



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSIONER'S STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
SUMMARY
FEB. 28, 2023**

PRESENT: (22 members present) Charleigh Browning, Hunter Combs, Joud Dahleh, Delaney Daugherty, Justin Dunning, Raima Dutt, Peter M. Jefferson, Shraman Kar, Vijaykumar Karthikeyan, Loren Little, Ella Luking, Anastasia Panaretos, Spandana Pavuluri, Alexandra Perry, Tanvi Rakesh, Chloe Ralston, Sophia Retone, Luke Taylor, Malley Taylor, Sarah Umbarger, Bentley White

ABSENT: (6 members absent) Gavin Breunig, Arnav Dharmagadda, Ollie Fegenbush, Nyla Johnson, Kalli Oblander, Amy Roblero-Perez, Sarah Yu

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: Welcome (Roll Call) and Approval Summary from Last Meeting

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Education Commissioner; Toni Konz Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Glass opened the hybrid meeting and reviewed the agenda. Konz Tatman called roll. The council approved the [Jan. 24, 2023, Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting summary](#). Motion made by Joud Dahleh and seconded by Bentley White.

Feedback: None

Agenda Item: Mindful Minute

Presenter: Heather Bushelman, Program Coordinator for Comprehensive School Counseling, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Bushelman led a check-in activity and asked students to reflect on their upcoming three-day schedule of obligations. She reminded students to focus on self-care and coping skills as ways to minimize stress and burnout.

Feedback: Students shared some of their coping skills and noted appreciation for the timely reminder to focus on self-care.

Agenda Item: Break-out Activity on How Students Consume Media

Presenters: Audrie Lamb, Information Officer; Caleb Bates, Intern, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Lamb shared information on how teens' use of social media platforms has changed since 2014 and invited students to share feedback on KDE's communications efforts and their preferred media habits. Lamb extended a standing offer to students to spotlight their student experiences on the department's social media channels or submit columns to "Kentucky Teacher," the department's flagship publication.

Feedback: Students divided into smaller breakout rooms and discussed their media consumption habits and impressions and use of KDE's communications efforts. Students remarked how messages from the agency, particularly related to United We Learn and student voice efforts, have direct impact to them.

Agenda Item: Updates re February 2023 Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Meeting

Presenter: Meredith Brewer, KDE Director of Education Policy, and, Joud Dahleh, Kentucky Board of Education Non-Voting Student Member, Ignite Institute (Boone County)

Summary of Discussion: Dahleh shared highlights from the [February 2023 KBE meeting](#), including board recognition of [two Kentucky students selected for the U.S. Senate Youth Program](#), hearing from 2023 Kentucky Teacher of the Year Mandy Perez and Dahleh's recent presentation on school connectedness and behavior management. Brewer stated that Dahleh has been a great student representative on the board. Brewer also discussed amendments to Kentucky's Accountability System approved at the KBE meeting.

Agenda Item: Update on Selection of Next Kentucky Board of Education Student Member

Presenter: Meredith Brewer, Director of Education Policy, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Brewer stated that [applications for students in Kentucky's 5th Congressional district to serve a one-year non-voting term on the Kentucky Board of Education](#) are due March 6. Applications for teacher members representing the 1st Congressional District are also being accepted. Brewer also invited Student Advisory Council members to serve on the KBE student member selection committee to recommend two or three student applications forward for the board's consideration.

Feedback: Alexandra Perry, a 12th-grade council member from Ignite Academy (Boone County), shared her experience as a member of last year's student selection committee and noted that it was important to participate in a process of using "student voice to choose the student voice" of KBE.

Agenda Item: Discussion on Student Advisory Council Projects

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Education Commissioner and Chief Learner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman commended the council for their Jan. 24 presentation of “A Focus on School Safety,” a list of council recommendations that developed following the 2022 school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Konz Tatman noted that the media presence for the council’s presentation was the most she has managed for one event during her time at KDE. Glass asked students to consider a new council project using the following framework: (1) ideation, (2) discussion and (3) decision.

Feedback: Students identified four potential project ideas, including: (1) identifying factors and considerations around post-high school transition; (2) researching contributions of early exposure to post-secondary education; (3) evaluating the effects of COVID restrictions on student mental health and academics; and (4) exploring the effect of student voice on state and local policy making.

Follow-Up: Students will rank their preferences on the project ideas in the meeting exit slip and discuss further at the next council meeting.

Agenda Item: Legislative Update

Presenter: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Commissioner and Chief Learner, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Glass discussed two main observations about the legislative session. First, he said he had hoped going into the session that there would be a focus on supports to stabilize the teaching profession but does not now find that to be the case. “I don’t think help is on the way. We’re going to have to figure out how we support each other—how educators support and take care of themselves to stay engaged and invested moving forward.” Second, he discussed a focus of the legislature on cultural issues related to parental rights and LGBTQ people and topics. “The department and I are firm in our support of all of our students and want to make sure that our public schools are welcoming and inclusive of every kind of student. We’ve been steadfast in that and will remain so,” Glass said.

Feedback: Hunter Combs, an 11th-grade student from Knott County Central High School, asked how students can help on the issue of teacher turnover. Konz Tatman encouraged students to share their comments with their state legislators and in newspaper op-eds or other media outlets.

Agenda Item: Communications Opportunities

Presenter: Toni Konz Tatman, Chief Communications Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

Summary of Discussion: Konz Tatman shared announcements, including a reminder that applications for the Commissioner’s Student Advisory Council are due March 9. The March 28 council meeting has been cancelled.

Feedback: None.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m. ET.

The next Commissioner's Student Advisory Council meeting is scheduled to take place in person April 11, at 9 a.m. ET.