

**SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT DECEMBER 2023
MEETING**



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSIONER'S PRINCIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (PrAC)
SUMMARY**

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Anne Cox, Amy Rhodes, Brian Eerenberg, Jarrod Hankins, Catrina McDermott, Wayne Ackerman, Annmarie Landry, Matt Shafer, Peggy Sinclair-Morris and Nick Brooks

ABSENT: Erika Bowles, Ashley Burd, Beth Davidson, Kevin Garner, Sara Kise, Carla Kolodey, Robert Lightning and Sarah Woodford

SUMMARY:

Agenda Item: Welcome

Presenter: Stacy Noah, Principal Advisory Council (PrAC) Liaison, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion:

Noah welcomed the group and explained that she would be facilitating the meeting until a new PrAC chairperson was selected. Suzanne Farmer, the previous PrAC chairperson, is no longer a member of the council as she has transitioned to a new job and does not meet PrAC membership requirements.

Agenda Item: Roll Call of Members

Presenter: Stacy Noah, PrAC Liaison, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion:

Noah called out each member's name and confirmation of attendance was obtained.

Agenda Item: Approve Agenda

Presenter: Stacy Noah, PrAC Liaison, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion:

Anne Cox made a motion to approve the agenda. Amy Rhodes made a second. All members verified approval by responding in the chat.

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Stacy Noah, PrAC Liaison, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion:

Anne Cox made a motion to approve the summary from the last meeting, seconded by Wayne Ackerman. All members verified approval by responding in the chat.

Agenda Item: Selection of New PrAC Chairperson

Presenter: Stacy Noah , PrAC Liaison, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion: Noah explained the responsibilities of the PrAC chairperson position and that the council members are the ones who determine the process to be used to name a new chairperson. Members suggested opening it up to someone to volunteer to serve. Brian Eerenberg volunteered to serve as chairperson.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Portrait of a Learner

Presenter: Sarah Snipes, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Summary of Discussion:

Snipes heard feedback from principals on the statewide Portrait of a Learner and efforts to implement portraits in their districts.

Portrait of a Learner is an agreed-upon set of school- or district-level aspirations for what every learner should know and be able to do when they leave school.

Carina McDermott, principal at Pineville Independent School, said her district recently developed a Portrait of a Learner after having a Portrait of a Graduate system in place for a few years, and they are currently developing performance assessment systems and designing instruction for vibrant learning experiences.

“We created benchmarks or milestones for each grade level, and the teachers actually got to choose what they wanted to do and what their rubric would look like and what their performance task would be,” she said.

Cox said her school, which teaches preschool through 3rd grade, must be slow and deliberate with their Portrait of a Learner because of how young the students are, “but by the end of the year, you can see that the instruction is working.”

KDE recently published a new [Portrait of a Learner guidance document](#) to help districts with the development of competencies, performance outcomes and indicators.

As of Sept. 6:

- 59 districts had finalized a set of competencies,
- 30 districts are developing a set of competencies;
- 18 districts are considering developing competencies;
- Five districts are not considering developing competencies; and
- 62 districts remain unknown as to their status.

Any districts that are interested in providing information about their implementation of Portrait of a Learner should use [the Kentucky Districts with Graduate Skills/Competencies Google Form](#).

Feedback:

Annemarie Landry shared magnets that her district uses to promote awareness of the connections and daily instruction.

Agenda Item: Principal Support Events

Presenter: Keith Griesser, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Griesser thanked three members of PrAC (Nick Brooks, Brian Eerenberg and Catrina McDermott) for participating in a Q&A panel at the New Principal Cohort Kickoff. Overview information about an upcoming professional experience for assistant principals was shared with the group. Members were asked to provide suggestions for the January EdCamp and were also encouraged to present a session at the event. An open invitation was provided to the group to give feedback regarding what is missing on the professional calendar of events for principals.

Feedback:

None

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

Presenter: JoAnn Adams, Kentucky Board of Education Member

Summary of Discussion:

Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) member JoAnn Adams asked council members what qualities they want in a new education commissioner and what that new commissioner's priorities should be.

Nick Brooks, principal at Wolfe County Middle School, said he wants to see someone who plans to be commissioner long term.

"Somebody that can work with people from different ideologies and really wants to be here and wants to be here long term so that they can push that vision through," he said.

Several principals spoke about improving efforts to recruit students to become teachers, mentioning efforts like [Educators Rising](#) as something they would like to see more of.

"It would be nice to have somebody that will help build the environment, make it stronger for students who are coming out of high school to want to join the teaching profession," said Wayne Ackerman, principal at Russell County Middle School.

Ackerman also voiced approval of the additional career and technical education (CTE) pathway for teaching and learning, saying that making it easier to become a teacher and creating a supportive environment around teaching will be crucial.

KDE operates the Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) and the Kentucky School for the Deaf (KSD). KSB Principal Peggy Sinclair-Morris said having a commissioner with a deep understanding of special education will be important.

"I mean, that's all that I deal with, but I think out in the districts, we're seeing more and more complex kids and more and more special needs," she said.

Equity also was a concern among the principals. Anne Cox, principal at Reidland Elementary School (McCracken County), said many young learners do not come into school on equal footing with their peers, and having a commissioner who can think through that issue is important.

"Some of our kids have not been exposed to anything (educational) prior to setting foot into kindergarten, and it makes it very difficult to make it so that all of our students are capable of achieving their highest level," she said. "And it's a lot to put on some of our younger grade-level teachers."

Brooks said with how districts are funded currently, the new commissioner needs to focus on resolving inequities between districts.

Feedback:

Members were appreciative of the website link that will be used to post updates about the search.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Stacy Noah, PrAC Liaison, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness

Summary of Discussion:

Nick Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Matt Shafer. Approval was noted by all via the chat.