

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)
Board Agenda Planning Meeting
April 14, 2008

The Fayette County Board of Education met at 701 East Main Street, Lexington, KY at 5:30 p.m. on the 14th day of April 2008, with the following members present: **(1) Larry Conner, (2) Becky Sagan (3) John Price, (4) Melissa Bacon, and (5) Amanda Ferguson**

Staff Members Present

Stu Silberman, Mary Wright, Mike Burke, Jack Hayes, Kathy Dykes, Brenda Allen, Rodney Jackson, Vince Mattox, Scott Hawkins, Julie Hawkins, Michael Ernst, Lisa Deffendall, Carmen Coleman, Fabio Zuluaga, Melodee Parker

A. Call to Order

Larry Conner convened the meeting at 5:33p.m.

G. Introductions and Recognitions

1. Larry Conner introduced the teacher and student representatives for the April 14th meeting.
 - a. Student Representative: Rosanna Napoleon, Lafayette High School
 - b. Teacher Representative: David Neal, Beaumont Middle School

H. Reports, Communications and Resolutions

1. Progress Reports

A. Superintendent's Report

b. Update on SAM program

A power point presentation was shown regarding the School Administrative Manager (SAM) program. Several SAMs and principals were in attendance. A hard copy of the power point presentation is included with permanent minutes.

The SAM program started 3 years ago in conjunction with KDE and the Wallace Foundation in an effort to provide release time for the principals to focus on student achievement. A SAM is responsible for all administrative duties not directly related to instruction. A SAM is not a principal, not a teacher and not involved in instruction. A SAM protects the principal so that he/she is an instructional leader.

d. District Improvement Plan Report – Written Report

Melissa Bacon – Give specific examples of ST1 regarding the experiences that a student would be doing on supplemental challenge and enrichment.

Michael Ernst – School councils control the curriculum and try to center it around student interest. They may not receive this enrichment during the school day, could be before or after school. The middle school curriculum is an exploratory curriculum built around student needs and interests.

Larry Conner – In the transition from 8th to 9th grade, how large are the groups the transition team meets with?

Michael Ernst – They vary from school to school. The 9th grade counselors address the whole group and then into small groups according to home rooms or school organization. It can be as small as 24 students.

Larry Conner – What happens to the special education students?

Michael Ernst – It is all inclusive.

Larry Conner - Are there any things that would be of particular concern to special education students that may not be addressed in the general population?

Michael Ernst – In addition to the regular transition, transition ARCs are held. This is done for all students who have an IEP or a 504.

John Price – On ST1, do we have any information on the number of students involved in each school in regard to students being served in these extra activities and any information regarding the impact on their success at the next level?

Michael Ernst – As far as longitudinally, we could put measures in there and see what student interests are, but this would be a massive undertaking.

John Price – Could we find out how many students are involved in these programs at each school and look at the correlation between their involvement and their success?

Larry Conner – Elaborate on LN2.

Jack Hayes – All schools have coaches, principals and district staff who are working with math in the area of literacy and numeracy. It is on curriculum development and taking the standards and breaking them into the daily outcomes and assessments. It is not just out of the textbook.

Larry Conner – Is there a variety of best practices being used or is there the best of the best being used?

Jack Hayes – We are selecting them now – taking the standards that we are supposed to teach and breaking them down into daily chunks - still working on this.

- e. **Support Services Position Control Document** – No discussion
- f. **Monthly Construction Report** – No discussion

J. Approval of Consent Items

1. **Award of Bids/Proposals and Bid Contract Extensions** – placeholder
2. **Actions for Post Approval and Claims** – placeholder
3. **Special and Other Leaves of Absence** – No discussion
4. **Requests from Principals for Extended Trips** – No Discussion
5. **Professional Leave by District Personnel** – No Discussion
6. **School-wide Fund-raising Projects** – No Discussion
7. **2008-2009 Pay Dates Schedule** – No Discussion
8. **District Summer School Tuition**

Stu Silberman – By Board policy we have to bring the summer school tuition to the Board each year. There is no increase.

Jack Hayes – For any student that wants to attend, we make sure they get in.

