

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS (MINUTES)

SPRINGFIELD, KY MAY 13, 2024 REGULAR SESSION

The Washington County Board of Education met in Regular Session at the Washington County TEL Center at 6:00 p.m. on the 13th day of MAY 2024 with the following members present:

- (1) Curtis Hamilton (2) Jeremy Thompson (3) Carissa Harley (4) Sherri Cheser
(5) Ray Canterbury

Superintendent Dr. Robin Cochran led the Pledge of Allegiance and board member Ray Canterbury read the mission statement. Mr. Hamilton welcomed all in attendance, acknowledged that May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, and proceeded with the meeting.

Retirement Recognition

The board and Superintendent Dr. Cochran recognized Melissa Nally for her retirement and 12 years of service to Washington County Schools as an instructional assistant. Mrs. Nally was absent for the recognition.

Campbellsville University Excellence in Teaching

The board and Superintendent Dr. Cochran recognized the three teachers who were recognized in the Campbellsville University Excellence in Teaching Awards – Daily Goatley, Kandice Spalding and Kiana Smith. Mrs. Goatley and Mrs. Spalding were present for the recognition. Mrs. Smith was absent.

Student Recognitions

The board and Superintendent Dr. Cochran recognized WCHS juniors Isabella Piasecki, Madeline Spalding, Jesse McClain and John Alexander Taylor for being accepted into the Governor's Scholar Program, Seth Herald, Jesse McClain and Salvador Samudio for being accepted into the Governor's School for the Arts, and Madelaine Gilmour for being accepted into the Governor's School for Entrepreneurs. They also recognized WCHS graduating seniors Hailey Medley and Andrea Cooksey for receiving the Larry Graves Memorial Scholarship. Finally, they recognized several students for being inducted onto the WCHS ACT Wall of Fame – Jesse McClain (31), Jolon Mudd (29), Morgan Carrico (28) Logan Gillis (28) Ann Hamilton (28), Cecilia-Ellen Higdon (28), Ashton Jones (28) and Jacob Piasecki (28).

Presentation – Gifted & Talented Progress Update

Allison Carney, who serves as the Gifted & Talented Coordinator and Resource Teacher for the district, gave a brief update on students activities, projects and achievements in the gifted and talented program.

Presentation – Update on Feeding America Pantry Partnership Program

FRYSC Coordinators Jesse Mattingly, Wendy Chessier and Megan Couch presented a brief update on the progress and success of the pantry partnership between FRYSC and Feeding America.

Legislative Liaison Report

Board member Jeremy Thompson reported that there have been no Interim Joint Committee Meetings on Education since the 2024 regular session ended. Mr. Thompson attended a State update on bills passed last week.

1,200 bills were filed.

214 (17.6%) enacted

158 House bills passed/enacted.

56 Senate bills passed/enacted.

1,004 bills died (82.4% filed)

240+ bills with a potential impact to school policy was tracked by KSBA.

KSBA reports this session was approached at a local control standpoint. KSBA reports this year was one of the best years in being open and welcomed and receptive by the legislature in working with them on education related bills.

Education related bills:

HB6 – Budget Bill – SEEK funding 3% & 6% increase \$4,326 (FY25) & \$4,586 (FY26)

Transportation will be at 90% (FY25) & 100% (FY26)

TRS – funds the actuarially recommended contributions & increases dollars to retirees' health insurance.

SROs - \$34.5 million over 2 years – Each campus is eligible for \$20K reimbursement.

Also, includes Full day kindergarten, ATC funding, AEDs (funding via KDE), increased dollars to FRYSCS & Construction Projects

While original bill included language requiring increase in SEEK dollars to go to salaries, that language was removed in the final version. However, the legislature made it clear it was still expected to provide salary increases in efforts to improve retention & recruitment but is left up to the local control.

HB2 – Public Funds for Private Schools – School Choice K-12 – Voters will decide this in November election.

SB2 – School Safety – “Armed” Guardians – only available at SRO Level 1 training (not level II, or III); Retired law enforcement, or Honorable Discharged Veterans – Cannot arrest, cannot discipline – Cannot be used in place of a SRO, but can fill gaps.

Also include Trauma Informed language – requires districts to create trauma informed care teams to track & report service data to State.

Also requires school mapping – universal school mapping system to be used by law enforcement & other first responders.

HB449 – School Boards

Affidavits – can be used as evidence of 12th grade completion as an alternative to the high school transcript.

