



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Board Meeting Buzz



## Fayette County Board of Education July 26, 2021

*As part of our commitment to providing timely, clear, and accurate information to students, staff, families, and community members, we are please to provide a recap of our monthly school board meetings.*

## WELCOME

Board Chair Tyler Murphy welcomed members of the public attending the meeting at the John D. Price Administration Building, located at 450 Park Place, as well as those watching the board meeting online. He noted the dual significance of the board meeting, as Dr. Liggins first official day as Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent and the first regular in-person meeting of the Fayette County Board of Education since February 24, 2020.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent Demetrus Liggins began his report celebrating the success of Fayette County Public Schools alum Lee Kiefer, who made history on Sunday when she became the first American, male or female, to win a gold medal in the individual foil for Fencing and earned Team USA's first fencing medal in the Tokyo Olympics. Kiefer grew up in Lexington and graduated from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in 2012. She later graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 2017 and is currently a medical student at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine.

Liggins also shared that Fayette County Public Schools students began the third session of Summer Ignite at 62 schools and special programs around the district on Monday. This session, which lasts just one week, will serve roughly 3,000 incoming kindergarteners, sixth graders and ninth graders to help them with a smooth transition to the 2021-22 school year.

Lexington-Fayette County Commissioner of Health Dr. Kraig Humbaugh presented an update regarding COVID-19 within the community, sharing that the number of Fayette County residents testing positive for the virus has increased substantially from roughly 10 cases a day a month ago to a current seven-day average of 56 cases a day. Humbaugh said the spread of COVID-19 in Lexington right now is comparable to rates in early February and March.

Children account for 20 percent of the current cases, Humbaugh said, in large part because two thirds of adult residents in Fayette County are fully vaccinated. In comparison, only a fourth of children between the ages of 12 and 17 have been fully vaccinated, Humbaugh said, and there is no vaccine approved for children under the age

Humbaugh reviewed the latest guidance from the [Kentucky Department for Public Health](#), [U.S. Centers for Disease Control](#), and [American Association of Pediatrics](#), noting that all three agencies place a priority on in-person learning for students in grades kindergarten through 12. Another consistent recommendation is requiring masks on school buses, regardless of age or vaccination status. The difference between the expert guidance is whether masks should be required in schools for all students and staff, or only unvaccinated students and staff.

Liggins reminded everyone that the district has partnered with the City of Lexington, HealthFirst Bluegrass, Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, and Wild Health to offer COVID-19 vaccines at 18 convenient school locations on Tuesday, July 27, Wednesday, July 28, and Thursday, July 29. Appointments are available at [www.fcps.net/vaccines](http://www.fcps.net/vaccines).

Before closing, Liggins shared that just two hours prior to the board meeting, Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Jason Glass and Kentucky Board of Education Board Chair Lu Young joined Gov. Andy Beshear's afternoon COVID-19 Briefing and announced the following recommendations:

- School districts should require all unvaccinated students and unvaccinated adults to wear a mask when in classrooms and other indoor settings.
- School districts should require all students under 12 years of age to wear a mask when in classrooms and other indoor school settings.
- School districts wishing to optimize safety and minimize risk of educational and athletic disruption should require all students and all adults to wear a mask while in the classroom and other indoor school settings.

The FCPS COVID-19 Core Team will meet again Tuesday with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department in order to revise a guidance document that will be shared with employees, families, and community members soon, Liggins said.

Also during the superintendent's report, Grant Manager Soraya Matthews reviewed the planning and community input process the district will follow to determine how best to use the federal pandemic relief funding FCPS will receive to support students. Public engagement will begin in August, she said, and will include students, employees, families, and community members.



## CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the [July construction highlights](#), noting that the security vestibule for the new Carter G. Woodson Preparatory Academy and other building improvements are 99% complete. When done, the district will have added 29 secure vestibules as schools throughout the district thanks to the Comprehensive 10-Point Safety Investment Plan. He also shared an update on the new Tates Creek High School building, where 54% of the work is complete. The new school is slated to open in July of 2022. Monday's agenda also included the [biannual construction report](#).

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## PUBLIC COMMENT

During the portion of the meeting for remarks by citizens, Board Chair Tyler Murphy invited those who signed up to share their remarks regarding items on the school board agenda. Speakers addressed health and safety expectations for the upcoming 2021-22 school year and ESSER funding. The following individuals shared comments with the Board:

- Chuck Eddy
- Carrie Cox
- Jessica Hiler
- Matthew Vied
- Winchel Vincent

- Andrea Welker
- Courtney Turay
- Mary Graehler
- Maureen Carman
- Andrew Cooperrider
- Mica Sims
- Richard Montgomery
- Karen Goss
- Destiny Darby
- Susan Vantreese
- Beth Guiton
- Barry Saturday

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## BOARD ACTION



### The board voted to approve:

- Revised job descriptions for [Occupational Therapist](#) and [Physical Therapist](#).
- A contract with NWEA for the Measures of Academic Progress test, which the district uses to monitor how well our students are doing on grade level standards over the course of the school year.
- A contract Illuminate Education for Fastbridge Testing, which the district uses for progress monitoring to ensure that the interventions schools provide are supporting student success.
- A contract with CogAT/Iowa for the test FCPS uses to help identify students to receive gifted and talented services.
- A contract with Eastern Kentucky University to offer an English Learners endorsement cohort for FCPS teachers. This project will increase workforce development in this critical shortage area and support effective instruction for English learners in classrooms.
- Revisions to the 2021-2022 Athletics Handbook.
- A contract with Central KY Riding for Hope, where The Stables is housed.
- District Assurances, which are required by the Kentucky Department of Education to receive state funding.

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*The official minutes from July 26, 2021 will be posted within the agenda of the August 16, 2021 school board planning work session.*

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## SEE FOR YOURSELF

The school board's action meetings are televised live on the [FCPS YouTube channel](#) starting at 6 p.m. The meetings are also replayed the same week at 8 p.m. Wednesday, 10 p.m. Saturday, and 10 p.m. Sunday on FCPS-ETV (Spectrum Channel 197, Windstream Channel 13, and MetroNet Channel 2). Meetings are archived through the [FCPS YouTube channel](#) and [Video on Demand service](#).

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