

The McCreary County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Monday, May 22, 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.

A part of this Regular Board meeting was by video teleconferencing, in keeping with the requirements of KRS 61.826. The primary location of the video teleconference is the McCreary County Board of Education's Central Office, 120 Raider Way, Stearns, KY. The video teleconferencing is being made to include Board Member, Stacey Hammons, in order to accommodate her unavailability in attending the meeting at its physical location.

APPROVE AGENDA - #10980

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS - #10981

A. Prayer

Board Member, Braxton King

B. Pledge

Everyone

C. Superintendent Communications

1. GEAR-Up Overview Presentation

Roy Monhollen *GearUp Academic Interventionist*

Tamra Wilson *GearUp College and Career Navigator*

Interim Superintendent Hammond introduced Gear-Up Staff Members: Roy Monhollen-Academic Interventionist, Tamara Wilson-College and Career Navigator and Mr. Dana Coots-PRI (Gear-Up) Program Director. Mr. Monhollen shared with the Board this is a new grant that started in October 2022 working with 7th and 8th grades. Next year, they will be working with 7th, 8th and 9th grades. He said the staff have been very helpful in working with him and Ms. Wilson. The grant's objectives are to see an: 1) increase in academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education; 2) increase the rate of high school graduation and participation in postsecondary education; 3) increase GEAR UP students and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing. Mr. Monhollen reviewed the funding for the program. 100% of salaries for both positions is fully funded by

GEAR UP. There was \$50,000 of direct service money each year of the grant which has been used to purchase Ipads for instructional staff at McCreary County Middle School, student headphones, several instructional programs and resources for students and staff, after school tutoring and transportation, college and jobsite visits, family engagement activities and summer enrichment camp. He said there was a \$100,000 overflow for 2022-2023 year. With this overflow they were able to purchase Chromebooks for McCreary County Middle School, daytime tutoring and funds for CTE (Career and Technical Education) material. They are also seeking to purchase additional supplemental funds based on approval of request. Ms. Wilson shared with the Board students have been able to participate in: college visits, job site visits, family engagement events, informational dissemination, mentoring, counseling and advising, leadership, ILP completion and transition activities. The Plan for 2023-2024 is to: increase family engagement, diversify career exposure/job site visits, Project Lead the Way, continue college visits, increase community service opportunities and support social emotional learning. Mr. Coots was thankful for the district supporting the GEAR UP program.

D. Superintendent's Report on Personnel/Employment Authorization

Recommend the Board acknowledge receipt of Superintendent's Report on Personnel/Employment Authorization.

E. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Tiffany Duvall, Finance Director, shared with the Board the financial update for the month of April 2023. She shared the General Fund SEEK payment of \$1.294 million. There was a federal drawdown of \$784,484. There was no change in other funding. Food Service had a total reimbursement of \$295,910.23. General Fund had an ending balance of \$17.885 million for April.

F. Public Comments

Board Chairman Barnett introduced Dr. Benny Lile, KASA representative. Dr. Lile thanked the Board for picking KASA to help with the Superintendent Search process. He said that we had a good group for the screening committee and the board team. He thanked everyone for their help.

Chairman Barnett introduced Mr. J.C. Egnew. Mr. Egnew congratulated the Board on a unanimous vote for the new Superintendent. He shared his background history with the Board. He said he moved to McCreary County 50 years ago from Knoxville, Tennessee. His wife noticed that the county didn't have a public library. He encouraged her to get one started. He said when his son turned 5 years old there wasn't a Kindergarten class. He encouraged his wife to check with other districts to see if they had Kindergarten classes. She helped to get Kindergarten classes to be offered in the county. With this being said, he explained that he believes that we are put on earth to make a difference. Mr. Egnew shared that he spoke with mental health experts from the county on the need for the Mental Health Grant that the school district received. He pointed out some of the comments that he received from them. There is an increase in students with PTSD and thoughts of suicide. Since the COVID pandemic the mental health issues have increased. Mr. Egnew encouraged the Board to give Interim Superintendent and the newly hired Superintendent the authority to get the Grant underway by implementing the Grant.

Mr. Ray Moncrief stated that he and Interim Superintendent Hammond knew someone they have in common from Rockcastle County and that he and new Superintendent, Brian Crawford

knew a person from Bell County that they have in common. He thanked Mrs. Sharon Privett, Principal, for the outstanding Graduation Ceremony on Saturday. He was please with the attention given and actions of the Graduates and family members attending. He encouraged Interim Superintendent and New Superintendent to implement the Mental Health Grant.

