



**Kentucky Department of Education  
Principal Advisory Council  
Summary**

**September 5, 2024**

**Members Present:** Nick Brooks, Anne Cox, Brian Eerenberg, Sara Kise, Robert Lightning, Jarrod Hankins, Lynn Petrey and Peggy Sinclair-Morris

**Members Absent:** Beth Davidson, Kevin Garner, Carla Kolodey, Amy Rhodes and Matt Shafer

**Agenda Item: Welcome**

**Presenter:** Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner  
Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Commissioner Fletcher opened the meeting by welcoming the group and thanking them for their service.

**Agenda Item: Approve Agenda**

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Nick Brooks made a motion to approve the agenda. Peggy Sinclair-Morris made a second. Members verbally expressed agreement.

**Agenda Item: Approve Summary from Last Meeting**

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Ann Cox made a motion to approve the summary minutes from the June 2024 meeting. Sara Kise made a second. Members verbally expressed agreement.

**Agenda Item: Supporting Aspiring and Veteran Principals**

**Presenter:** Danielle Pickens, Chief Program Officer  
Urban Schools Human Capital Academy

**Summary of Discussion:** Pickens shared supports and resources developed by a workgroup that targets school leaders based on key needs the group determined were priority areas for principals. The finding included: scattered and insufficient support for principals, supports primarily focused on new principals and increasing principal turnover. The PrAC members were given time to complete a survey that provided feedback around additional supports needed to address the identified needs.

**Feedback:** Nick Brooks, PrAC member, expressed gratitude to the workgroup for recognizing the different types of supports needed for veteran versus new principals. He encouraged the group to always keep experienced principals in the forefront of supports that are designed. Peggy Sinclair-Morris suggested specifying feedback for those principals who began during the pandemic and those who did not.

**Agenda Item: Family Partnership Council's Recommendations to the Kentucky Department of Education**

**Presenter:** Marsha VanHook  
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support  
Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** VanHook shared overview information about the Family Partnership Council's purpose, role, resources and recent recommendations to increase the relationship and communication between the school and family/community. One such recommendation highlighted during the session was the call for Success Stories. PrAC members were encouraged to fill out a form that collects success stories about school/family/community partnerships.

**Feedback:** None

**Agenda Item: School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Updates**

**Presenter:** Mia Morales  
Office of Continuous Improvement and Support  
Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** Morales provided an overview of available resources the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) offers to support principals in facilitating SBDM meetings. A review of the SBDM Handbook, which is updated regularly, was conducted. Some of the most viewed components of the handbook include sample policies and bylaws, a minority election flowchart, general election information, and frequently asked questions. Other resources referenced were the One Pager Series that focused on most asked topics, training requirements and the SBDM Technical Documents Webpage. Morales ended with questioning the PrAC members about additional resources or supports that would be helpful for SBDM chairs.

**Feedback:** Sara Kise, PrAC member, suggested a resource be made that could be shared with parents interested in possibly serving as a parent representative on the SBDM council. She noted parents are unsure of the role and responsibilities of serving and felt like a document that provides clarity on the position would be helpful.

**Agenda Item: Chronic Absenteeism**

**Presenter:**  
Florence Chang & Judi Vanderhaar  
Division of Student Success

Jennifer Ginn  
Division of Communications

**Summary of Discussion:** Chang shared data on chronic absenteeism and acknowledged the issue was not only troubling in Kentucky but nationally and internationally as well. Kentucky defines chronic absenteeism as missing 10% or more of the enrolled academic year for any reason (excused and unexcused). She shared a graphic that illustrated the huge increase in chronic absenteeism before and after the pandemic.

Data indicates chronic absenteeism is an issue for all grades and student groups. To address the issue, the KDE has implemented several initiatives. A statewide campaign to bring awareness to the issue has kicked off in August and a webpage of resources has been developed to provide support to schools/districts. KDE representatives asked PrAC members for suggestions on mid-year campaign ideas.

**Feedback:** Brian Eerenberg, PrAC Chairperson, commended the KDE team for the focus on student ownership as part of the attendance campaign efforts.

**Agenda Item: Kentucky Educator Mentor Program**

**Presenter:** Todd Davis  
Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness  
Kentucky Department of Education

**Summary of Discussion:** In response to Senate Bill 256, passed during the last session, a new mentorship program was approved. All Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP) language was repealed, and the mentor program was created. A variety of stakeholders convened multiple times to develop a guidance document to support highly effective mentor programs in schools/district. Davis shared the guidance document and encouraged PrAC members to review the resource and share with others.

**Feedback:** None.

**Agenda Item: Principal Advisory Council (PrAC) Membership Application**

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Chair Eerenberg shared the PrAC application is live and encouraged members to share and recruit members to serve.

**Feedback:** None.

**Agenda Item: Adjournment**

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

**Summary of Discussion:** Ann Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Robert Lightning made a second to adjourn. Members verbally agreed to adjourn.

**Future Meeting Dates**

December 3, 2024  
March 4, 2025  
June 3, 2025