



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education

December 17, 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: teacher representative Meghan Borough of Glendover Elementary (left), student representative Rileigh Smith of Frederick Douglass High School, and classified staff representative Officer Patrick Miller of the Fayette County Public Schools Police Department. December's student performance featured the chamber choir from Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, which presented three holiday favorites.



SPECIAL THANKS



From left: Superintendent Manny Caulk with board members Ray Daniels, Doug Barnett, Stephanie Spires, Daryl Love, and Will Nash

The school board paused to thank member Doug Barnett, who is wrapping up his service here at the close of 2018. District 2 voters elected the local attorney in 2010 and 2014; he opted not to run again this fall. During his tenure, Barnett has been a champion for students and families, as well as for educators and classified staff. A constant learner, he was always willing to listen to constituents, seek answers, research issues and push for the best outcome for students. As a servant leader, Barnett showed tremendous empathy and advocacy for historically under-served populations, pushing for the elimination of achievement disparities.

KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS

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



- ["Yes I Can" award winner](#) from Lafayette High School;
- [Model United Nations delegates](#) from Henry Clay High School;
- [City champions in football](#) from Edythe J. Hayes (A) and Southern (B) middle schools;
- Kentucky's [Outstanding Elementary Science Teacher](#), from Sandersville;
- 212 Degree Award recipients: Athens-Chilesburg Elementary School principal Peggy Henderson, behavior specialist Brooke Kincheloe, and

teacher Haley Hamm, who stayed at school until 10:30 p.m. with a student who couldn't go home due to an external issue. They helped turn what could have been a scary situation into a fun night of learning filled with reading, special projects, dinner, snacks and movies.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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



- **Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIP):** Senior Director of Leadership Schuronda Morton and the district's Chiefs of Schools presented information about the school improvement plans developed by each of the district's elementary, middle and high schools to address specific students needs in each building. Once approved, the plans will be posted on the district and school's websites for public access. The plan is a living document, designed to be revised throughout the school year as student needs change and additional data is collected.
- **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 90 applicants for the police positions, six have been hired and are already working, three have been offered positions and will start in January, an additional officer will start in February and 25 candidates have been moved forward to the background check process.
 - After more than 100 interviews, 28 exceptionally talented and diverse mental health professionals have been hired to work in our elementary schools. After an on-boarding and training in January, the counselors, social workers and psychologists will begin working with students.
 - Metal detectors are in use daily at Frederick Douglass and Paul Laurence Dunbar high schools. They will be implemented at Tates Creek High School in January, with Bryan Station to follow in February.
 - IDs have been issued for all staff and are currently being used by students at Frederick Douglass and Paul Laurence Dunbar high schools. The district's other four comprehensive high schools -- Bryan Station, Henry Clay, Lafayette and Tates Creek -- will distribute IDs and lanyards to students when they return from winter break in January.
 - Implementation of the internal emergency response app will begin in January.
 - Exterior door alarms have been installed in all high schools. Cameras have been installed at SCAPA and The Success Academy. Keyless entry systems are being installed at Beaumont Middle and The Learning Center. Installation of DVR camera recorders is complete at Bryan Station, Crawford, Edythe J. Hayes, Tates Creek and Winburn middle schools. Installation is underway or complete at Cassidy, Clays

- Mill, Liberty, Mary Todd, Millcreek, Russell Cave, Sandersville, Wellington and William Wells Brown elementary schools.
 - o The board has identified design consultants for the construction of secure vestibules in all schools without them.
 - o Implementation of social media monitoring is underway. Additional school nurses have been hired and beginning January 3, 2019 all high schools will have a full-time nurse.
 - o Staff and community partners have evaluated 26 social and emotional learning curriculums, and will collect additional input from schools on the top rated ones in January.
 - o Training and outreach for families, including the distribution of safety guides for families, has already begun and will continue.
- Caulk reviewed current research on early brain development that underscore the importance of language-rich experiences for children before they ever enter school. Then he shared the results of the kindergarten screenings conducted in August of this school year. Only 51.3 percent of students entering kindergarten this fall reached readiness benchmarks established by the Kentucky Department of Education. He highlighted the district's First 5 Lex community partnership to support the whole child and their family, but also advocated for additional state funding for full-day kindergarten and preschool. In 2017, only 26 percent of Kentucky 4-year-olds were enrolled in preschool, with state funding per child of \$4,715. In contrast, 88 percent of the 4-year-olds living in Washington D.C. are enrolled in preschool with funding of \$16,996 per child.

EQUITY UPDATES



Equity Officer Darryl Thompson gave the board an update on the most recent meeting of the Equity Council Committee, during which two members were elected to fill vacant posts. In January, each member of the Fayette County Board of Education will appoint a member to serve on the Equity Council.

LATEST CONSTRUCTION

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



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Among the action items, board members voted to approve:



- Comprehensive School Improvement Plans for the district's elementary, middle and high schools;
- [Monthly financial reports](#).

Under informational items:

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson, Transportation Director Marcus Dobbs, Human Resources Director Jennifer Dyar, and Human Resources Associate Director Kiyon Massey presented proposals to the board designed to address shortages of school bus drivers and substitute educators.

The transportation recommendation would reinstate a 2014 cut to entry level salaries, raise starting bus driver pay from \$14.20 to at least \$17.76 an hour and starting trainer supervisor pay from \$15.38 to at least \$19.22 an hour. Employees working in other positions who hold a CDL license and are asked to fill in for driver vacancies would receive an additional \$3 an hour for driving.

The substitute proposal would raise substitute paraeducator pay from \$10.90 to \$12.50 an hour, non-certified teacher substitute pay from \$84 to \$100 a day, certified teacher substitute pay from \$109 to \$125 a day, retired certified teacher pay from \$149 to \$160 a day, and long term certified substitute teacher pay from \$159 to \$175 a day.

Staff told board members that the adjustments would help make FCPS competitive with other school districts in the region. The district is currently 27.5 bus drivers short to cover existing routes. The board will be asked to vote on the matter in January.

The official minutes from Dec. 17 will be posted within the agenda of the Jan. 28 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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