



## **MINUTES**

### **Commonwealth Education Continuum**

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Type: Regular Meeting  
Date: August 11, 2023  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Council on Postsecondary Education (Virtual via Zoom)

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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The Commonwealth Education Continuum (CEC) held a regular meeting on August 11, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the CEC met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were not permitted to attend the meeting in person but were encouraged to view the meeting on the Council on Postsecondary Education's YouTube channel.

## **ATTENDANCE**

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The following members were present: CPE President Aaron Thompson, KDE Commissioner Jason Glass, Diana Barber, Alisher Burikanov, Eddie Campbell, Kathleen Christian, Debbie Dennison, Mason Dyer, Larry Ferguson, Jim Flynn, John Gregory, Beth Hargis, Robert Hayes, Jamie Link, Corinne Murphy, Amy Neal, Jenny Sawyer, Madison Silvert, Rep. James Tipton, Ashli Watts and Lu Young.

Ashley Ireland attended the meeting as proxy for Dr. Robert Jackson. Susan Rieber attended as proxy for Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman. Also attending were John Hughes, Amanda Flanary, Cassie Trueblood and Kate Shanks.

The following members were not present: Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, Rhonda Caldwell, Gina Crabtree, Sen. David Givens, Robert Jackson, Justin Mitchell, Kerri Schelling, and Sen. Max Wise.



## **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

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CPE President Aaron Thompson provided a welcome and thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. Dr. Thompson introduced new members, Senator Steve West, Solyana Mesfin, Secretary Jamie Link, Madison Silvert, Mason Dyer, and Larry Ferguson to the other members of the Commonwealth Education Continuum. Dr. Thompson brought the new members up to date on the work that is being done at the Kentucky Workforce and Innovation Board, and how data is being used to determine the current workforce trends and the alignment of degrees and credentials to the workforce needs in Kentucky. Dr. Thompson stated a presentation would be given at the meeting to discuss current trends in the teacher workforce, certification options, and efforts for recruitment and retention of teacher candidates.

CPE Vice President Amanda Ellis provided a high-level overview of the Early Childhood Workgroup that is made up of Kentucky stakeholders with a depth of knowledge of our early childhood system, including preschool, childcare, and Head Start. Dr. Ellis stated the workgroup's aim is to take a deep dive into the challenges of the current system and identify strengths and gaps and to define what a universal preschool program might look like in Kentucky and to provide the CEC with a set of recommendation that will support working families and ensure more children have a strong start and expand access and quality for children in the Commonwealth.

Dr. Ellis shared the meeting agenda and objectives to explore educator workforce, especially preparation and certification and to discuss alignment with educator workforce efforts among CEC member organizations.

## **EDUCATOR WORKFORCE OVERVIEW**

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KDE Commissioner Jason Glass provided introductions of Cassie Trueblood, counsel to the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) and new EPSB board chair Justin Mitchell. Ms. Trueblood provided a presentation highlighting current trends in teacher certification, the role of the Education Professional Standards Board, pathways to certification, and current challenges addressing the teacher workforce shortage.

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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John Hughes, Public Affairs Manager at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation to discuss proposed "Option 9" legislation to provide solutions to our current teacher workforce shortage in the Commonwealth with a focus on recruitment, training, retainment, diversity and equity.



## **BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS**

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The CEC members divided into two self-selected breakout groups to discuss Recruitment, Preparation, & Certification of Kentucky Educators and the Development & Retention of Early and Advanced Career Educators with the goal to connect the educator workforce discussion to the work and priorities of stakeholder agencies and individual CEC members.

## **WHOLE GROUP REPORT AND DISCUSSION**

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Each breakout group shared their discussions to the whole group to learn more about where the CEC should focus with new workgroups and how to message educator workforce needs. CEC members were asked to interview educators, students, administrators and other education stakeholders to get feedback about the educator workforce.

## **WRAP UP**

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CPE Senior Fellow Robin Hebert thanked the presenters for the information provided to the CEC members on efforts around recruitment and retention and the KY Chamber Education Workforce Initiative. CPE Vice President Amanda Ellis thanked the new Continuum members and reminded members of the next meeting on September 20, 2023 which will include stakeholder feedback and a review of the 2022 CEC recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m. ET.