

The McCreary County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Board's Central Office. Chairman Barnett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Present were Johnny Barnett, Braxton King, Stacey Hammons, Cody Perry, Estle Swain and Interim Superintendent, Larry B. Hammond. Also present were the media, school system staff and interested parties.

APPROVE AGENDA AND ADDENDUM - #10940

A motion was made by Mr. Cody Perry and a second by Mr. Johnny Barnett to approve the agenda and addendum as presented. Members voted as follows:

Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE

COMMUNICATIONS - #10941

A. Prayer

Braxton King

B. Pledge

Everyone

C. Superintendent Communications

1. Review Kentucky Center for School Safety Investigation

Interim Superintendent, Larry Hammond, shared with the Board the findings on the investigation regarding the incident on February 21, 2023 by Kentucky Center for School Safety. There were ten concerns addressed in the findings. **1)** No Chain of Command Protocol-consider developing a board policy or an accepted protocol to determine a person to be designated. **2)** Emergency Operations Plan needs to be updated-consider reviewing the District Emergency Operations plan to ensure that necessary protocols are in place for various emergency situations. **3)** Access Control for Central Office-consider establishing a clear protocol that everyone will be vetted before they are permitted to enter the Central Office building. **4)** Lack of physical search of former superintendent upon entering Central Office knowing he had been there earlier with a firearm-consider establishing a protocol of steps to be followed before a person is permitted to enter a McCreary School District building when it is known that they have had their employment terminated and/or previously violated a state law by bringing a weapon onto school board property. **5)** Failed to lock down McCreary Central High School, McCreary County Middle School when former superintendent returned to Central Office-given the specifics of this incident, current practices in school safety would have required an immediate lockdown for Central Office, the high school, the middle school and maintenance building, no lock down had been activated. **6)** Protocols regarding building access cards-consider clearly designating, in writing, who the approved staff members are who have the authority to issue, monitor and control building access cards. **7)** Communications-establish an appropriate policy addressing how and when to provide immediate and critical information to Central office staff in an attempt to ensure the safety of all who work in the building. **8)**

Vetting candidates-proper vetting must occur when hiring professional personnel in the school district, particularly regarding those most critical to the leadership in the district. **9)** Termination protocol-the school district policies and procedures regarding terminated employees need to be reviewed. **10)** Morale-consider reviewing and updating Board Policy to reflect professional and appropriate personnel decisions. Conclusion: it was the focus of the Team to make advisements and considerations to the board which will ultimately provide for safer learning and working environments for the McCreary County School District.

D. CTE Pathway & LAVEC Update

Ms. Charlotte Barnett, CTE Pathway & LAVEC Supervisor, shared an update with the Board regarding the middle school CTE program. Ms. Barnett shared they are currently seeking approval of a grant to help with the middle school program, PLTW-Project Lead the Way. The Gear-Up program has worked out \$18,000 to assist with this program for the Medical Detectives and At-Creators. They are working with the district's food service for a program with the high school and middle school for "Farm to School". This program will work with the students producing vegetables and fruits that will be sold to food service to be used in our schools. At-Creators will learn to design, code and construct games and then play the games they've created. The high school and middle school sponsors/teachers are collaborating together to make this program a success. Ms. Barnett has presented the 2023-2024 Course Guide for the middle school's program for Board approval.

E. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Tiffany Duvall, Finance Director, shared the March financials with the Board. Ms. Duvall shared with the Board that March's SEEK payment was \$1.3 million, there was a federal drawdown of \$868,000 and there was a change in construction due to the middle school project. The district ended the month of March with \$19.36 million.

