FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Meeting Buzz

Fayette County Board of Education
June 28, 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 watching the school board meeting online and viewing the meeting in the primary location at 450 Park Place. The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department has advised adults in the school district to continue meeting virtually wherever possible, including faculty meetings, committee meetings, professional learning opportunities, and meetings of the Fayette County Board of Education. The board anticipates transitioning to in-person meetings next month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Acting Superintendent Marlene Helm shared that the Fayette County Public Schools COVID-19 Core Team is developing a return to school guidance document for the 2021-22 school year that will be released to the community prior to the start of school. She thanked the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department for partnering closely with the school district throughout the pandemic and credited their guidance with the ability to keep students in school from February through May and during Summer Ignite.

Lexington-Fayette County Commissioner of Health Dr. Kraig Humbaugh, who will be retiring this summer, presented an update regarding COVID-19 within the community, sharing that Fayette County is making good progress in the fight against the pandemic. "The power of vaccinations to produce immunity is certainly apparent," he said, noting that two-thirds of adults in Fayette County are fully vaccinated, while three-fourths of adults have had at least one shot. However, he said, only 18 percent of individuals between the ages of 12 and 17 in Lexington are fully vaccinated.

There is not a vaccine for children under the age of 12, Humbaugh cautioned, which is why the Health Department has recommended that students and employees at elementary and middle schools continue to wear face coverings and follow other precautions for unvaccinated populations during Summer Ignite. That is consistent with CDC guidelines and the American Academy of Pediatrics guidance, Humbaugh said. "The last several months have shown that students are certainly capable of wearing face coverings correctly and consistently to prevent spread of disease and we have recommended that they continue to do that in these settings," he said, noting that state mandates for masks on public transportation remain in effect, so masks are required on school buses during Summer Ignite.

Also during the superintendent's report, World Language Specialist Dr. Laura Roche' Youngworth gave an update on the district's Seal of Biliteracy initiative, which recognizes students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages upon high school graduation. FCPS is the only district in the state that has adopted the Seal of Biliteracy system-wide. In the spring of 2021, 216 students applied for the designation and 147 were awarded the Seal of Biliteracy for mastering both English and another world language. In addition to English, languages represented include Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Filipino, French, German, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, and Wolof.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the June construction highlights, noting that the security vestibule for the new Carter G. Woodson Preparatory Academy is 95% complete and will be done in July. He also shared an update on the new Tates Creek High School building, where 50% of the work is complete. The new school is slated to open in July of 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During the portion of the meeting for remarks by citizens, Board Chair Tyler Murphy explained that the board has instituted a process to allow members of the public to sign up to speak in advance of regular school board meetings similar to that used by the Lexington Fayette Urban County Council. Details on that process are available at http://www.fcps.net/PublicComment.

No one who signed up to speak regarding matters permitted pursuant to district policy, however, a written comment from Rick Thompson was received. His full submission will be shared with the board members and included in the board meeting record, which is not the same as the board meeting minutes.

BOARD ACTION

The board voted to approve:
- Annual policy updates prepared by the Kentucky School Boards Association.
- Revised Job Descriptions for GT Education Coordinator, GT Education Instructional Specialist, District English Learners Program Liaison, Instructional Specialist for English Learners, and Dropout Prevention Specialist.
- New job descriptions for Director of Grant Programming and Associate Director of Student Support, Mental Health and Social Emotional Learning.
- Special Education ARC Chairpersons.
- A Trauma Informed Plan for FCPS.
- A Social Studies Curriculum Resource Program.
- An addendum to the FCPS contract with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department that would provide full-time nurses at all district middle and high schools.
- The instructional calendar for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The pay date schedule for the 2021-2022 contract year.
- The monthly financial report.

The official minutes from June 28, 2021 will be posted within the agenda of the July 12, 2021 school board planning work session.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

The school board's action meetings are televised live on FCPS-ETV (Spectrum Channel 197, Windstream Channel 13, and MetroNet Channel 2) 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 and are archived through the FCPS YouTube channel. Planning and action meetings are also streamed live through the district's YouTube channel and Video on Demand service. If watching on the district website, please hover over the Live Streams banner at the top and click on the play button to begin on your device.

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