

The McCreary County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Board's Central Office. Chairman Barnett welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Present were Johnny Barnett, Braxton King, Stacey Hammons, Estle Swain and Superintendent, Paul B. Crawford. Absent from the meeting were Cody Perry. Also present were the media, school system staff and interested parties.

Mission Statement: The McCreary County School District will provide a safe, supportive environment to meet the individual needs of all students and ensure they are college and career ready.

APPROVE AMENDED AGENDA - #11212

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve amending the agenda by moving item 4.E. Teach for America Appalachian Agreement to Actions with Discussion item 5.G. Members voted as follows:

Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – Absent; Swain – AYE

COMMUNICATIONS - #11213

A. Prayer

Braxton King

B. Pledge

MCHS - JROTC, Kaleb Privett

C. Superintendent Communications

Mr. Crawford shared with the Board that he met with Ms. Rebecca Blakley with the Augment grant for an update. She shared with him the case loads that each Augment staff works on weekly. He shared the location, number of days per week and the number of students for each Augment Staff. He also spoke about his Professional Growth Plan and asked the Board to think about what they want to evaluate him on for this year. He shared that based on his last evaluation the standard with the weakest rating was Standard 6 - Collaborative Leadership. The board decided to evaluate Mr. Crawford on Standard 6 - Collaborative Leadership for this school year.

D. Superintendent's Report on Personnel/Employment Authorization

Mr. Crawford reviewed the personnel actions with the Board.

E. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Tiffany Duvall, Finance Director, reviewed the monthly financial report for August. She shared that General Fund saw June's SEEK payment of \$1.322 million. There was a federal reimbursement deposited on September 4th and will be reflected in September's financial report. For the Construction Fund there was change associated with construction at the middle school, high school and athletic projects. Food Service had reimbursements totaling \$15,792.81. The ending balance for August was \$7.438 million.

F. Public Comments

No public comments. Mr. Crawford did share with everyone the Smithtown Elementary Proposal that was given to all Board Members. He felt like it was important to share this with everyone as this will be something the Board will have to make a decision on later regarding the Smithtown property.

APPROVE ACTIONS BY CONSENT - #11214

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve the actions by consent as presented. Members voted as follows:

King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – Absent; Swain – AYE; Barnett - AYE

A. Acknowledge Superintendent's Report on Leave of Absence Authorizations

B. Approve Minutes

Special - August 29, 2024

C. Approve Payment of Bills and Claims

D. Approve Monthly Financial Report for the month ending, July 31, 2024 and August 31, 2024

E. Approve Lake Cumberland Pediatric Therapy Memorandum of Understanding for the 2024-2025 school year

F. Approve EKU (Eastern Kentucky University) Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

G. Approve Shortened School Day/Week for (2) Two Students

H. Approve Grants

Elgin Children's Foundation - MAP Grant Agreement for 2024-2025

UPDATE ON MCCREARY COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT - #11215

Mr. Ryun Warren with DECO Architect gave an update on the middle school renovation project. The Youth Service Center and Conference room have been completed and the overhead inspection is set to take place tomorrow and if approved they plan to turn over to the school for use. ISS room and Art room were turned over last week. Most work is now in the Music room (formally the cafeteria) as this is where most of the bulk work that is left is located. Exterior work has been halted due to the weather. Mr. Crawford asked Mr. Warren to elaborate on the situation for the kitchen washroom that was built too small. Mr. Warren shared that the pricing is out for bid and that they plan to work on this during Fall Break to resolve this issue.

UPDATE ON MCCREARY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL LAVEC PROJECT - #11216

Mr. Warren gave an update for the LAVEC project at the high school. The basement for the most part has already been turned over to the school for use. They are in the process of work on the electrical part of the project. The rest of the project for the most part is nearing finalization they will be meeting to discuss final steps.