F. Acknowledge Superintendent's Report on Personnel/Employment Authorization

No Action

G. Public Comments

No one signed up to speak

APPROVE ACTIONS BY CONSENT - #10942

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve the actions by consent as presented. Members voted as follows:

Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE

A. Acknowledge Superintendent's Report on Leave of Absence Authorizations

B. Approve Minutes

Regular - March 27, 2023

Special - April 13, 2023

- C. Approve Payment of Bills and Claims
- D. Approve Monthly Financial Report for the month ending, March 31, 2023
- E. Approve 2022-2023 Auditors Contract with Tammy Patrick and Associates, Winchester, KY
- F. Approve Create (1) One Save the Children Program Coordinator for Summer Boost at Whitley City Elementary School
\$20 hr./ 7 hrs. day/30 days
- G. Approve Create (1) One Save the Children Site Coordinator for Summer Boost at Pine Knot Elementary School
\$20.27 hr./7 hrs. day/30 days
- H. Approve Certified Evaluation Plan (CEP) for 2023-2024
- I. Approve 2023-2024 CTE Exploratory Course Guide for McCreary County Middle School
- J. Approve PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Grant Agreement for CTE Pathway at McCreary County Middle School
- K. Accept Master Musicians Festival Gift for Graduating Seniors to attend 30th Annual Festival July 14th & 15th
- L. Approve Intrust Agreement for 2023-2024
- M. Approve Midway University Memorandum of Agreement for 2023-2024
- N. Approve Phase Four: Professional Development Plan for District for 2023-2024
- O. Approve Phase Four: English Learner Plan for District
- P. Approve Phase Four Continuation of Learning Plan for District for 2023-2024
- Q. Approve Letter of Intent to Participate in the STeLLA Evaluation Study (Science Teachers Learning from Lesson Analysis) Professional Learning Program
- R. Approve FERPA Agreement (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) designating American Institutes for Research (AIR) as Agent
AIR as agent for the purpose of disclosing personally identifiable information from students' education records in connection with the Evaluation Study of the Scaling and Sustaining Science Teachers Learning from Lesson Analysis (STeLLA) Professional Learning Program Project and pursuant to 34 CFR 99.31(1)(6)(i)
- S. Approve to Seek/Advertise Formal Bids for Tennis Court Repair
- T. Approve to Seek/Advertise Formal Bids for (2) Two Combi-Ovens for McCreary Central High School
- U. Approve Student Picture Bids
Award the bid to: Strawbridge Studios, Inc. for:
McCreary Central High School
McCreary County Middle School
Pine Knot Elementary School
Whitley City Elementary School
- Bids**
Strawbridge Studios, Inc. Durham, NC

V. Approve Yearbook bids

Award the bid to: Farr Better Supply for:

McCreary Central High School
McCreary County Middle School
Pine Knot Elementary School
Whitley City Elementary School

Bids

Strawbridge Studios, Inc. Durham, NC **Not High School**
Farr Better Supply Paducah, KY

W. Approve Athletic Equipment and Supply Bid

Award the bid to: Sports Den

Bids

Sports Den Somerset, KY

X. Approve Catalog/Discount Store Bid

Award the bid to: Scott Supplies, Inc.

Bids

Scott Supplies, Inc. Oneida, TN

Y. Approve Snack Vending Machine Bids

Award the bid to: Break Time Vending

Bids

Break Time Vending Corbin, KY

Z. Approve Soft Drink Bids

Award the bid to: Pepsi Cola

Bids

Pepsi Cola Corbin/Somerset

AA. Approve Propane Gas Bids

Award the bid to: Ferrellgas

Bids

Ferrellgas Somerset, KY

BB. Approve Amended 2022-2023 Calendar

CC. Approve Create Summer School Positions for 2023

McCreary County Middle School

1 Coordinator

8 Teachers

3 Classified Staff

Pine Knot Elementary School

1 Coordinator

10 Teachers

3 Classified Staff

Whitley City Elementary School

1 Coordinator

8 Teachers

3 Classified staff

McCreary Central High School

1 Coordinator

9 Teachers

1 Classified Staff

DD. Approve Abolish Secretary to Bus Garage/Transportation Position

EE. Approve Revised Job Description for Director of Districtwide Services

FF. Approve NTI (Non-Traditional Instruction) Plan for 2023-2024

GG. Approve Independent Contracts for Financial Assistance for Year-end-Close

Gertrude Smith

Casey Owens

**McCREARY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE -
#10943**

Mr. Jonathan Smith, Branscum Construction, updated the Board with the work that has been going on with the middle school project. They have been working on the footers and pouring concrete for the foundation for the cafeteria expansion. They are building the walls and placing supports on the walls to get ready to pour the concrete. Everything has been going well and hoping for continued good weather.

