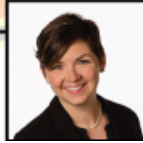




FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Meeting Buzz



Fayette County Board of Education December 13, 2021

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

WELCOME, SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES, RECOGNITIONS, & STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Board Chairman 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.

Additionally, he invited the audience to observe a moment of silence to acknowledge the heartbreaking impact of the tornadoes and storms across the Commonwealth over the weekend. Our hearts and minds are heavy with the loss that our friends and neighbors in western Kentucky are experiencing, and we will continue to keep those whose lives were changed by this tragedy close in thought.

Members of the Fayette County Board of Education paused to honor and thank Dr. Marlene Helm for a lifetime of dedication to the Fayette County Public Schools. Her most recent service as Acting Superintendent from November 30, 2020 through July 25, 2021 was her third time stepping into this role for the district.

- [Read the Resolution](#) adopted by the board in recognition of her leadership and her long-standing dedication to the mission of FCPS.
- [Watch a video tribute](#) to Dr. Helm.



Tonight's board meeting also featured a [sneak peek of Brenda Cowan Elementary's upcoming production of Matilda Jr.](#), which will performed in February. The student cast is led by drama teacher Austin Vahle, dance teacher Lydia Austin, and music teacher Jeremy Howard.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Under the Superintendent's Report, board members heard a summary of the standardized tests given to students during the fall semester, which include:

- a kindergarten readiness screener given to students entering school for the first time
- an assessment called Measures of Academic Progress, which is given three times a year to gauge student mastery of skills in reading and math in grades kindergarten through eight
- a benchmark test, called Galileo, which students in grades kindergarten through nine take three times a year to see how well they are progressing toward grade level standards
- the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test, which students in grades 10 and 11 take to practice for college admission tests that students often have to take as part of the college application process
- two nationally standardized aptitude tests called CogAT and Iowa given to third graders to identify students for gifted and talented services
- end of course exams for high school students as they complete Algebra II, Biology, English II and U.S. History
- Kentucky Alternate Assessments developed for students with moderate to significant cognitive disabilities in grades three through eight, 10 and 11 as appropriate



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the December [construction highlights](#). He noted that the [Tates Creek High School construction project](#) is moving forward and 76% of the work is complete. The new school is slated to open in July of 2022. [Weekly construction updates](#) on the [Tates Creek High School project](#) are available on the district website.

Thompson also gave the board an [overview on construction and maintenance projects](#) and

additional information about the district facilities planning process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During the portion of the meeting for remarks by citizens, the following individuals shared comments with the Board related to transportation services, school activity funds, staff salaries, the Fayette Education Foundation, board policy, and existing health and safety precautions against COVID-19:

- Toniya Coles
- Alycia Dahmer
- Chris Gancio
- Leanne Sebourn
- Rick Thompson
- Matthew Vied

BOARD ACTION



The board voted to:

- Formalize the instrument that board members will use to evaluate the superintendent.
- Approve the 2021-2022 Comprehensive District Improvement Plan.
- Identify [legislative priorities](#) for the Fayette County Board of Education.
- Adopt the FCPS Governance Manual.
- Enter into a contract to provide ACT testing for sophomores.
- Increase the price of adult meals in school cafeterias beginning in January 2022 from \$2 to \$3 for breakfast and from \$4.50 to \$5 for lunch.
- Address the school bus driver shortage by partnering with the National Association of Pupil Transportation to provide van transportation for select routes that serve small numbers of students. By finding an alternative to bus transportation for some of the smaller routes, current drivers will be able to concentrate on routes that require larger vehicles. This is not an effort to eliminate bus drivers or privatize our transportation department. Rather, this contract would augment the excellent work done by our current employees. The National Association of Pupil Transportation has successfully provided this service for other school districts across the nation. The district has worked closely with Kentucky Department of Education transportation officials to ensure that this alternative transportation would not only meet, but exceed, all safety requirements for staffing, training and vehicles.
- Continue using Language Line for telephonic translation services to support families whose primary language is not English.
- Formalize a service agreement with My Teaching Strategies Secondary to provide high quality professional learning for district educators.
- Accept the [Monthly Financial Report for November](#).

BOARD DISCUSSION

Members of the Fayette County Board of Education discussed a draft memorandum of understanding with the [Fayette Education Foundation](#). The Fayette Education Foundation was established last year in order to support excellence in our schools by providing additional sources of funding for educational programming and giving individuals, businesses, and the community the opportunity to invest in the educational needs of Fayette County Public Schools.

The official minutes from December 13, 2021 action meeting will be posted within the agenda of the next meeting of the Fayette County Board of Education.

WATCH A PREVIOUS MEETING

The school board's action meetings are televised live on the [FCPS YouTube channel](#).

Meetings are archived through the [FCPS YouTube channel](#) and [Video on Demand service](#).

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