Larry Conner – Concerned that we know by best practices that especially poor students who attend summer school do better in the fall because of retention. We need to be aggressively encouraging poor performing students to attend some type of summer program. Don't feel that we are doing this even though we do not turn kids away.

Stu Silberman – At the elementary level we are really aggressively going after the summer literacy camps and trying to get kids there. Not doing this as much at the middle and high school level. One of

the issues that we will be dealing with is that a lot of these programs are funded from ESS funds and our ESS budget is going from \$1.7 million to \$700,000 next year. We are not being aggressive enough.

Jack Hayes – At the elementary level it is a funding issue. At the middle and high school when a student is not going to pass we try to refer them.

Larry Conner – Feel that if we build programs the kids will come, not just poor kids, but all kids. Enrichment programs during the summer would increase the achievement of all kids, especially the poor kids. Would like to see programs in the summer where all kids could participate.

Stu Silberman – We need to do a better job of communicating out the programs that are available.

Michael Ernst – The programs are being advertised.

Larry Conner – Is it possible to put something on our web site, some type of link for summer programs?

Michael Ernst – We can do this.

Stu Silberman – Making steps forward – need to get the word out more.

John Price – In terms of summer school, are we doing any professional development in terms of alternative strategies? Are we looking at different ways to engage our students so it is not the same thing?

Jack Hayes – We have had these conversations and we are looking at different things.

Stu Silberman – Several years ago the Board approved Credit Recovery so that it is not just seat time for the students. Students go through and pass the parts where they are deficient. We are making some positive moves, but we have to stay aggressive.

9. Approval of Budget Transfer

Stu Silberman – Asking for a budget transfer to put some portables in the Clays Mill corridor as a temporary measure until the new Keithshire school is built, which is on the Facilities Plan. We have extreme overcrowding in this area.

Becky Sagan – How is the room at Stonewall?

Mary Wright – They already have 700 students assigned to the school and we are trying to keep the numbers manageable at each school.

K. Approval of Action Items

10. Conversion of Technology Resource Teacher Position to User Support Manager Position

Mike Burke – This is a housekeeping issue. We have a person retiring, creating a vacancy. We are trying to match the documentation with the work that is going on in the district. No budget impact, just need to get the job description in line with the work.

Larry Conner – The job description seems like a very detailed job description in reference to all the programs and software knowledge that is required.

Mike Burke – Most of the software is routine office productivity software with the exception of the student information systems. We took the KDE job description/class and worked with Human Resources to tweak it to make it more like what we need.

Larry Conner – I didn't want you to be strapped with a detailed job description and not be able to match the job description with the person you wanted to hire.

Stu Silberman – It is similar to what the person is doing now. The person had to grow into the position. As we look at someone, they may not have all the skills, but have the potential to grow into it.

11. 2009-2010 Instructional Calendar

Jack Hayes – According to Board policy we have a Calendar Committee which develops the calendar and brings it to the Board.

Stu Silberman – We have stopped asking for feedback on the calendar through a web site because we really didn't use the feedback and saw no use in asking for it if we weren't going to use it. Everyone has a different view of what an ideal calendar is. We have to make the calendar best for the students and staff instructionally versus what is best for vacations. Teachers want to start on a Wednesday in order to get the students eased back in to the routine. We try not to go into June because it has a negative effect on retiring teachers. They lose one check and it takes approximately 15 years to make up that difference. In this calendar we have built in some make up days.

Stu Silberman – We try to put together the best instructional calendar. The best days in the calendar are the days before testing. The Commissioner may be moving testing to May. Every day before testing is a strong instructional day.

Jack Hayes – The April testing is still on this calendar.

Amanda Ferguson – Has the year round calendar been looked at?

Stu Silberman – We studied the year round calendar about five or six years ago.

Gary Wiseman – We had a committee look at it in multiple ways right before you came. We looked at it very intensely and made a report to the Board.

Stu Silberman – If you look at the data, there is really not much support for it. If you are going to school 177 days, it is still 177 days no matter when they are. If we had more instructional days would believe in the year round calendar, not just splitting up the current days. If we went from 177 instructional days to 190 days we would see spikes in our achievement. We would see instruction going on in the summer and kids would not lose instruction time. In a previous study that I did, without increasing days and just switching the calendars, the middle and high school achievement levels stayed flat and the elementary actually went down. When taking two week breaks with the elementary students during the school year you have to re-teach routines when they come back.