Training – Limits Finance & Superintendent Evaluation training to be within the first 2 years of board service. Board members can still take it thereafter, but no longer required.

Training – Adds requirement for 1 hour of ethics & 1 hour of Open meetings/records training every 4 years.

Purpose was to allow board members to take more elective courses/training that normally cannot.

Also, include language regarding Oaths of Office – Clarifies and expands reasons board members can be removed from office.

HB580 – Unexpired term election – revises filing for unexpired term election (not specific to school boards, but includes)

HB446 – Discipline & Transportation – Requires local boards to create a separate policy related to discipline when aboard a school bus.

HB 142 - Discipline & Vaping – Requires local boards to create a separate policy related to vaping with a 3-strike penalty. Mandates reporting of incidents to KDE. Requires awareness of vaping dangers to students by school district.

SB11 – Student Criminal Charges – requires courts to notify school districts of charges of certain crimes alleged/committed by students; also requires school districts to destroy any file received if the charges are dismissed/dropped. (Includes, if same as committed by an adult - would be a: any Felony; or Misdemeanor involving a controlled substance; The possession, carrying, or use of a deadly weapon; Physical injury to another person; Sexual contact; Sexual intercourse; or Deviate sexual intercourse.)

HB271 – Child Abuse reporting – Oks the ability for people to report suspected abuse electronically and the ability to report to KSP and/or to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, not just to CHFS.

HB5 – Criminal Justice – new reporting requirements – changes specific to school threats...

HB829 – Medical Cannabis in School – Requires local school boards to decide if medical cannabis will be allowed to be administered at school. If allowed, the administration of the medical cannabis can only be done by the Nurse, or parent/guardian with nurse oversight. Bill does allow a nurse to opt out from administering without penalty.

SB18 – School Bus Equipment – Bases required bus equipment on federal requirements.

HB169 – AEDs – Requires AEDS to be placed in elementary schools - making all schools requiring AEDs. Funding is being provided via another bill through KDE).

HB447 – Use of passenger vans to transport students to/from school – vehicles with 9 passengers or under, students cannot cross a road when dropped off; drug testing required of drivers.

HB611 – Truancy Reporting – DPPs must file complaints with the county attorney if more than 15 unexcused days are missed – for both K-5 & 6-12. It is up to the county attorney, after review, to take any further action.

HB377 – Teacher Recruitment

SB265 – Teacher Certification

HB387 – Hiring of subs without college credits.

HB300 – EPSB Investigations – gives teacher more options to appeal.

HB825 – Audit of KDE

HB162 – Learning – Improves and invests dollars (several million) to improve math instruction K-3.

HB695 – Kindergarten Readiness – Create a pilot program to put tablets and internet access into the hands of incoming K classes to improve Kindergarten readiness.

HB535 – Civics Education Bill– Local school boards to decide if students will be required to take a ½ credit civics course or pass a civic test to graduate – Raises passing score from 60% - 70% to pass.

SB167 – Cursive Writing – Students must be proficient by 5th grade. Local school boards given control to define “proficiency” in cursive writing.

SB58 – Tax Recalls – Allows just 3 people to file petition committee rather than the current 5 people required to file a tax recall.

HCR 825 – JCPS task force study – breaking school district up.

April 15 – Dr. Robbie Fletcher, current Lawrence County Schools superintendent, was confirmed by the KY Senate as the next Kentucky Commissioner of Education. His service will begin July 1. Dr. Fletcher was the first to ever be confirmed by the KY Senate, which was the new procedure previously passed by the legislature.

Treasurer's Report

Board Meeting Date: 5/13/2024

The FY25 tentative budget presented to the board totals \$33,794,631.87.

The total general fund tentative budget is \$24,351,547. This includes a \$5,000,000 in beginning fund balance, operating revenues of \$13,441,597 and the state's on behalf payments for our district of \$5,650,950 and indirect costs transfer in from food service of \$259,000. The budget does not include a property tax increase. SEEK funding is projected to be \$7,622,065. This is a \$506,867 increase from 2024 final SEEK allocation. We budgeted a slight increase in ad valorem taxes and utility taxes; \$4,487,747 and \$817,000 respectively. We projected interest earnings to be \$310,000. In the general fund our projected amount for payroll, fringe, on behalf payments and worker's compensation insurance is \$16,867,914 and \$5,528,633 in operating costs and funds transfers. The budgeted contingency is \$1,955,000. We project the actual cost of salary and fringe to be \$11.67 million if you approve the salary schedule being presented. KTRS employer match is 3.0% for nonfederal funds. CERS employer match decreased from 23.34% to 19.71%. We are not planning to purchase a bus this year. We still have 2 buses on backorder being paid for by our ESSER grant. Additional budget was applied to key areas such as substitute costs, sick leave payout, repair and maintenance and supplies. The general fund budget is made up of 69% salaries, fringe and on behalf payments (60% without the state's on behalf payments), 22.41% operating expenditures, less than 1% of funds transfers leaving the remaining 8.04% as contingency. The projected amount of change is \$457,477. This would leave a \$4.5 million projected fund balance or 32%.

