



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PRINCIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY

JUNE 13, 2024

Members Present: Erika Bowles, Nick Brooks, Anne Cox, Brian Eerenberg, Sara Kise, Robert Lightning, Amy Rhodes

Members Absent: Ashley Burd, Beth Davidson, Kevin Garner, Tanya Jury, Jarrod Hankins, Carla Kolodey, Ann-Maire Landry, Catrina McDermott, Amy Rhodes, Matt Shafer, Peggy Sinclair-Morris, Sarah Woodford

Agenda Item: Welcome

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

Summary of Discussion: Kinney shared that Robbie Fletcher, former superintendent from Lawrence County, will officially assume the role of commissioner of education on July 1. Also, Kinney commended principals for the dedication shown during the 2023-2024 school year. Statewide literacy efforts were also shared.

Agenda Item: Approve Agenda

Presenter: Brian Eerenberg, Principal Advisory Council (PrAC), Chairperson, Boyd County Schools

Summary of Discussion: Anne Cox made a motion to approve the agenda. Nick Brooks made a second. Members used the chat to approve.

Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Brian Eerenberg, Principal Advisory Council, Chairperson, Boyd County Schools

Summary of Discussion: Sara Kise made a motion to approve the summary minutes from the March 2024 meeting. Amy Rhodes made a second. Members used the chat to approve.

Agenda Item: 2024 Legislative Overview

Presenter: Sarah Peace, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: The council heard an update on recent actions from the 2024 Legislative Session. Sarah Peace provided details on specific legislation of interest to principals. Peace focused her presentation on the following:

- House Bill 162, the Kentucky Numeracy Counts Act
- House Bill 535, Civic literacy high school graduation requirement
- Senate Bill 167, Cursive writing

A review of the supplemental resources available on the KDE's legislative guidance webpage was the closing portion of the presentation. Peace invited the PrAC members to ask clarifying questions.

Feedback: Nick Brooks, PrAC member, inquired about availability of funding for the required screeners referenced in House Bill 162. Peace was unsure about the funding but stated she would take the question back to her division for a definitive answer.

Agenda Item: Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) Updates

Presenter: Chrystal Rowland, Jessica Greene, Erica Baker and Amanda Prewitt, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Chrystal Rowland, director of Program Standards, explained the Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 158.6453 that calls for KDE to implement a process for the review of all academic standards. The schedule calls for one or two content areas to be reviewed each year and every six years thereafter on a rotating basis. Jessica Greene, Visual and Performing Arts consultant, shared some highlights of the KAS for Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) revision process. Implementation supports and professional learning are currently being designed and will be rolled out alongside the standards when they become law.

The KAS for Health and Physical Education Standards are also open for review. The Advisory Panel and Review Committee are working on a draft in response to the public comment period. In the fall, it is likely the draft revision of the Health and Physical Education standards will be ready for another 30-day public comment period. When that time comes, a press release will be issued and widespread messaging to promote feedback from teachers, leaders, students, families and members of the general public.

In 2025, three more content areas are up for review. Those content areas are Reading and Writing, Social Studies and Mathematics.

Science consultants, Erica Baker and Amanda Prewitt, shared some of the resources and professional learning opportunities that they recently released around the KAS for Science. The two newest modules are focused on supporting students. The module titles are Sense Making with Equitable Discourse and Increasing Student Engagement using the Driving Question Board. Both modules include a focus on highly effective and commonly used instructional strategies that are found in high quality instructional resources in science. Virtual workshops for teachers are scheduled to work through these professional learning modules with teachers.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Read to Succeed Updates.

Presenter: Christie Biggerstaff, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Biggerstaff provided updates about various literacy initiatives implemented since the Read to Succeed Act passed in 2022. One of the newest initiatives is the statewide literacy coaching model. Biggerstaff shared that 24 state literacy specialists will be working in schools with the greatest need to partner with teachers to enhance literacy instruction. The coaches will work alongside classroom teachers. Biggerstaff also encouraged PrAC members to support teachers in applying for the Cohort 3 Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Professional Learning opportunity and LETRS for Administrators the professional learning for administrators. Currently, over 4,000 administrators and educators are part of the LETRS cohort and participants have responded positively about the experience. Registration for Cohort 3 closes in August.

She also spoke to the members about the 2024 Kentucky Reads to Succeed Summer Conference, which will be held June 20 at the Central Bank Center in Lexington. The conference registration is now closed, but they are currently accepting people to be placed on a waitlist. It is free to Kentucky K-12 public educators and will offer focused learning paths to meet the needs of teachers and administrators.

Biggerstaff asked the PrAC members for feedback regarding the various literacy initiatives.

Feedback: None. Anne Cox, PrAC member, shared the extensive benefits she has experienced because of participating in the LETRS for Administrators course. She encouraged all principals to take part in the professional learning experience.

Agenda Item: Guidance Implications with using Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a Learning Partner

Presenter: Marty Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Education Technology, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Park spoke to the members about using smart technologies and how to implement these resources within their classrooms.

He said AI is a vast field encompassing various technologies that allow computers to mimic human intelligence. Generative AI (GenAI) tools have the potential to be potent tools for education, but it is essential to be aware of their limitations.

Park encourages educators to engage in and empower safe, secure and responsible use of AI to improve their schools' efficiency and the learning space for teachers and students. He said AI can potentially enhance the learning experience and transform the way educators teach. Kentucky is the fifth state to release an [Artificial Intelligence Guidance Brief](#). This is a living document that Park said the Office of Education Technology will continue to update as they learn more about this emerging technology. Inside the guidance brief, he encourages educators

to use many sections as a resource, such as the purpose, definition of AI and incorporating principles.

Park encouraged PrAC members to ask questions about AI and implementation practices.

Feedback: Erica Bowles, PrAC member, asked for recommendations of AI tools if the district permits. No specific recommendations were given, but Park emphasized the need to confirm data use agreements in conjunction with any possible purchase.

Agenda Item: United We Learn Council Updates

Presenter: Karen Dodd, Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Dodd began by sharing actions that were taken during the April convening of the United We Learn Council. During the April session, the following actions were taken: Council charter approved, Jim Flynn elected as council vice chair, reviewed roadmap, reviewed design principles and formed work groups.

Dodd highlighted the group's Journey to the Moon graphic showing the steps planned to reach the goal of an Approved Reimagined Accountability System for Kentucky by Summer 2026. She reviewed the progression of work that spans from summer 2024 to fall 2025 to "reach the moon" and explained the design principles connected to each level of the project.

The TAC members were invited to ask questions and provide feedback.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Principal Advisory Council Membership Application

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

Summary of Discussion: Noah shared that the term of several members would be expiring in December 2024. In anticipation of filling the vacancies, Noah asked PrAC members to review the current application to ensure the application accurately reflects the work of the PrAC.

Feedback: Erica Bowles suggested adding the meeting dates to the application so that those considering applying could check for district conflicts.

Agenda Item: Principal Wellbeing Project

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

Summary of Discussion: Noah shared that the Principal Partnership Project (P3) was almost ready to roll out a new support that focuses on principal wellbeing. PrAC members were asked to review a one-pager that summarizes the project and includes all the links necessary to participate. PrAC members were asked to make a video and submit it to the video bank by Aug. 30.

Feedback: PrAC members were complimentary of the project and expressed their willingness to participate by making a video.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Brian Eerenberg, PrAC Chairperson, Ponderosa Elementary School, Boyd County

Summary of Discussion: Nick Brooks made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sara Kise made a second to adjourn. Members noted agreement in the chat.