Mr. Smith shared with the Board the tile situation for the middle school project. In order to use the same tile that is in the building, there will be a change order of \$30,003.90.

**APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR BENNETT'S CONTRACTING INC. PROPOSAL
FOR \$30,003.90 - #10944**

A motion was made by Mrs. Stacey Hammons and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve the change order for Bennett's Contracting Inc. proposal for \$30,003.90 for tile work. Members voted as follows:

Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE

Mr. Smith shared with the Board the reason for the elevator structural revisions for the middle school project which involves 3 contractors for masonry work, sprinkler system work and steel services work.

APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR ELEVATOR STRUCTURAL REVISIONS FOR \$13,856.70 - #10945

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to approve the change order for the elevator structural revisions for \$13,856.70. Members voted as follows:

King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE

Mr. Smith shared with the Board that they didn't receive bids at the beginning of the project for painting so there was \$90,000 cost built into budget. We did receive three bids and the lowest bid was for \$97,516. This change order will be for the difference for the budgeted amount and the actual bid amount.

APPROVE CHANGE ORDER FOR PAINTING PACKAGE OF \$97,516 - #10946

A motion was made by Mr. Estle Swain and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to approve the change order for painting package for \$97,516. Members voted as follows:

Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE

Mr. Eric Pelow, DECO Architect, shared the second phase of the Design Development Drawings including the additions, demolition, electrical, plumbing and lighting processes.

APPROVE McCREARY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL LAVEC PROJECT-DESIGN DEVELOPMENT DRAWINGS - #10947

A motion was made by Mrs. Stacey Hammons and a second by Mr. Johnny Barnett to approve McCreary Central High School LAVEC Project Design Development Drawings as presented. Members voted as follows:

Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE

Mr. Pelow shared this is a mandatory process for construction. They will drill holes deep into the ground to make sure there are no sink holes, etc.

APPROVE BASE BID GEOTECHNICAL EXPLORATION AND ADD ALTERNATE #1-PRIVATE UTILITY LOCATING SERVICE - #10948

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to approve the base bid Geotechnical Exploration and add alternate #1-Private Utility Locating Service as presented. Members voted as follows:

Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE

Mr. Hammond shared with the Board that Ms. Sharon Privett, Principal at the high school, presented the School Based minutes regarding the purchase of the sawmill for the CTE program. The purchase price of the sawmill is \$23,051.98. It was discussed that they would be using next year's LAVEC funding for this purchase. There is a deposit required up front and Kentucky Department of Education has approved this purchase. The location of the sawmill would be outside when in use and stored inside when not in use. This is a portable sawmill. There was an issue with getting a quote for insurance on this sawmill. This would have to be a separate policy. Mr. Cameron Lee, Ag Teacher, stated that there seemed to be an issue with sawdust causing a fire. He explained that this would be cleaned up each day and disposed of properly. He also explained that this would be used for safety practices and a learning tool for students who live in the area where the logging industry is a big factor for this county. Mr. Lee explained that they would take donations and buy logs when needed and use the sawmill for projects that can be used in other areas (carpentry) of the school. There is space outside to store logs.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL SAWMILL FOR THE AGRICULTURE PATHWAY - #10949

A motion was made by Mr. Cody Perry and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve the purchase of commercial sawmill for the Agriculture pathway in the amount of \$23,051.98. Members voted as follows:

Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE

Chairman, Johnny Barnett asked Mr. Hammond and Clint Taylor to review what options the Board had for the Smithtown property. Dr. Taylor shared that there are three options: 1) advertise to sell, 2) take sealed bids (this is preferred by KDE), 3) Public auction. The property was appraised for \$145,000. Mr. Pelow shared with the Board that they projected it would cost \$4.2 million to bring the new part up to code in order to use it.

