

SUMMARY MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT  
**Kentucky Department of Education**  
**School Counselor Advisory Council**

**June 9, 2021**

**SUMMARY**

**Attendance:**

**Absent:**

**Agenda Item: Welcome**

**Presenter:** Commissioner Jason E. Glass, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

**Summary of Discussion:**

Glass gave an update on COVID-19 relief money that schools/districts are using. He said another pot of money is available and districts have been asked to put plans together about how to use the funds. Those plans must be submitted by the end of July to KDE. Glass provided updates on masking, vaccinations, etc. He said that he does not have any updates at this time but is hopeful that we will return to post pandemic school. Glass also discussed public health organizations and using their guidance in planning. He discussed the listening tour that he has done across the state, listening to Kentuckians about their educational experiences and input for stakeholders. Ten sessions of the listening tour have been held in English and a Spanish version will be held. Comments by Kentuckians will be compiled and released in a document this fall.

**Agenda Item: Call to Order**

**Presenter:** Damien Sweeney, program coordinator for comprehensive school counseling, KDE Office of Teaching and Learning

**Summary of Discussion:**

Sweeney welcomed the group and made introductions. He called the roll and took attendance.

**Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes**

Sarah Akin moved to approve summary minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting. Michelle Sircy seconded the motion, and council members approved the minutes unanimously.

**Agenda Item: Effective Engagement for Return to School**

**Presenter:** Miriam Silman, Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities.

**Summary of Discussion:**

- A. Discussion how to be more intentional with the tools we already have to use with students and use those tools continuously. Silman discussed using trauma informed care tools and resilience based throughout our schools. Psychological safety; consistency and predictability for staff and students. This is an ongoing endeavor, not a one-time utilization. We have to listen to our students so we can connect to our students; every second is a moment of opportunity to connect and reengage.
- B. Discussion with participants on ways we can engage and connect with students.

**Agenda Item: The School Counselor’s Role in the Trauma-Informed Plan**

**Presenter:** Christina Weeter, director, Division of Student Success, KDE Office of Continuous Improvement

**Summary of Discussion:**

[A PDF of Weeter’s presentation is linked here.](#)

**Agenda Item: Announcements**

**Presenter:** Damien Sweeney,

**Summary of Discussion:** Sweeney said this was the final meeting of the first commissioner’s School Counselor Advisory Council and that he’d be sending certificates to participants.

**Agenda Item: Adjournment**

Sweeney provided all participants with an exit slip.

Submitted by Sarah Akin

*COMMS: JGG*