



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Principals' Advisory Council (PrAC)
SUMMARY
OCT. 8, 2020

PrAC Members Present: Byron Darnall, Lester Diaz, Melanie Erwin, Tamala Howard, Bryne Jacobs, Michael Kelley, Peggy Sinclair-Morris, Darla Payne, Kym Rice, Michelle Ritchie, Jerri Rowland, Shervita West-Jordan

PrAC Leadership Present: Jason Glass, Paul Prater, Jenny Ray

KDE Guests Present: Rob Akers, Todd Davis, Karen Dodd, Jennifer Ginn, Misty Higgins, Carrie McDaniels, Jacob Perkins, Eve Proffitt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Hutchison, Robert King, Lisa Perdue, Toyah Robey

WELCOME: Commissioner of Education Jason Glass welcomed the group and thanked the PrAC members for joining the meeting. He expressed the importance of feedback from the group and how delighted he was to know the group as well as many others existed. He asked each member in the meeting to introduce themselves. He talked about the work we have at hand including managing and mitigating COVID-19 including addressing closings due to the virus and supporting districts in making good decisions based on their reality. He stressed the important focus that we must have on anti-racism education and equity. He also talked about the impact of budget reductions both current and anticipated future cuts. He emphasized not cutting any programs that have direct impact on students. He discussed in the future that he would love to have conversations about "What could school be?" and he was excited about the future of education in Kentucky. He ended the time with the advisory group by fielding questions and comments and shared information about a simple survey being conducted by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

Agenda Item: Review Minutes from Last Meeting

Presenter: Jenny Ray, KDE, PrAC Liaison

Summary of Discussion: Motion was made to approve the minutes from the fourth quarter, July 2020 meeting. A second was made. The minutes were approved by consensus.

Feedback: None

Follow-up Required: None

Agenda Item: Request to Waive Section 2(2)(g) of 704 KAR 3:370, Kentucky Framework for Personnel Evaluation

Presenter: Todd Davis, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, KDE Division of Educator Licensure and Quality

Summary of Discussion: The waiver to extend or change the evaluation orientation and other evaluation requirements outlined in 704 KAR 3:370 was shared that would allow districts to modify the timeline requiring an evaluation orientation to occur within thirty (30) calendar days from the first day of employment for all employees as well as the other requirements around evaluations - districts would be granted the ability to make changes as needed and would only need board approval to make changes this year .

Questions & Concerns: A comment was made about the difficulty in collecting data from videoed or virtual teaching that would be what could be collected in a face-to-face “observation.” Information about the Danielson Remote Teaching Framework resource was shared as well as the date of an upcoming training.

Follow-up Required: None

Agenda Item: Feedback on New Instructional Resources for Teachers

Presenters: Misty Higgins & Carrie McDaniel, Office of Teaching and Learning, KDE Division of Program Standards

Summary of Discussion: The KAS 3 Year Implementation Plan was shared. The Kentucky Academic Standards homepage was shared and an overview was provided (www.kystandards.org). All the resources and materials that are available on the webpage were highlighted. The distance learning playbook was shared and resources to assist with improving distance learning in our state. The group was asked which KAS resources were the most helpful and being used. The group was then asked what topics or resources were needed.

Feedback: Collaboration, whether virtual or face-to-face, was shared as a difficulty for schools. Strategies or ideas for allowing students and teachers to collaborate was a requested area of support.

Follow-up Required: None

Agenda Item: COVID-19 Updates with the Kentucky Department for Public Health: School Re-entry Metric

Presenter: Dr. Connie White, deputy commissioner for Clinical Affairs, Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH)

Summary of Discussion: White extended a thank-you to the council for allowing her and the department to be a part of the meeting. She shared how great it was to hear Glass mention a

focus on inequity. We are stabilizing in some ways except the number of COVID-19 cases. Data on cases by week over the last few months were shared with the council. Information was shared about pre-July 4 and post-July 4 as well as what decisions were made, what restrictions were put in place, and why. She also shared where we are now after the Labor Day weekend and the increases in COVID-19. She shared some of the available resources and information that is available on the state's COVID-19 webpage (<https://govstatus.egov.com/kycovid19>). The current incidence rate map for Kentucky by county was shared from the COVID-19 webpage for the state. An overview of the green, yellow, orange, and red color coding of the counties in our state was provided. The K-12 School Self Reporting Data Dashboard was shared and explained how it was to be used by schools. She explained why the self reporting data and the public health report from DPH will be different and lagged as the health department works to confirm reported cases and update records. The COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education was shared and discussed. This document is color coded and the four (4) colors were explained and how districts are to use the information to guide their decisions each week on whether to do virtual, face-to-face, or hybrid learning the following week.

Feedback: A question was asked about self-reporting and when it started. A question was raised about whether students in a virtual setting are required to report information. White shared that if the student was in contact with other students through sports or school events and potentially came in contact with the virus due to this and possibly exposed other students to the virus then they should report. A request was made to hear about metrics in counties with a large university in the county. White commented that other counties have similar issues with large factories, colleges, nursing homes, prisons, and other “large” entities and the data should be included with the county because the large entity is still part of the community and the related data should not be excluded or reported separately.

Follow-up Required: None

Agenda Item: Feedback on how back-to-school is going so far

Presenter: Jenny Ray, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, KDE Division of Educator Preparation and Certification

Summary of Discussion: The council members were asked the following two questions: *How is it going for teachers using participation vs. attendance? What can you share about your experiences so far with hybrid, remote or face-to face?*

Feedback: Council members responded to these two questions and shared with each other and shared positive examples and challenges under the new norm we have in our schools. Accountability for students participating with all teachers instead of a few was discussed. The barrier that teachers sometimes forget about virtual students was shared. It was also shared that it is challenging to make contact with students who aren't engaging, especially high schools and ATCs. It was shared that the discomfort created by the pandemic has made schools get better. Teachers are thinking outside of the box and working harder and have gotten better. Council members shared some information about hybrid learning environments and “forcing” schools and leaders to learn more about their families and staff and build stronger relationships. Some students that haven't in the past are now thriving in the “new norm” while others are “lost.” The

same is true for teachers. An advisory member shared that lack of internet / technology is a huge concern, motivation is a concern, and that providing instructional support is not the same. Some students choose virtual but have no support system. They are falling behind.

Follow-up Required: None.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Presenter: Jenny Ray

Summary of Discussion: Motion and second was made to adjourn. All members in agreement.

Feedback: None.

Follow-up Required: None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m. (ET)

COMM: JGG