APPROVE ACTIONS BY CONSENT - #10982

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to approve 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 - April 24, 2023

Special - May 4, 2023

Special - May 9, 2023

Special - May 10, 2023

Special - May 15, 2023

C. Approve Payment of Bills and Claims

D. Approve Monthly Financial Report for the month ending, April 30, 2023

E. Approve Field Trips

1. McCreary Central High School

Government/US History - 07/09-15/2023 - Washington D.C. - in-person opportunity to visit and interact with historical locations and landmarks - will be using District transportation to Lexington, KY and then using Bluegrass Charters (Common Carrier) for the rest of the trip.

F. Approve 2023-2024 School Activity Principal's Combining Budget Reports

G. Approve Bids for Tennis Court Repair

Recommend the Board take action on Tennis Court Repair bids and award the bid to: Taylor Maintenance

Bids

Taylor Maintenance - Science Hill, KY

H. Approve Bids for (2) Two Combi-Ovens for McCreary Central High School

Recommend the Board take action on (2) Two Combi-Ovens for McCreary Central High School and award the bid to C & T Design and Equipment

Bids

C & T Design and Equipment

I. Approve (KEDC) Kentucky Educational Development Corporation 2023-2024 Cooperative Membership Agreement

J. Approve Department of Agriculture and Various School Entities Memorandum of Agreement for 2023-2024

- K.** Approve Cumberland Family Medical Center, Inc. School Based Satellite Clinic Agreement
- L.** Acknowledge KSBA's Annual Policy and Procedures Updates for 2023 - 1st Reading
- M.** Approve Create (1) One Title 1 Teaching position at Pine Knot Elementary School

McCREARY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE - #10983

Mr. Derrick Phillips, DECO Architect, updated the Board that the middle school project is going well. The issue with the retaining wall has been resolved, there have been small things that have been challenging, but overall the project is progressing well. He mentioned the big hole under the cafeteria area and that the question was asked about having basement space in this area. Mr. Phillips stated that they would be having a progress meeting later this week with the construction group. He also shared that they would be presenting to the Board the LAVEC project next steps at June's regular meeting.

Ms. Duvall reviewed the Tentative Budget with the Board. She explained that not much has changed from the Draft Budget. She shared that the budget has a 12% contingency which was helped by getting the ESSER funding.

APPROVE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR - #10984

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve the Tentative Budget for 2023-2024 school year. Members voted as follows:

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

APPROVE 2023-2024 SALARY SCHEDULE - #10985

A motion was made by Mr. Cody Perry and a second by Mr. Johnny Barnett to approve the 2023-2024 Salary Schedule as presented. Members voted as follows:

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

ACKNOWLEDGE PAUL BRIAN CRAWFORD SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT - #10986

A motion was made by Mr. Johnny Barnett and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to acknowledge Paul Brian Crawford Superintendent Contract. Members voted as follows:

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

Chairman Barnett shared with the Board that Mr. Crawford's contract with Bell County will end May 31, 2023 and he will be able to start work June 1st.

APPROVE INDEPENDENT CONSULTING SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT - #10987

A motion was made by Mr. Cody Perry and a second by Mr. Johnny Barnett to approve the Independent Consulting Superintendent Contract with Paul Brian Crawford. Members voted as follows:

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

Chairman Barnett explained to everyone that the Board established a new process in January to present new positions and raises to the Board twice: once to explain the need and the second to vote on it. He explained that the grant was received in March and presented to the board at April's meeting with this meeting being the one for the Board to vote on. Chairman Barnett shared that the Director's salary was almost as high as the Superintendent's salary. He stated that the Superintendent position should be the highest paid position then next would be the high school principal position due to their duties and responsibilities. He also stated that there should be a teacher position for this grant. Ms. Privett stated that the high school was considering this teacher position as part of a new pathway for students-a teaching learning pathway. Mr. King shared his thoughts regarding the grant based on his experience counseling individuals. He feels this grant is very needed and given the duties and responsibilities of the director's position that a salary of \$115,000 would be reasonable. Mr. Hammond shared his thoughts that he wasn't sure the grant could be re-written to include a teacher position. Mrs. Hammons shared that she feels like the \$115,000 salary would be reasonable. She explained that this position would be responsible for \$6 million grant, she's thankful for the one(s) who worked on getting the grant, she feels a lower pay would be less appealing to potential candidates and to make every decision benefit the kids. Chairman Barnett shared that he spoke with 3 different Superintendents and they said that they go by the salary schedule regarding salaries.

APPROVE \$95,000 SALARY FOR THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR POSITION FOR THE AUGMENT MENTAL HEALTH GRANT - #10988

A motion was made by Mr. Johnny Barnett and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve \$95,000 salary for the Program Director position for the Augment Mental Health Grant. Members voted as follows:

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

APPROVE NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN - #10989

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Cody Perry to set the next meeting of the McCreary County Board of Education for Monday, June 26, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Board's Central office and adjourn. Members voted as follows:

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

Chairman

Secretary