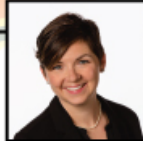




FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Meeting Buzz



Fayette County Board of Education May 23, 2022

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, AND 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.

Board Member Stephanie Aschmann Spires invited the audience to observe a moment of silence and asked everyone in our community to pause to acknowledge the tragic deaths of Marie Haithcox, a first grader at Yates Elementary School, Deon Williams, a seventh grader at Winburn Middle School, and Skyler Williams, a preschool student at Mary Todd Elementary School. Our hearts remain with their families, their school communities, and all those touched by their passing.

Tonight's board meeting also featured a performance by the Lansdowne Elementary chorus, which is made up of third, fourth, and fifth graders. Under the direction of Callie Manor, the students sang two songs -- "La Paloma Se Fue" and "See You Again."

[Watch their performance here.](#)

SALARY SCHEDULE

The Fayette County Board of Education asked Superintendent Demetrus Liggins to bring a revised pay structure for consideration next month in order to ensure that every current FCPS employee will earn more money next year than they did this year, and provide every current FCPS employee with at least a 3 percent pay increase on their base salary.

"Over the past year, our board has repeatedly indicated a desire to ensure we have a fair and competitive pay structure for our incredibly talented employees. This was one of the driving forces behind commissioning a classified salary study last fall, and when we took that action we also requested a certified salary study be done as soon as feasible," Murphy said. "During our budget retreat in February, we discussed a desire to implement the findings of the salary study when it was complete, and when each individual board member set priorities for the tentative budget, we requested that staff scrutinize the revenue forecast and maximize the raise we could provide for our employees."

Liggins has said that since there is so much variation in hourly pay between individual employees, every current FCPS classified hourly employee will receive specific information about their proposed rate of pay for the next school year before the board

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Under the Superintendent's Report, board members heard from incoming Chief of Student Support Dedeeh Newbern and FCPS Police Chief Martin Schafer about how their departments collaborate to provide support for students in our schools.

The comprehensive approach in FCPS, coupled with community support for a dedicated revenue stream, and the school board's investment in mental health professionals makes the district a national model. While national best practice guidelines recommend schools have at least one counselor/social worker/mental health professional for every 350 students, ratios in every FCPS school are better than one for every 250 students.

Newbern gave an overview of the services provided by counselors, social workers, and mental health professionals and spotlighted ways students can access support. She also celebrated the incredible talent among FCPS staff, noting that the state social worker of the year has been from Fayette County for three of the past four years and that FCPS has had both the Kentucky Association of School Counselors and Kentucky Department of Education's top counselor the past two years.

Schafer explained that FCPS police officers prioritize building positive relationships with students and families, and train in partnership with the student support department to ensure officers have a trauma-informed and student-focused approach. Mentoring, coaching, and supporting academic success are all part of their role, he said.

One example is the Handle with Care program in which community emergency responders alert FCPS police when a student has been involved in a traumatic event outside of school so that school staff can respond appropriately. Officers are also trained on the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response curriculum created by the FBI to maximize safety in case of imminent danger.

As the police department has expanded to meet the requirements of state law, Schafer said his team looks for candidates with a special disposition. He shared a comment made by an officer who joined the district this school year. "He told me that he feels like he has done more for our community in the six months that he's been here than in his prior 20 years as a patrol officer."

[View the full presentation here.](#)



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the May [construction highlights](#). He noted that the Bates Creek High School construction project is moving forward and 88% of the work is complete. The new school is slated to open in July of 2022. [Weekly construction updates](#) on the Bates Creek High School project are available on the district website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During the portion of the meeting for remarks by citizens, the following individual shared comments with the Board related to employee compensation:

- Chuck Eddy
- Sara Green
- James Wallace
- Andrea Welker
- Lana Whited

BOARD ACTION



The board voted to:

- Approve [a framework for the 2022-27 FCPS Strategic Plan](#). Superintendent Liggins shared a [summary of the feedback](#) on the draft plan received from more than 1,000 students, employees, families, and community members through an in-person listening session and online input form in six languages.
- Revise the Student Code of Conduct for the 2022-23 school year.
- Appoint Board Member Christy Morris, STEAM Academy Program Director Chris Flores, and community members Anissa Franklin, Ben Haydon, and Yajaira West to the Blue Grass Community Foundation committee.
- Amend the Resolution to Create the Fayette County Public Education Foundation as a Component of Blue Grass Community Foundation.
- Authorize the [instructional fee schedule for the 2022-2023 school year](#).
- Ratify contracts with:
 - Toshiba for districtwide copier services.
 - Education Epiphany to provide professional learning and support at Julius Marks, Russell Cave, and William Wells Brown elementary schools.
 - SchoolMint, Inc. to provide software to be utilized during the application process for our special and magnet programs.
 - The Close Up Foundation to provide an extended summer trip to Washington, D.C. for students served by the Migrant Education Program.
- Update the Certified Evaluation Plan.
- Create a Job Description for an Employee Social-Emotional, Mental Health, and Wellness Support Specialist.
- Modify the 2021-2022 Salary Schedule to provide clarification about the rate of pay for summer programs.
- Adopt the 2022-2023 Tentative Budget.
- Accept the:
 - Pay Date Schedule for 2022-2023.
 - Tentative 2022-2023 School Activity Fund Budget.
 - [Monthly Financial Report for April](#).

The official minutes from May 23, 2022 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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