

# TASK FORCE REPORT



## Graduation Requirements Task Force

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

In his opening remarks, Jim McNiece thanked everyone for their work in his short absence. He plans to send a preliminary list of stakeholder groups to Task Force members for their review. This will help ensure various groups become part of the feedback process moving forward.

Jarred Fuhrman reminded members of the timeline and goals, including:

- Remaining 2021 Task Force meetings -- Oct. 7, Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Dec. 16.
- Jan. 20 sub-committee reports presented to the entire membership.
- January through April – evaluate, edit and arrive at a consensus about recommendations, then share information with stakeholders.
- May – share final proposal with State Board of Education.

The majority of the Sept. 30 meeting was devoted to discussions within the three sub-committee groups as they work to narrow the focus in preparation for their reports to the entire membership. This is now the detailed work to bring the best of what's occurred during the discussions to a more concrete, operational format.

Sub-committee leaders summarized their sessions for the entire group.

- Christie Meyer – Courses or subjects to be added or deleted.
  - Flexibility remains a central theme. Discussion included examples of grouping subject areas, e.g. STEM; leaning on the work of a students' Individual Plan of Study; aligning considerations to the State Board's definition of a successful high school student; addressing any gaps evident in the current graduation requirements.
- Ed Raines / Melanie Haas – Mastery of Skills and Competencies.
  - The group is focusing on defining mastery and competency. They heard from Mark Tallman (KASB) about the Rose Capacities, and considered what alignment needs to occur when students are demonstrating mastery of content in a non-traditional way.
- Kelly Nusser – Value-Added Diplomas.
  - KSDE Education Program Consultant Natalie Clark was a guest presenter, reflecting on the various Market-Value Asset options such as work experiences, college credit, industry-recognized credentials and entrepreneurial experiences. Again, the focus is on flexibility and aligning to the students' Individual Plan of Study.

The next virtual meeting is scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 7.

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