



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL (FPC)
SUMMARY**

JULY 14, 2022

ATTENDANCE: Elizabeth Bruce, Brooke Gill, Rhonda Logsdon, Natasha Lucas, Lauren Mitchell, Jennifer Skidmore, Mona Smith, Julia Staton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Grace Absher, Catara Catlett, Melissa Goins, Tom Haggard, Kathy Smiley, Angie Wright

SUMMARY: The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) Family Partnership Council (FPC) discussed family engagement and the council's core beliefs. FPC serves in an advisory role to KDE and provides input regarding topics of interest to families, such as ways that families and communities can assist schools in ensuring a higher level of achievement for all students. The council also voted on a list of agreements and shared ways to encourage relationship building among educators, families, and communities.

Agenda Item: Education Updates

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

Summary of Discussion: Commissioner Glass gave updates around the new school year, annual assessment results, resources available and United We Learn were topics discussed by Glass. Districts are taking extra COVID-19 funds to offer staff additional trainings. There is a need to be realistic about how long it will take for students and communities to recover from the disruption to learning that took place. KDE has launched the Equity Playbook with about 80 districts participating. KDE also released LGBTQ resources in July for schools and districts. Commissioner Glass gave updates on exciting things taking place with United We Learn that include: PBL Works, Inc. trainings being held across the state and regional cooperatives around Kentucky are creating a statewide network at the regional level within every school district for a deeper learning network to share ideas and the work that is happening around the state.

Agenda Item: What's Working in Family Engagement

Presenter: Brooke Gill, Senior Director, Family Engagement Policy and Practice and Council Chair, Prichard Committee

Summary of Discussion: Gill discussed what is and isn't working in family engagement with schools and districts. Examples of ideas that are working were shared with the council. The next steps of the Prichard Committee were talked about. The 11 Family Friendly certified schools, with two of those added to the list recently, were recognized. Self-Assessment tool set, a baseline for evaluation of each school and districts efforts, is moving forward. The council discussed what parents, families, schools and districts want to see more of – teachers needing more planning and professional development time, family and community engagement, etc.

Agenda Item: Current Family Engagement Challenges with Proposed Solutions and Next Steps

Presenter: Lauren Mitchell, Kentucky Association of School Councils (KASC)

Summary of Discussion: Lauren Mitchell said that Parent-Teacher Organizations have indicated a level of difficulty in recruiting minority representation on School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) councils. Good practices to recruit and retain minority members were discussed with council members suggesting incentives as a possibility to recruit minority members. Also discussed that this is an issue that the council needs to bring in front of the Equity Taskforce.

Agenda Item: Communication of KDE Guidance and Announcements

Presenter: Rhonda Logsdon, Executive Director, Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network (KY-SPIN)

Summary of Discussion: KDE is releasing great guidance, but the information is not getting to the parents and community. Possible solutions of how to get the information to parents were discussed, including but not limited to, needing a push for parents and communities to be aware that information is in existence, as well as sending the information out multiple times through a variety of formats to ensure delivery. Personal impact stories and pictures help to attract people to open and read communications. The information is not being communicated from the district level staff to the school day staff. Many school staff are unaware of the newsletters they can register for through KDE. There was a suggestion for a KDE family newsletter, possibly monthly, that briefly lists information and guidance from all areas of the department that links to more information regarding each individual topic.