UPDATE ON ATHLETIC PROJECT - #11217

Mr. Crawford gave an update on the field project. Last week's work has been done on the footers and foundation dug for the grandstands and the press box. We are waiting on the material to hit the ground to start putting those up. The excavation on the softball field has been completed. They are ready to pour the concrete around the softball field and auxiliary area. Then they will come back and bring in back up to grade for surfacing. This project has been going quite well.

Mr. Crawford asked Athletic Director, Kenny McKinney, to share with the board how the loss of ticket sales was handled a few years ago and the need for compensation. Mr. McKinney shared that about 3 years ago the Board approved all McCreary County School District students get into home games free of charge. They also approved to allocate \$2,500 to elementary Schools and \$7,500 to the middle School and high school. For the last two years compensation was not made to cover the lost ticket sales for the home athletic events. Mr. McKinney also shared some data on a few of the major sports home games and the number of students that usually attend with an estimate of loss of ticket sales. He also is asking that the Board consider compensating \$12,000 instead of \$10,000 as done in the past. He would recommend that \$5,000 go to the middle school and \$5,000 to the high school and \$2,000 to go the elementary schools.

APPROVE COMPENSATING \$12,000 FOR LOST TICKET SALES - #11218

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Johnny Barnett to approve compensating loss ticket sales for \$12,000 with \$5,000 going to the middle school and high school each and \$2,000 going to the elementary schools. Members voted as follows:

Hammons – AYE; Perry – Absent; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE

Ms. Duvall shared information about the tax rates for 2024-2025 school year. She shared how KDE (Kentucky Department of Education) calculates the Compensating Rate and the 4% Increase Rate. She also shared area tax rates for FY24. She shared the historical tax rates for McCreary County School District from present to the 2003-2004 school year. She shared the actual revenues collected and the estimated taxes collected for FY23 and FY24. She then presented to the Board the options for FY25. She shared an example of a homeowner that has property valued at \$100,000 and what the cost would be for compensating rate and 4% increase rate. She also shared that the district could use exonerations for taxes that have been removed as a tax obligation. The option for exonerations is to add .3 cents to either compensating rate or 4% increase rate.

TABLE 2024-2025 TAX RATES - #11219

A motion was made by Mrs. Stacey Hammons and a second by Mr. Braxton King to Table 2024-2025 Tax Rates until Special Called meeting on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Board's Central Office. Members voted as follows:

Perry – Absent; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE

Ms. Duvall reviewed the Working Budget with the Board. She shared that SEEK Funding and Taxes were the district's major sources of revenue. She has estimated that revenues of \$24.9 million for 2024-2025. She noted that a lot of major expenses were paid from or supported by ESSER grants in FY24 and due to those grants expiring, these expenses will go back to the general fund. She has estimated that there will be 6% contingency for the year end.

APPROVE 2024-2025 WORKING BUDGET - #11220

A motion was made by Mr. Johnny Barnett and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve the 2024-2025 Working Budget as presented. Members voted as follows:

Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – Absent

Mr. Crawford shared with the Board information of how (TFAA) Teach for America Appalachia works (they are like a placement agency). We had an elementary teacher hired that is going through TFAA. TFAA has submitted an agreement that is for four years and that the district will pay \$3,500 each year that the teacher continues working through the 2027-2028 school year. He explained that the district does not have trouble placing elementary teachers and therefore doesn't see paying \$3,500 each year for this placement. If it was a critical shortage area like Math or Science, then he would be more willing to pay \$3,500. He explained that Ms. Duvall has reached out to the contact people for TFAA to see about revising the agreement to only be for one year.

TABLE TEACH FOR AMERICA APPALACHIAN AGREEMENT - 11221

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Johnny Barnett to table Teach for America Appalachian Agreement until we get more information about revising the agreement. Members voted as follows

Barnett – AYE; King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; - Perry – Absent; Swain – AYE

APPROVE NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN - #11222

A motion was made by Mr. Braxton King and a second by Mr. Estle Swain to approve the next meeting as a Special Called meeting for Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Board's Central Office and to adjourn. Members voted as follows:

King – AYE; Hammons – AYE; Perry – Absent; Swain – AYE; Barnett – AYE

Chairman

Secretary