

TASK FORCE REPORT



Graduation Requirements Task Force

SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

Chair: Jim McNiece, Kansas State Board of Education, District 10

Vice Chair: Jarred Fuhrman, Principal, Basehor-Linwood High School

Task Force member Melanie Haas, Kansas State Board of Education, reported on data collected from small group discussions during the first two meetings. She used graphs to illustrate common theme responses such as stakeholder involvement, model examples from other states, higher education insight, identification of Kansas workforce and community needs. Members also gathered input from current students and recent graduates. This information will be presented at a future meeting.

Jarred Fuhrman then shared KSDE survey results from 2010 when district superintendents responded to questions about graduation requirements, credits, etc. He noted that the past perspective provides useful background for the Task Force as it now takes national and state information to a deeper level.

Jim McNiece explained the purpose of sub-committee groups that will be focus on three core charges presented to the Task Force. Those leading the sub-committees and specific areas are:

- Christie Meyer, Principal at Eisenhower High School, Goddard, -- Graduation courses or subjects to be added or deleted (if any).
- Ed Raines, Principal at Washburn Rural High School – Mastery of Skills and Competencies, alternative methods of obtaining credit.
- Kelly Nusser, Principal at Lyons High School – Value-added Diplomas, such as inclusion of industry-recognized certificates.

Members dispersed into their sub-committees for initial discussions on their particular topic.

Afterwards, sub-committee leaders summarized key points and some of the questions that surfaced.

- Christie Meyer – Look closer at mastery of skills vs. seat time; process to scale ideas into a manageable plan; potential to merge changes into current system or implement in stages.
- Ed Raines – Learn about other successful models for mastery-based attainment; how to document mastery through measurable benchmarks; considerations regarding early graduates.
- Kelly Nusser – Considerations about equal access for internships, market-value assets, etc.; keep stakeholders involved; examine multiple possibilities.

Future meeting dates are Sept. 16 & 30, Oct. 7 & 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 2 & 16. In 2022 – Jan. 20, Feb. 3 & 17, March 3 & 31, April 14 & 28, May 10 (Report to State Board); May 12 wrap-up/next steps.

Note: Due to health concerns, Mr. McNiece has temporarily turned over Task Force leadership to Mr. Fuhrman.