

WELCOMING OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS DURING BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

This month, we proudly welcome our new board members as they officially begin their elected positions, joining in the important work of guiding our schools toward success. Their commitment to serving students, educators, and the community is invaluable, and we look forward to their leadership in shaping the future of our district. Fittingly, their start coincides with Board Recognition Month in Kentucky, a time to honor the dedication and hard work of all school board members who play a crucial role in public education. We thank new and returning board members for their service and look forward to a productive year ahead.



Celebrating our incredible students' hard work, dedication, and achievements your success inspires us all!

Superintendent Dr. Matt Thompson and the Board of Education recognized the outstanding achievements of several students. Last month, the Montgomery County Esports Rocket League team won the KHSAA state championship for the third consecutive year. This remarkable accomplishment showcases the team's dedication, skill, and commitment to excellence in competitive gaming. In addition to celebrating the Esports team's success, the board honored the district's musically talented students who earned prestigious spots in the KMEA All-State Choir and Band through successful auditions. These students demonstrated exceptional musical ability and hard work, bringing great pride to their schools and community. The board commended all these students for their dedication and achievements, highlighting the district's commitment to excellence in academics and extracurricular activities.



BOARD REVIEWS 2025-2026 DRAFT BUDGET AS FIRST STEP IN FISCAL PLANNING

Director of Finance Angela Rhodes Warner has submitted the 2025-26 draft budget, marking the first stage of the annual fiscal budget cycle. In January, the board reviewed the draft budget, approving a tentative budget in May and a working budget in September. This structured approach ensures careful planning and financial responsibility in supporting the district's educational and operational needs.

Several key factors influence this year's draft budget. The district's Average Daily Attendance (ADA) projections reflect a conservative student reduction, ranging from 3,931 to 3,825 students. General fund expenses include the addition of a School Resource Officer (SRO) at McNabb Middle School, the purchasing of the CENTEGIX platform for enhanced safety, and a 4% salary increase for all staff to support recruitment and retention efforts. On the financial side, the County Employees Retirement System (CERS) contribution rate is set to decrease from 19.71% to 18.62% in FY26, leading to an approximate \$40,000 savings. The district is facing rising costs that include increased expenditures for special education. This is partly due to higher SEEK revenue allocations and the need to contract services when the district cannot fill specific vacancies. Additionally, insurance premiums have significantly increased over the past two years. The board will carefully evaluate these factors as they prepare to approve the budget. These draft amounts will continue to be evaluated as we move towards the tentative budget in May.

Superintendent's Report

Our students' opportunities to show mastery of many skills are fantastic! Here are some of the strong performances in all aspects of our student experience since our last Board Meeting.

- The MCHS Mock Trial teams placed 1st and 2nd at the regional tournament, qualifying both teams to compete in the state tournament in a month.
- MCHS swim and dive team athletes Jennings Patrick, Presley Ledford, and Hagan Stilz will compete in the state championship next month.
- The MCHS Academic Team (pictured right) won the district championship, with many individual students earning medals in individual assessment areas.
- McNabb's archery team finished second in our home-hosted tournament this past weekend. McNabb also finished second at the Bourbon County Classic a few weeks ago.
- McNabb has had several wrestlers earn their spots to compete at the state championship.
- Senior Emma Combs competed in the state DYW program. She was named a Top 10 finalist and received a prestigious preliminary interview award.
- MCHS Senior archer Curtis Bailey has officially signed with the University of the Cumberland to continue his academic and athletic career.
- Thirty-six students from MCHS earned an AP Scholar Award for the 2023-24 school year. Of these, twenty-seven received the AP Scholar designation, which is awarded to students who score 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. Three students achieved the AP Scholar with Honor award, given to those with an average score of at least 3.25 across all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. Additionally, six students received the AP Scholar with Distinction award, which is granted to those who have an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

DISTRICT APPROVES

- The Board approved the contract with Packs+Walker for the previously authorized renovations at MCHS.
- The Nutrition Department will purchase various equipment for Camargo, Mapleton, MSE, and Northview. Nutrition funds will cover the costs of this equipment, including delivery and installation.
- The Kentucky Department of Education has requested that a revised BG-1 be submitted to support the capital funds request for the change orders that the Board approved last month regarding the Chenault Barn project.
- The Nutrition Department also sought the Board's approval for recommendations based on the responses to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program assessment tool. These recommendations will ensure the district complies with KRS laws while promoting healthier school environments.
- Additionally, the Board approved an agreement with Parchment for district record services.
- The Kentucky Department of Education requires the Board to approve the district improvement plan, the school TSI plans, and the gap targets for the middle and high schools.



Montgomery County Board of Education

Emily Settle, DMD, Board Chairperson (District 2)

Allie Webb, Vice Chairperson (District 5)

Donna Amburgey (District 3)

Carmela Fletcher-Green (District 1)

Shaunna Patton (District 4)

