



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education

November 19, 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.

### WELCOME & STUDENT PERFORMANCE



Board Chair Stephanie Spires welcomed the audience and this month's three honorary board members: classified staff representative Felicia Hager of Meadowthorpe Elementary (left), student representative Natalia Smith of STEAM Academy, and teacher representative Steven Riley of Henry Clay High

School. November's student performance featured Southern Elementary Stix, a percussion group under the direction of music teacher Judi Reynolds.

## SPECIAL AWARD



From left: Lesa Kay Hoffman of American Fidelity, Superintendent Caulk, and KASA Executive Director Wayne Young

Fayette's own Manny Caulk has been named Kentucky's 2019 Superintendent of the Year. [Read more here.](#)

## KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS



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

- [Volleyball tournament winners](#) from Edythe J. Hayes and Jessie Clark middle schools;
- [Lafayette High School's marching band](#), the Class 5A state champion;
- [FFA club members](#) from Locust Trace AgriScience Center who earned state and national awards;
- [Jessica Sanchez](#), the district's interpreting coordinator, as recipient of a national honor from the American Translators Association; and
- Fayette County Public Schools Police Department Sgt. Chris Gatewood and Officer Jeff Jones were honored this month with a 212 Degree Award for working late into the evening to find a Frederick Douglass High School student who was planning to run away in order to safely reunite her with her family.

# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

During his monthly report, Superintendent Manny Caulk invited staff and community members to present updates and information on each of the following topics:



- Acceleration Learning Labs: Chief Academic Officer Kate McAnelly shared that the beginning the week after Thanksgiving, students at Arlington, Booker T. Washington, Coventry Oak, Harrison, Mary Todd, Millcreek, William Wells Brown and Yates elementary schools will be provided with extended learning opportunities after school at least two days a week. Students who need additional support in reading and math will be invited to participate in the programs, which will offer evidence-based programs proven to accelerate student achievement. Transportation and snacks will also be provided. Reading programs offered will include LitLeague and Imagine Learning, which are both designed to be engaging and interactive.
- ACT Scores: Caulk reported that although ACT scores for the graduating class of 2018 were down across the nation, Fayette County Public Schools seniors bucked the trend and posted the highest average composite score in the last five years. With an overall score of 21.2, the FCPS class of 2018 outpaced the state average of 20.2 and national average of 20.8. Scores in FCPS were higher than average scores in all 17 states where 100% of students are assessed. A greater percentage of FCPS graduates hit college readiness benchmarks in every subject than across the state and nation. Also, reading and math achievement also hit a five year high, while science and English scores were the best in three years. Caulk also noted that 16 FCPS students earned perfect ACT scores last year, which is three times the national rate.
- Innovative Programs: Caulk gave the board a progress report on the possible expansion of existing programs and establishment of new programs in the district, including the Spanish Immersion Program, Carter G. Woodson Academy, a public-private initiative for high school students, a STEM Program for girls, a Primary Performing Arts Academy, SCAPA and a state-of-the-art, future forward Career Academies Campus. Action has been taken on each of the projects, including planning meetings, site visits and conversations with community partners. A plan for each will be brought to the school board in January.
- Comprehensive 10-Point Safety Investment Plan: Board members heard an update on progress made on each of the 10 initiatives in the safety investment plan:
  - The recruitment and hiring of additional police officers continues. So far, there have been 79 applicants for the police positions, six sworn officers have been hired and all but one will start before the end of November.
  - In the area of additional mental health professionals for elementary schools, principals have been surveyed to identify whether they would prefer a guidance specialist/school counselor, social worker or psychologist. So far, 65 applicants have been interviewed and the district is currently selecting finalists and making job offers. Those

hired will start the first week of January with a week-long on-boarding training.

- Metal detectors have been implemented at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School and will be added at Tates Creek High School next. The demand for metal detectors nationally has delayed the shipment of our equipment.
- IDs have been issued for all staff and are being issued on a school by school basis beginning with the high schools.
- The board voted Monday to approve a contract for an app that will improve response and communication in the event of an emergency. Implementation will begin in January.
- Orders have been placed for 14 schools to receive cameras and electronic badge access systems and all schools to receive exterior door alarms. Installation of cameras and door alarms will begin after Thanksgiving.
- The board voted Monday to approve the first step in the construction of secure vestibules for 27 schools, which requires a multi-step application process with the Kentucky Department of Education.
- The board voted Monday to hire a social media monitoring company and implementation will begin Nov. 20.
- The board voted Nov. 5 to expand its contract with the Health Department to hire additional school nurses. An RFP for Comprehensive Health Assessment and Services was released and the district will begin negotiations with interested vendors.
- Staff and community partners have evaluated 21 social and emotional learning curriculums, have five more to evaluate and plan to bring a recommendation to the board in January.
- Training and outreach for families, including the distribution of safety guides for families, has already begun and will continue.

## EQUITY UPDATES



Equity Officer Darryl Thompson welcomed district staff and community partners to present a report on the most recent Family University -- known as FamU -- which was held on November 3, 2018 and drew more than 200 attendees. Workshops were offered on the district's English language arts and math curriculums, services available for students with special needs and English language learners, bullying, school safety, SBDMS and family engagement.

Student performers included the STEAM Academy Steel Pan Band and La Tradición Folkloric dance group. We had student volunteers from the The Success Academy, Bryan Station High School Spanish Immersion, and the Alpha League.

Community Partners included representatives from the 16th District PTA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Carnegie Center, Lexington Public Library, Parks & Recreation, PNC, Urban League, YMCA and FCPS Community Partners Leadership Team (CPLT). The resource fair provided participants with information

about Infinite Campus, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), Lexington Public Library, McKinney Vento, School Grading & Assessment, YMCA Black Achievers, FCPS Transportation (job recruitment) and Kelly Services. Our thanks also to Champs and North Lime Coffee and Donuts for providing breakfast.

The next Fam U will be Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the University of Kentucky CM Gatton College of Business.

## LATEST CONSTRUCTION

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



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Among the action items, board members voted to approve:



- A contract with Encore Travel in conjunction with a field trip at Lafayette High School;
- A memorandum of agreement between the district and the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children, outlining the district's provision of educational services to some of our community's most vulnerable students;
- A contract with Crisis Go, which will digitize the district's emergency management procedures and enable better internal communication in the event of an emergency. This initiative is part of the district's Comprehensive 10-Point Safety Investment Plan;
- A contract with [Social Sentinel](#), which will monitor public social media posts in order to identify potential safety threats and alert officials so that immediate action can be taken. This initiative is part of the district's Comprehensive 10-Point Safety Investment Plan;
- [Monthly financial reports](#) and the [annual audit](#). The district received the highest possible ratings on its external audit, which was conducted by Strothman & Company. The district has also received credit rating upgrades from Standards & Poor's Financial Services and Moody's Investors Service.

*The official minutes from Nov. 19 will be posted within the agenda of the Dec. 17 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.

**859-381-4104**  
[fcps.net/board](http://fcps.net/board)

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

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Fayette County Public Schools, 1126 Russell Cave Road, Lexington, KY 40509

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