



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education

Aug. 27, 2018

Providing timely, clear, and accurate information to students, staff, families, and community members about the latest Fayette County Public Schools news is an important part of meeting our mission to create a collaborative community that ensures all students achieve at high levels and graduate prepared to excel in a global society. Only an informed community can fully participate in improving the quality of our schools, and these monthly school board meeting summaries are one of the many ways we work to provide honest, proactive, consistent, and responsive communication to those we serve.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the start of the meeting, the board elected Stephanie Spires as chair to replace longtime member Melissa Bacon, who resigned this month to care for her aging mother.

Spires was appointed to represent school board District 4 in 2017.

"I'm honored to be chosen to step into this leadership role," she said. "Melissa left some very big shoes to fill and she will be missed. We have a solid board team and with the a clear vision outlined in the strategic plan I am confident that this board will continue to advocate and serve the needs of all Fayette County students." Ray Daniels, who represents District 3, will continue to serve as vice chair.



Stephanie Spires
Board Chair



Raymond Daniels
Board Vice Chair

WELCOME & STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Board Chair Stephanie Spires welcomed the audience and Garden Springs fifth-grader Iris Henning, who sang "Pure Imagination" from her school's production of "Willy Wonka Jr."

KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS



The school board recognized the following students and staff for recent accomplishments:

- Jessica Lin, a second-grader at Rosa Parks Elementary, first place in the Adopt-a-Highway Art Contest;
- Henry Allen, sixth-grader at Leestown Middle, among the 14 students recognized as [2018 Young Achievers](#);
- SCAPA fourth-grader Lily Tay and Lafayette senior Kate Myrup, Awards of Excellence in [PTA Reflections](#);
- Paige Hensley of Frederick Douglass High School, and Julia Meadors and Megan Meadors of Henry Clay High School, participants in [Governor's School for Entrepreneurs](#);
- A team from Winburn Middle, runner-up at the [Future Problem Solving Program International's conference](#);
- A Winburn quick-recall team, tied for first place in one section of the [2018 National Academic Championship](#);
- [FCCLA club from Beaumont Middle](#), contest medals at the national conference;
- Maxwell Elementary news team, first place at [STLP State Championships](#);
- [Edythe J. Hayes Middle's Beta Club](#), national Service Award; and Carson Kitts, first place in Digital Art;
- Staci Davis of Southern Middle, Adviser of the Year at the [TSA national conference](#).

PROCLAMATIONS

The board approved proclamations for [National Suicide Prevention Month](#) and [National Arts in Education Week](#).

Reading the proclamation recognizing September as National Suicide Prevention Month were Mackenzie Leachman, a Positive Behavior Interventions and Support coach, and Shericka Smith, Project AWARE grant manager and crisis team coordinator, both from the Department of Student Support Services.



Presenting the proclamation celebrating National Arts in Education Week, from the StationARTS program at Bryan Station High School: Melissa Canales, an orchestra major with minors in



visual art, piano, and guitar; Caden Tarry, a theater performance major with minors in technical theater and guitar; Rylea Lewis, a theater performance major with a minor in vocal music; Caleb Robinson, an orchestra major minoring in piano; and LaMargaret Johnson, who is double majoring in orchestra and media arts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S 212 DEGREE AWARD

At 211 degrees, water is hot. But at 212 degrees it boils. The difference is just one degree, but it is significant. Boiling water creates steam and that steam has enough energy to power a freight train. Each day in the Fayette County Public Schools, countless staff members go above and beyond in the service of students. To highlight those efforts, each month we honor some of them at our school board meetings with a 212 Degree recognition.

This month, we recognized a group of employees who came together to create very special memories for an incoming kindergartener with terminal cancer and his family.

Members of our special education department work for months in advance of the upcoming school year to ensure that plans are in place to meet the individual needs of our incoming kindergarten students with exceptionalities.

This year that work included getting ready to welcome 5-year-old Bruce Dodd to Coventry Oak Elementary School. In November of 2017, Bruce was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive brain stem tumor called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). Although medical advances are happening daily, currently, the prognosis for children with DIPG is unfortunately extremely poor, with essentially a 100% mortality rate within nine months to a year of diagnosis.

Last spring, a team of professionals began the process of assessing Bruce's needs for kindergarten this fall and developing a plan for him to be successful. At the time, Bruce had completed radiation and was in a 'honeymoon period' where the tumor was not growing. One of his fervent wishes was to ride a bus to school.