KDE's legal counsel opinion is we will not have to advertise or do a tax hearing when setting a 4% property tax rate or lower.

The proposed salary schedule has a 5% increase on both certified and classified salary schedules with no change in substitute teacher. For the working budget we will adjust Section 6 carryovers to the actual ending balance at June 30th. Over the summer months we will strategically plan our funding in such a way to protect local funds. We will continue to update our grants as information becomes available.

The special revenue fund total budget is \$2,268,133.87. We believe the funding will remain consistent and will be adjusted for the working budget as final grant allocations become available. Changes will be presented with the monthly budget amendments and/or with the working budget.

The district activity fund total budget is \$255,174.

The school activity fund total budget is \$444,913.

Our capital outlay and building funds total \$405,256 and \$2,020,528. A total of \$1,575,928 will be used toward debt service.

Debt service budget for next year is \$1,790,099 for principal and interest payments. SFCC provides \$214,171 towards our debt service.

School food service has a budget of \$3,209,080. Budgeted salaries, fringe and on behalf payment equal \$871,460 operating costs are \$1,662,708 and a budgeted contingency of \$579,912. The indirect cost is budgeted at \$95,000.

Daycare has a budget of \$666,650.

Current year report:

Balance Sheet

General Fund \$6,351,678.66
Special Revenue \$1,622,996.23
District Activity \$172,259.52
Student Activity \$171,896.69
Capital Outlay \$332,872.48
Building \$151,770.31
Construction \$7,615,294.42
Debt Service \$(121,688.58)
Food Service \$1,182,289.90
Day Care \$665,903.65
Scholarship \$5,140.69

General Fund:

General fund received \$11,348,468.65 in revenue and spent \$9,706,760.20 in expenditures.

Special Revenue Fund:

Year-to-date expenditures for salaries and fringe are \$2,143,045.96 and operational expenditures are \$1,098,002.61.

District Activity Fund:

Year-to-date expenditures are \$112,870.69.

Student Activity Fund:

Year-to-date expenditures are \$221,812.86.

Capital Outlay Fund & Building (FSPK) Fund:

We received \$77,600 in capital outlay funding and \$323,452 in state match FSPK funding and \$944,656 in local property tax. This will be used to offset the debt service.

Construction Fund:

Year to date we spent \$2,294,272.73 in construction funds.

Debt Service Fund:

Year-to-date principal and interest paid on debt is \$1,238,026.27.

Food Service Fund:

Total year-to-date receipts are \$1,585,755.15 and expenditures are \$1,505,215.05.

Day Care Fund:

Total year-to-date receipts are \$215,096.14 and expenditures are \$45,235.03.

Scholarship Fund:

Total expenditures this year is \$0.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cochran reported that Washington County Judge-Executive Graves indicated that he would like to continue with the SRO contract with the district. Dr. Cochran also reported that a survey regarding offering summer academies had been sent out to gauge interest, and results were not good. She reported that there had been a request for the agricultural board partnering with the district on another agricultural pathway. Finally, she reported that the salary schedules that were on for approval indicating a 5% raise for all teachers and staff.

Student Learning and Support Services – Action by Consent

Bd. #24-036– Upon motion of Carissa Harley and seconded by Ray Canterbury, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 the following consent items:

