



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Teachers Advisory Council (TAC) SUMMARY

MARCH 23, 2021

Present: Stephanie Beason, Angela Beavin, Chanda Britt, Miles Johnson, Laney Neal, Noraa Ransey, Beverly Rutledge, Kim Saylor, Bryanna Shelby, Taylor Sullivan, John Whipple

Absent: Tiffany Dunn, Allen Hensley, Jennifer Howard, Quentin Johnson, Abigail Nash, Garris Stroud, Carrie Walters

Welcome: Stacy Noah, TAC liaison, Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) welcomed everyone and brought the meeting to order.

Agenda Item: Review and Approve Minutes from Last Meeting

Presenter: Stacy Noah

Summary of Discussion:

Motion to approve: Chanda Britt, second: Bryanna Shelby; minutes were approved by consensus.

Feedback: None

Follow-up Required: None

Agenda Item: Amendments to 701 KAR 5:100, SBDM Councils

Presenter: Kelly Foster, associate commissioner, KDE Office of Continuous Improvement and Support Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion:

Foster presented updates to the regulation including: alternative models (Section 2), exemptions (Section 3), training of members (Section 4), database (Section 5), and incorporation of additional non-voting members by reference (Section 6).

Feedback: None.

Follow-up Required: Noah reiterated that members could choose to provide feedback and ask questions using the electronic Exit Slip, after the meeting.

Agenda Item: Spring 2021 State Assessment

Presenter: Jennifer Larkins, program consultant, KDE Office of Assessment and Accountability

Summary of Discussion:

Information about the U.S. Department of Education’s guidance for spring summative testing for states. The anticipated accountability waiver would not provide exemption from public reporting of disaggregated performance and participation rate data, while accountability measures and 95% participation rates are expected to be waived. Tentative test windows were reviewed including the addition of a fourth test window cycle that would run from May 5 through May 11 for ACT. This additional window is not shown on the slide because it is new information released after the slides were submitted. The Social Studies Field Test at grades 5, 8, and 11 is being discussed. Surveys have been sent to District Assessment Coordinators (DACs) to measure interest in participating in the field test. State Assessment Guidance resources were shared, including information about a FAQ, that will be available in the coming weeks. Contact information was shared.

Feedback:

A question was raised if there are any numbers about students across the state who are not reporting to school virtually or in person. The answer was not available.

Follow-up Required:

Noah reiterated that members could choose to provide feedback and ask questions using the electronic Exit Slip, after the meeting.

Agenda Item: KDE Efforts to Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Presenters: Damien Sweeney, program coordinator, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning; and Thomas Woods-Tucker, chief equity officer and deputy commissioner, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning

Summary of Discussion:

Sweeney began with a mindfulness activity. Woods-Tucker read a quote from the “I Have a Dream” speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The council was asked to reflect on the quote. The council was reminded that KDE has identified four priorities in its Strategic Plan: Equity, Achievement, Collaboration and Integrity. The Kentucky Board of Education’s (KBE’s) resolution on the subject was shared. The question was posed, “How do we take care of the social and emotional needs of our students, staff and administrators at this time?” Utilizing resources of professional staff and community partners was emphasized. Ongoing equity-related initiatives were shared. Kentucky Academic Standards implementation, CCSSO High-Quality Instructional Resources Professional Learning Project, MTSS Cross-Agency KDE Project, Equitable Practices/Policy Scan, Funding for the Kentucky Academy for Equity in Teaching, and

engagement with national expert, Roger Cleveland- were some of the initiatives showcased. The creation of an Equity Toolkit and Equity Playbook will be released soon. Data from the equity and inclusion scan was shared.

Feedback: Comments about willingness to serve as mentors/ambassadors were mentioned in the chat feature of Teams. Additionally, it was shared that teachers have been working to ensure lessons are inclusive and have faced some pushback, in return. Regarding SEL being owned by everyone, participants responded that time and additional learning is needed. It was shared that schools must be safe havens for students. Presenter contact information was shared.

Follow-up Required:

Noah reiterated that members could choose to provide feedback and ask questions using the electronic Exit Slip, after the meeting. Additionally, Noah stated that she has already asked for this topic to be continued at the next meeting in June.

Agenda Item: Address from the Commissioner of Education

Presenter: Jason Glass, commissioner of education

Summary of Discussion:

The commissioner provided legislative updates:

1. **Budget:** Flat budget for next year, no increases, but we will continue to advocate for funding.
2. **House Bill (HB) 178 Makeup of the State Board of Education:** More balanced demographically and non-partisan; diminishes the power of the governor to affect the partisan makeup of the board. As the bill progressed, the Senate removed the teacher and student members, and ultimately, the teacher and student were put back onto the board when the House did not concur with this omission. KBE is asking that this bill be signed.
3. **Senate Bill (SB) 128:** Extra year of eligibility bill; students may repeat the year and add one year of athletic eligibility, as well. Questions about the impact on graduation rates and other questions are still being addressed.
4. **HB 563 Education Choice Bill:** Interdistrict school choice to parents in absence of districts' agreement. While the commissioner expressed support for the concept of public school choice, the concern is that the language for this bill is underdeveloped. This could cause funding concerns that could cause court challenges around recruitment or students being pushed out. The current language within the bill may provide advantages to the out-of-district students, which causes concern. The other half of the bill addresses private school tuition tax credits. An individual or a corporation makes a donation to an account granting organization which then files with the Department of Revenue, then they can start accepting these donations. A tax credit is then granted to the entity providing the tax deduction for the amount of the donation. Furthermore, the account granting organization then distributes these funds to any number of education service providers, including private entities. It is unclear how students and families gain access to these funds. Additional questions arise around the process and how the entities are vetted and the quality assurance around the education providers. KBE has asked for a veto of this bill.

The commissioner closed with his appreciation for the teachers.

Feedback: No questions, comments, or opinions were shared regarding the legislative updates. Appreciation was expressed to the commissioner for this public communication.

Follow-up Required:

None suggested.

Agenda Item: Announcements

Presenter: Stacy Noah

Summary of Discussion:

Commissioner's Virtual Tour dates, TAC application process, and the 2021-2022 TAC meeting dates were shared. (Sept. 21, 2021, Dec. 14, 2021, March 15, 2022, and June 14, 2022)

Recognition of TAC members who will be rotating off the council after serving their three-year terms: Stephanie Beason, Miles Johnson, Lainey Neal, Noraa Ransey, Garris Stroud, Carrie Walters, and John Whipple

Next meeting date is June 17, 2021 (date change)

The exit slip was shared in chat.

Feedback: No comments were given.

Follow-up Required: None suggested

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Motion: Noraa Ransey; Second: Bryanna Shelby; All members in agreement.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m. (ET)