Although evaluations typically take 60 school days to complete, the team working with Bruce and his family completed the evaluation in 20 days. In late May, they came together to review the evaluation and develop an individualized education plan or IEP for Bruce. The day the team met to approve Bruce's IEP was the same day his family got the news that Bruce's tumor had progressed and his symptoms were increasing.

Everyone involved felt a sense of urgency to fulfill Bruce's dream of riding the school bus to kindergarten. The transportation department, special education department and staff at Coventry Oak Elementary came together quickly to make June 13th Bruce's day at school.

Steve Crowe was our bus driver for the day, and from the moment he pulled up at Bruce's home, to the final hug, and every photo in between, he made sure Bruce had a great time on the bus.

The staff at Coventry Oak Elementary rolled out the red carpet, changing the sign in front of the school to read, "WELCOME TO COVENTRY OAK SUPER SCHOLAR BRUCE." When the bus got to the door of the school, the staff greeting him with a large banner that read, "We LOVE Bruce! COE Comet Crew!" They even included a Batman touch in honor of one of Bruce's favorite superheroes. While at school, Bruce and his mom had a chance to read in the library and play on the playground.

One person involved reflected, "I had the BEST day ever. I got to wait for the bus with Bruce and his Mom as the anticipation built. I was so very blessed to ride with Bruce and his Mom as we talked about him going to kindergarten in the fall. I got to know Bus Driver Steve and witness how compassionate he was with Bruce. I saw the excitement on Bruce's face as we pulled up and he saw the COE staff there to greet him. After all the adventures at the school that day, I rode home with Bruce. He was so excited to show the bus to his brothers and father who climbed aboard for more pictures. I know that what we do every day is All About Kids but on this day in particular, it was All About Bruce and I am forever blessed by the experience."

Bruce passed away on August 4, 2018. If you would like to make a contribution to finding a cure for DIPG, please consider donating in Bruce's honor [here](#)



Special thanks to the following employees who went above and beyond to help make one of Bruce's dreams come true: Steve Crowe, Brad Daniel, Amanda Dennis, Amanda Escola, Shamiah Ford, Becky Goss, Sarah Goss, Christina Grace, Shannon Kersey, Erica Lewis, By'Shey McDonald, Margaret Miracle, John Moore, Krista Owens, Susan Owens, Michael Owens, Tiffany Runyon, Debi Varney, and Tara White.

EQUITY UPDATES

Equity Officer Darryl Thompson and Culturally Responsive Teaching and



Learning Coach Katina Brown gave a presentation to the board about a new initiative requiring employees to complete training in cultural competence and racial bias between now and December 31. The effort is part of the district's commitment to equity and inclusion and will provide all staff members with a common understanding of implicit bias and cultural competence.

Superintendent Manny Caulk told the board that his leadership team would be among the first to complete the training and model this work for its colleagues across the school system. "This is just the initial step in beginning those courageous conversations," Caulk said.

LATEST CONSTRUCTION

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the [August construction updates](#) from Fayette's newest elementary school, off Athens-Boonesboro Road.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Among the action items, board members voted to approve:



- New grant assurances for Family Resource and Youth Services Centers at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, Lexington Traditional Magnet School, Veterans Park/Clays Mill/Stonewall and Ashland/Maxwell elementaries. FRYSC coordinators will be added at these sites in January because at least 20 percent of students qualify for free/reduced meals.
- A contract with Sara Elaine Farris for mentoring school leaders;
- A contract with the College Board to provide on-site AP workshops;
- The [unaudited year-end financial reports](#) (June) and the [monthly treasurer's report](#) (July);
- A 2018-19 property tax rate of 76 cents, which will generate 4 percent more revenue in local dollars than last year. That additional revenue of \$9 million is already included in the balanced budget the board approved in May. Even with that increase, the board still had to cut \$5.5 million, including a \$4.4 million reduction in central office staff and operations, to offset a decrease in state funding and rising costs in salaries and benefits, utilities, portables and other expenses. Previous rates in Fayette County remained flat at 75 cents in 2017 and in 2016.

The official minutes from Aug. 27 will be posted within the agenda of the Sept. 24 school board meeting.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

School board meetings are televised live on FCPS-ETV and can be [streamed live](#) with an IE browser. The meetings are also replayed the same week at 2 p.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m. Wednesday, and 2 p.m. Saturday, and are then archived via our [Video on Demand service](#). In addition, the broadcasts, board agendas, and official minutes are [available online](#) along with these "Board Meeting Buzz" highlights.

FCPS is governed by an elected five-member board that meets on the second and fourth Monday each month in the district's offices at 701 E. Main St., Lexington, Ky.

Meetings are open to the public, and community participation is welcome.

859-381-4104
fcps.net/board

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