- Approved minutes from April 15, 2024 Regular Session.
- Approved payment of bills as presented.
- Approved budget amendments as presented.
- Approved donations made to Washington County Schools as presented:
 - Donation to NWES Archery from ARC; \$500.00
 - Donation to WCHS Athletics from City of Springfield; \$1,000.00
 - Donation to WCHS Football from WC Football Boosters; \$91.46
- Approved the following leave affidavits for unpaid days:
 - Emily Keith – April 29, 2024 (1 day)
 - Jennifer Johnson – May 22, 2024 (1 day)
 - Abby Purdom – May 3, 2024 & May 6, 2024 (1.5 days)
- Approved intent to apply for Title III EL funds as presented.
- Approved intent to apply for Title IV Part A funds as presented.
- Approved 2024-2025 Washington County Schools Professional Development Plan as presented.
- Approved Washington County Schools K-12 Lau Plan for Serving English Learners as presented.
- Approved Memorandum of Agreement between Elizabethtown Community & Technical College and Washington County Schools as presented.
- Approved Memorandum of Agreement between Midway University Teacher Education Program and Washington County Schools as presented.
- Approved proposal for KYCL Grant Kentucky Writing Project professional learning for ELA, CTE, Science and Social Studies teachers for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.
- Approved two-year contract for athletic contest basketball for Kentucky All “A” Classic as presented.

- Approved Contractual Service Agreement Between Communicare, Inc. and Washington County Board of Education as presented.
- Approved request to the Washington County Board of Education to escrow the following of the 2023-2024 Section 6 SBDM allocation as presented:
 - WCHS - \$7,800
 - NWES - \$3,000
 - WCMS - \$7,453
 - WCES - \$29,000
- Approved proposed activity fund principal's budgets for WCES, NWES, WCMS and WCHS as required by Redbook for the FY 24-25 school year as presented.
- Approved Onsolve, LLC Renewal Order Form Contract for One Call Now as presented.
- Approved Trip Requests for the following:
 - Trip Request for WCHS Environmental Club to travel to Carlisle, KY for state competition May 15-16, 2024.
 - Trip Request for WCHS chapter of Educators Rising to travel to Washington, D.C. for national competition June 27-July 1, 2024.
- Approved physical therapy contract for 2024-2025 school year as presented.
- Approved purchase order form and change order for WCHS Phase II with Daktronics for scoreboard/play clocks as presented.
- Approved school safety event contract with Kirkland Productions as presented.

Student Learning and Support Services – Action, Potential Discussion

- Bd. #24-037** – Upon motion of Ray Canterbury and seconded by Jeremy Thompson, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 2024-2025 tentative budget as presented.
- Bd. #24-038** – Upon motion of Sherri Cheser and seconded by Ray Canterbury, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 2024-2025 salary schedules as presented.
- Bd. #24-039** – Upon motion of Carissa Harley and seconded by Jeremy Thompson, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 student accident insurance for FY25 – Roberts Insurance - \$11,379.80.
- Bd. #24-040** – Upon motion of Sherri Cheser and seconded by Carissa Harley the board approved by a vote of 5-0 FY 2024 Independent Auditor contract due to KDE correcting a minor typo and asked districts to resubmit for approval.
- Bd. #24-041** – Upon motion of Sherri Cheser and seconded by Carissa Harley, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 to change orders for WCHS Phase II project as presented.

Bd. #24-042 – Upon motion of Sherri Cheser and seconded by Carissa Harley, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 BGI 22-391 WCHS Phase II as presented.

Bd. #24-043 – Upon motion of Carissa Harley and seconded by Sherri Cheser, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 Application and Agreement for Use of District Property for Washington County Distinguished Young Women to use WCES for practices and dress rehearsals as presented.

The Board was notified of the following personnel actions:

May Personnel Actions

Certified Employment:

Courtney Brothers – Non-Certified Emergency Substitute Teacher

Amanda Harmon – Part-Time Interventionist (NWES)

Bradley Abell – Teacher (WCHS)

Classified Employment:

Tonya Cambron – Bus Driver

Barbara Thompson – Substitute Lunchroom Worker

Laura Holderman - Summer Feeding Site Supervisor

Daylee Hood – Summer Feeding Cook

Andrea Cooksey – Summer Feeding Cook

Coaches Employment:

Fran Taylor – Softball Assistant Coach (WCHS)

Tim Strait – Girls Track Head Coach (WCHS)

Whitney Bowen – Girls Basketball Head Coach (WCMS)

Extra Services Employment:

Resignation:

Julie Scott – Bus Driver

Whitney Bowen – Girls Basketball Assistant Coach (WCMS)

Abby Purdom – Childcare Worker


Sarah Greenwell – Part-Time Adult Bus Monitor

Retirement:

Melissa Nally – District Wide Kindergarten Instructional Assistant (WCES)


Bd. #24-044 – Upon motion of Sherri Cheser and seconded by Jeremy Thompson, the board approved by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. Robin Filiatreau Cochran, Ed.D. Board Secretary

Approved:



Curtis Hamilton, Board Chair