

TASK FORCE REPORT



Graduation Requirements Task Force

MARCH 31, 2022 MEETING SUMMARY

The March 31 Task Force meeting was conducted in person at KSHSAA offices in Topeka, with some members participating remotely. Approximately 20 members were in attendance.

In his opening remarks, Co-Chair Jarred Fuhrman reviewed the day's agenda and potential schedule for upcoming meetings. He then introduced guest speakers from the Kansas Art Education Association (KAEA).

KAEA President Elizabeth Madden and KAEA Board member Katie Morris spoke about the purpose of art education and the ways visual arts ensure a well-rounded education. They explained how art allows students to express emotions, develop creativity and divergent thinking skills, and prepare for a variety of careers. They advocated for retaining a Fine Arts credit in the graduation requirements for Kansas.

Mr. Fuhrman and Task Force member Melanie Haas reported on stakeholder input that has been collected. They described themes arising from the 1,200 survey responses received to date from those identifying as representative of business and industry, parents, community members, students or legislator. Among the most common responses were the need for flexibility and local control with graduation requirements. Survey participants identified financial literacy and life skills as courses to add; mentioning, too, arts and culture, foreign language, nutrition, and a senior project. Respondents also named content that might be deleted from the current requirements. The survey closes April 15. It is anticipated the Task Force will receive a full report on stakeholder input at its April 28 meeting.

Subcommittees then met in small groups with KSDE staff who will assist with compiling work of the subcommittees into one document. Afterwards, subcommittee chairs reported on progress, noting that final Task Force recommendations need buy-in from the full group.

Two meetings remain (April 14 and 28) to finalize recommendations before the information is presented to the State Board of Education in May.