Larry Conner – If the Board wants to have this conversation, we can have it.

Amanda Ferguson – I get asked about the year round calendar.

Stu Silberman – What drives this is what it does to student achievement. Data is extremely strong that the year round calendar does not have an effect.

John Price – We had three elementary schools on the alternative calendar and there was no significant improvement in their achievement.

Stu Silberman – Before we would open this up, we would want to get the Board the data.

Larry Conner – Wasn't suggesting opening it up for the general public, maybe a work session for the Board.

Stu Silberman – Even when studying this, we need to show how it is going to have a significant impact on student achievement.

Becky Sagan – Have had some parent complaints about the August 12th start date. Is this the earliest we have started?

Gary Wiseman – We have been consistent in starting around the middle of August.

Becky Sagan – Based on parent complaints this is one issue that we will hear. There are air conditioning issues.

Larry Conner – Agree with Becky. Have voiced concerns regarding the students and bus drivers during the heat. Don't see any other choice. We are going to hear these concerns.

John Price – We have parents and teachers both on the Calendar Committee who give us input. If we are going to finish by the end of May, get all the required days in, we have to start August 12th. There is no choice.

Becky Sagan – Think we need to do a better job of explaining to the community why June 1st is a cutoff for us. Most people don't understand why we can't go into the first week of June.

Stu Silberman – We do need to make sure we are communicating this out.

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Jack Hayes – Gary Wiseman keeps us legal with the calendar.

12. Approval of a BG-3 Statement of Probable Cost for HVAC Replacement at Meadowthorpe Elementary School BG 07-270

Mary Wright – The Board has approved the BG1. After approval we start the engineers and architects reviewing the plans and establishing the probable cost. This is a statement of probable cost and will go out for bid after the plans are finalized.

Stu Silberman – This is a necessity for us?

Mary Wright – Right. This has been one that we hoped would wait until renovation, but we feel we can't wait. We did tell the engineer to keep in mind that we would be doing renovation soon and this would need to stay in tact when we do the renovation. Don't anticipate any modification at that time.

13. Approval of a Proposed Change Order (No. Five) to the Contract for the New Construction at William Wells Brown Elementary School BG 06035

Susan Hill (architect) –

- Retaining wall and guard rail: Grading that was done created a credit. Received a market value credit.
- Utility box: Showed on the Housing Authority's drawings. It was placed after the design work was completed. In order to get the bus entrance we had to move the box a little. Not something that could have been foreseen. Adjustment was made based on unit prices.

Amanda Ferguson – It wasn't installed where you thought it was going to be?

Susan Hill – We knew it was going to be installed, but it wasn't installed under our project. It was installed differently than what was shown on the drawings. We did not have any control over it.

- Natural gas pocket: Hit a natural gas pocket – not a contained gas – under the layers of the rock. State and local fire marshals were concerned about it venting out fully so it would not build up any kind of pressure. Not an unusual condition in Kentucky. Can not be contained.

Kelly Breeding – Columbia Gas and the fire marshals examined, through testing, that it had no "tracer" amounts worthy of notice. It also showed that the gas was only 10% functional meaning it is only 10% flammable. It is unusable gas even if we wanted to use it. The recommendation is to permanently vent the gas.

Larry Conner – What does the vent pipe look like?

Susan Hill – It is being tapped into the side of one of the geothermal wells so we are using part of the structure that is already in place that allows the gas to flow up along side of it and the pipe is being taken out to a landscape feature that is off to the side of the playground. It is in an area where the kids will not be in direct contact. Planning on some sturdy trees being planted in the area. Should not pose any kind of concern and should be concealed. Will not be an object that will draw people to it.

Kelly Breeding – The gas is not flammable.

Susan Hill - We work hard at covering all the details of what goes into a new building. The light switches were missed.

Electrical Engineer - The corridor switching was not shown on the original plans. Switches are needed partly because of Fayette County standards. This was caught early and will be completed in sequence and will not be additional work. It would have been priced in the contract originally. The largest cost involved is the control system. The Kentucky Adopted International Energy Efficiency Code requires a building wide lighting control system.

