

Superintendents' Advisory Council (SAC)  
March 9, 2020 Minutes

**Present:** Kevin C. Brown (KDE Interim Commissioner), Casey Allen, Robin Cochran, Kay Dixon, Scott Hawkins, Scott Howard, Mark Kopp, Tres Settle

**Absent:** Dr. Houston Barber, Alvin Garrison, Jerry Green, Mike Lafavers, Marty Pollio, Terry Price, Matt Robins, Dr. David Rust, Greg Schultz, and Robb Smith

**Presenters:** Amanda Ellis, Rob Akers, Meredith Brewer, Robin Kinney, Charlie Harman, and Rhonda Sims

**I. Welcome and Overview**

Interim Commissioner Kevin C. Brown opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance. Prior to Dr. Ellis's presentation on Early Literacy, he reminded superintendents that the KDE provided guidance to superintendents via email yesterday (Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>) regarding Coronavirus and that this would be further addressed during the Superintendent's Webcast scheduled for the afternoon of March 9<sup>th</sup>.

**II. Early Literacy**

Dr. Amanda Ellis presented information on early literacy and explained why literacy is a focus for KDE and Kentucky's schools. Likewise, it was shared there are currently two bills that have been dropped in this legislative session (House Bill [HB] 488 and Senate Bill [SB] 214) related to literacy. Both bills have the same language and outline comprehensive actions to improve early literacy outcomes related to early intervention and instruction, reading improvement plans, teacher certification, state professional learning support strategies, and family and community engagement. The KDE has looked to Mississippi for guidance on how that state is tackling reading proficiency. There are several KDE initiatives to assist with literacy: revised Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS), Read to Achieve (RTA) grant, Striving Readers' grant, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), Summer Reading Program, partnership with the Governor's Office of Early Childhood, and professional learning mini-grants.

**III. goTEACHKY and Impact Kentucky Survey**

Dr. Meredith Brewer and Associate Commissioner Rob Akers shared information regarding the Impact Kentucky Survey and indicated the window to complete the survey recently closed. This survey replaced the state's previous working conditions survey (TELL). Impact Kentucky allows school stakeholders a chance to express their opinions and provides an opportunity for school leadership to better understand what is going on in each building and a chance to respond to the data and adjust course. It was also noted that more schools than ever participated in the survey. Dr. Brewer and Mr. Akers also shared that they are thrilled with the progress of GoTeachKY, which is KDE's educator recruitment initiative. GoTeachKY has twelve teacher ambassadors across the state working to recruit the next generation of Kentucky educators through direct

support of Educators Rising and the Teaching and Learning CTE Pathway and promotion of the profession through social media and in-person engagements. GoTeachKY's website (goteachky.com) highlights both traditional pathways to certification (through educator preparation programs) as well as alternative pathways through the eight approved options.

#### **IV. Budget Briefing**

Charlie Harman, Director of Budgets and Financial Management, and Robin Kinney, Associate Commissioner of the Office of Finance and Operations, shared updates on House Bill (HB) 352, which outlines the Governor's proposed budget. The bill passed the House and is currently with the Senate. Some of the budget bill's highlights include the SEEK funding base at \$4061 per student in FY21 and \$4112 per student in FY22. Funding for classified and certified staff, guidance counselors, instructional supplies, textbooks, et al. was included in the proposed budget. Likewise, funding for numerous grant programs was also included (i.e. Extended School Services [ESS], FRYSC, etc....). Funding was not provided for professional development programs, the Commonwealth School Improvement Fund, or the Kentucky Teacher Internship Program (KTIP).

#### **V. Open Discussion and Feedback**

- a. Rhonda Sims, Associate Commissioner from the Office of Assessment and Accountability, discussed Senate Bill (SB) 158. Rhonda shared that the current proposed legislation is a modified version of California's accountability model. The proposed changes in SB 158 would impact how Kentucky identifies its CSI and TSI schools and would require the department to provide a list of KBE approved vendors to conduct audits and/or serve as turnaround teams in our CSI schools. It was noted that the KDE has served as a model around the country with how we audit and assist with turnaround in CSI schools.
- b. The search for Kentucky's next Commissioner of Education has been delayed for a few weeks and the search will begin in earnest on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Interested parties may be nominated, apply, or the vendor will conduct its own search for viable candidates.
- c. Senate Bill 10, which was introduced into the 2020 legislative would redefine the state board of education. If the bill were to become law, this would impact the new board's make-up; however, some members would be eligible for reappointment.