

TASK FORCE REPORT



Graduation Requirements Task Force

JULY 22, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

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

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

The Graduation Requirements Task Force met via Zoom on Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Dr. Cynthia Lane, who serves on both the Governor's Council on Education and Advantage Kansas Coordinating Council, reported on the work of these two groups and a shared vision. Toward the goal of driving a robust Kansas economy with the highest educated and skilled workforce, Dr. Lane covered such areas as work-based learning, expanded opportunities for career and technical education, and support for redesign schools through experiences and outcomes. She provided a detailed overview of the targets each council is focused upon, concluding with how tasks will converge. State Board members Ann Mah and Jean Clifford commented on the AKCC subcommittees' work.

Susan Wally with PrepKC described ongoing initiatives to help students acquire assets beyond a high school diploma. These are considered Market Value Assets. Examples would be an industry-recognized credential or a minimum of nine college credits attained while in high school. This avenue provides for a continuum for postsecondary success. PrepKC focuses on college and career preparation in urban school districts. Task Force members asked questions during the presentations.

Because of time limitations, the report on Rose Capacities by Dr. Randy Watson, Commissioner of Education, will be postponed until the next meeting, Sept. 2.

Task Force members divided into small groups for discussion. Afterwards, facilitators summarized the themes they heard. Among those mentioned were examining the required hours of instructional seat time for students, creating more experiential learning opportunities and listening to business/industry,

Members were reminded to seek responses from a minimum of two students about their perceptions, realities or concerns about graduation requirements. This should be completed by the end of August.

The next virtual meeting is scheduled for 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 2. There is no meeting in August.



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