Larry Conner – Explain this system.

Electrical Engineer – Basically it is a distributed relay system with a box in each classroom. Teachers will have local control. There is a master program that can be set to control all the lights in the building.

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Susan Hill – The rest of the lighting system is already tied into the system.

Electrical Engineer – Correct. The entire building is on this system and the corridor needed to be added to the system.

Larry Conner – We had lighting for the corridor, but not tied into the system?

Electrical Engineer – Correct, we did not have the control for the lighting.

Stu Silberman – Were we charged design fees? It looks like the total amount of the change order was \$9,700.00 and the design fees were \$488.00?

Susan Hill – Correct. There were no charges on the deficiencies in the plan.

Stu Silberman – It is not clear where the design fees were deducted off - the math is not adding up. We need to take another look at this.

Susan Hill – Agree.

Amanda Ferguson – On the gas pipe, it will take several years for the gas to get out?

Kelly Breeding – You won't notice any odor, no hissing sound, it is a very low velocity situation. We don't know exactly how long it will take to dissipate.

Melissa Bacon – Is there any technology that can measure this?

Kelly Breeding – Not without a lot of expense and don't feel that it would be worth the money.

Melissa Bacon – When we know that it is completely gone, will we remove the pipe?

Kelly Breeding – If it is completely gone the fire marshal would probably let us remove it. We have to have their permission.

14. **Perpetual Easement and Right of Way to Kentucky American Water Company for Liberty Elementary School**

Becky Sagan – Is the \$1.00 to make it official?

Bill Wallace – Correct. Kentucky American Water Company is building the water service on our property and will maintain it in the future. We just recently received the paperwork.

15. **Approval of Millcreek Stream Project – Placeholder**

Kelly Breeding – Two years ago Millcreek and some other people started looking at the portion of Mill Creek that comes through our property as to how it could be utilized both for preservation and education. Officials from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the state Fish and Wildlife have looked at the area and are excited about the project. The project would be funded by the Clean Water Act of EPA. Our intent is to utilize the work that they would do to make it into an outdoor classroom situation. We could take what is in the textbooks and the students would have a first hand visualization. They are asking for a conservation easement, meaning that they would like to maintain their investment. This would be a life time event. It will be about \$130,000 with no money out of our pocket.

Stu Silberman – This is the only one in the country.

Kelly Breeding – It is one of a kind because it is one of the few streams that has been left natural in a city area. It would bring outstanding results.

Amanda Ferguson – Approval of this item is approving the easement?

Brenda – Yes.

Amanda Ferguson – In one of the pictures it talks about an exposed sanitary manhole down stream. Is this going to be left there?

Kelly Breeding – It will be looked at when the University of Louisville looks at it. Not sure what will be done at this point.

Larry Conner – What about the bridge?

Kelly Breeding – The bridge will be replaced. If we have to put in any money, this would be where it would be. They are going to try to do this with their money.

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Stu Silberman – This is the first I have heard of this.

Kelly Breeding – I have had a conversation with a conservation official and this is a possibility.

Stu Silberman – We should be able to get some donations, given all the conservation people in town.

Kelly Breeding – At this point don't see a problem.

Larry Conner – Will there be an intentional Math and Science curriculum centered around this project?

Kelly Breeding – Tracy Farmer from UK is currently working with Millcreek regarding a Math and Science type curriculum.

16. Monthly Financial Report – Placeholder

L. Informational Items

1. Personnel Changes

2. 2008 Graduation Dates

Stu Silberman – Graduation dates have been officially set and locked in at Rupp Arena.

M. Oral Communications

3. Other Business - None

a. Board

Discussion of Board Work

b. Staff

Requests from Board – None

Closed Session

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by John Price, to go into closed session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss acquisition or sale of real property pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(b) and to discuss proposed or pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c). The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

Open Session

A motion was made by John Price and seconded by Melissa Bacon, to reconvene in open session. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

Adjournment

A motion was made by John Price and seconded by Becky Sagan, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

CHAIR

SECRETARY