the General Assembly has 60-day sessions in even years and 30-day sessions in odd years and outlined the legislative process for budget bills. He said the lowest numbered bills are always top priority, such as [House Bill 1](#) (HB 1).

Enacted bills were shared, including [House Bill 5](#) (HB 5), the WEST KY SAFE Fund, which includes tornado relief measures and \$30 million for local school districts. He also presented multiple House and Senate bills of interest.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:18 a.m. ET**