APPROVE TAKING SEALD BIDS TO SELL THE SMITHTOWN PROPERTY - #10950

A motion was made by Mr. Johnny Barnett and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve taking sealed bids to sell Smithtown Property. Members voted as follows:

King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE

Ms. Duvall shared with the Board that the final staffing allocation for 2023-2024 would remain the same as presented in the working session with the exception of the high school which would gain 1 teacher position due to enrollment increase. She explained that the district would be able to move staff that are currently in ESSER funded positions to other vacant positions in the district without having to let anyone go. They will be keeping 2 ESSER funded positions. The remaining funding will go to purchase 3 more school buses.

APPROVE FINAL STAFFING ALLOCATION FOR 2023-2024 - #10951

A motion was made by Mr. Estle Swain and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to approve the final staffing allocation for 2023-2024. Members voted as follows:

Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE

Mr. Hammond shared with the Board that we have one employee who may not come back next school year and to look at reducing the maintenance department to 6 positions.

**APPROVE ABOLISHING (2) TWO MAINTENANCE WORKER POSITIONS
EFFECTIVE JUNE 30, 2023 - #10952**

A motion was made by Mrs. Stacey Hammons and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to abolish (2) Two Maintenance Worker positions effective June 30, 2023. Members voted as follows:

Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE

Mr. Hammond explained that this position was out of sync with the other administrative positions in the district. Changing the Supervision Pay will align this position with the other administrative salaries in the district.

**APPROVE REDUCING DIRECTOR OF DISTRICTWIDE SERVICES POSITION
SUPERVISION PAY FROM 20% TO 10% - #10953**

A motion was made by Mr. Johnny Barnett and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve reducing Director of Districtwide Services position supervision pay from 20% to 10% position. Members voted as follows:

Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE

DISCUSS AND REVIEW AUGMENT GRANT REVISIONS - #10954

Mr. Hammond shared with the Board the Augment Grant is a Mental Health Grant for Grades K-12. This grant awarded \$6 million for a 5 year period. It will employ 5 primary employees: Director, Coordinator, Licensed Social Worker, Counselor and School Psychologist. Board Member, Braxton King shared that this grant is a great opportunity for this county. This will allow our students to get mental health help from inside the district instead of outside agencies. He shared this is totally funded by the federal government. There was discussion on the salaries and adjusting those to fit better for the district salary alignment.

Mr. Hammond explained that this stipend was needed for a Head Cook for the Summer School feeding program as this time period was outside the regular days required to work.

APPROVE SUMMER SCHOOL HEAD COOK STIPEND FOR \$3,000 - #10955

A motion was made by Mrs. Stacey Hammons and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to approve Summer School Head Cook Stipend for \$3,000. Members voted as follows:

Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE

ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO KRS 61.810(1)(f) - for the purpose of conducting discussions which may lead to the appointment of an individual employee - #10956

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mrs. Stacey Hammons to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) - for the purpose of conducting discussions which may lead to the appointment of an individual employee at 8:06 p.m. Members voted as follows:

King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett - AYE

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - #10957

A motion by Mrs. Stacey Hammons and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to return to open session at 8:58 p.m. Members voted as follows:

Hammons – AYE; Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE

Chairman Barnett stated “No action was taken.”

Summary: There were 12 applications received for the Superintendent position. They are all highly qualified and the Search Committee has started vetting the applications

APPROVE NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN - #10958

A motion was made by Mrs. Stacey Hammons and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to set the next meeting of the McCreary County Board of Education for Monday, May 22, 2023, at the Board's Central Office and to adjourn. Members voted as follows:

Perry – AYE; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE

Chairman

Secretary