

**RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)
Closed Session and Regular Board Meeting
August 27, 2007**

The Fayette County Board of Education met at 701 East Main Street, Lexington, KY at 7:01 p.m. on the 27th day of August 2007, with the following members present: (1) Larry Conner, (2) Becky Sagan, (3) John Price, (4) Melissa Bacon, and (5) Amanda Ferguson

A Public Hearing regarding the Tax Levy was held at 5:30 p.m.

Staff Members Present for Regular Meeting

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

A. Call to Order

Larry Conner, Chair called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Larry Conner, Becky Sagan, John Price, Melissa Bacon, and Amanda Ferguson

C. Extended Welcome to Guests

Larry Conner, Chair, welcomed the guests and attendees to the meeting.

D. Moment of Silence in Remembrance of the People Killed on Flight 5191

E. Pledge of Allegiance, Mission Statement

Amanda Ferguson led the pledge and read the Board Mission Statement.

F. Approval of Agenda

*A motion was made by Amanda Ferguson and seconded by John Price, to approve the agenda with the addition of an addendum, **J.2 Actions for Post Approval and Claims**. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.*

G. Introductions, Student Performances, Recognitions and Proclamations

1. Introductions

- a. John and Phillip Duff, Tates Creek High School - Postponed**

H. Reports and Communications

A. Superintendent's Reports

a. **Strategies for Achieving Double Digit Increases in Arts and Humanities Scores: Julia R. Ewan Elementary**

Staff members from Julia R. Ewan Elementary presented a power point presentation highlighting the programs within in their school that lead to increased student scores in Arts and Humanities. (Hard copy of power point presentation included with permanent minutes.)

Vickie Burke – The goal last year was for a double digit increase in all of the reported content areas. They did not get all of them, but did have double digit increases in all areas in the fifth grade. There was a 13 point gain in the Social Studies Index. Teachers realized that the students needed a more hands on approach and they started integrating parts of the History Alive curriculum into the program. As the children worked with the hands on activities and graphic organizer for the program, they began to develop mental models that are needed for achievement. The students had daily open response questions which were scored live and they were immediately coached to a four. Students knew on the spot what they needed to learn and how they needed to improve. Teachers made strong literature connections, the students read a lot of historical fiction and informational reading that supported the Social Studies curriculum.

Math – 17 point gain in mathematical index

- All 5th graders participate in a daily 15 minute session on Success Maker
- Adopted the Investigations and Space and Data Curriculum – shows children how math develops – hands on
- 90 minute math block daily for K-5
- Teachers demand very precise answers in writing to math questions – students answer and also explain the answer

Arts and Humanities

- Areas of weakness were identified
- Learning in the arts translates into learning in all other areas
- Four arts specialists were employed: FT art teacher, FT music teacher, FT drama teacher, and FT PE teacher specializing in dance.
- Students need to have a strong understanding of the core content vocabulary – exposure to the arts terminology has been extended to the regular classroom.
- The core vocabulary has been presented to the students in a fun and creative way which led to the creation of the Arts and Humanities Morning Show.
- Each grade level has a major production each year.
- After the students had a better understanding of the core content vocabulary they began to translate their knowledge through open response questions.

Vickie Burke – We plan to make double digit increases each year. At this year's Leadership Institute four questions were presented. These questions direct and guide us as we approach teaching and learning in the district. Along with the school leadership team, a document called "Structures for Success" was developed. All students who are performing

below grade level are placed on a watch list and their achievement is monitored monthly at the team meetings.

Becky Sagan - Where in your staffing budget did you find money for a full time drama teacher?

Vickie Burke– We traded things in the budget, some assistant money, some SAFE money, and we were very creative. Didn't find the money in one place.

Becky Sagan – Is it cycled so that every student gets to go through drama?

Vickie Burke – Students were on a five day rotation.

John Price – Thanked the staff at J.R. Ewan for making learning fun for students and looking at using the resources that are available for the best interest of our students. All schools are encouraged to do this and hopefully in the future there will be more opportunities for schools to look seriously at the ways they spend their dollars and are they focusing that spending in the best way for student achievement.

Amanda Ferguson – Thanked the J.R. Ewan staff for their commitment, dedication, enthusiasm and creativity.

Stu Silberman – It is not a coincidence that there is a high level in achievement when the arts and humanities are being taught; it is part of the whole brain development. As kids learn and are exposed to the arts, it broadens their view of the world and expands their opportunities for learning. J.R. Ewan has led the district to start with Success Maker and now we have 20-30 schools with Success Maker.

Larry Conner – History Alive is a great program. J.R. Ewan is doing some great things and it is paying off. The gains are phenomenal.

b. Support Services Position Control Document – No discussion

c. Monthly Construction Report – Written Report – No discussion

2. Remarks by Citizens - None

3. Resolutions

a. Regarding the death of Larry Chowning III

John Price read a resolution regarding the death of Larry Chowning III – student at Bryan Station High School.

A motion was made by John Price and seconded by Becky Sagan, to adopt the resolution regarding the death of Larry Chowning III. The motion carried 5 to 0.

b. Regarding the death of Paul Jaxon Martin

Becky Sagan read a resolution regarding the death of Paul Jaxon Martin – student at Meadowthorpe Elementary.

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by Melissa Bacon, to adopt the resolution regarding the death of Paul Jaxon Martin. The motion carried 5 to 0.

I. Approval of Routine Matters

1. *Approval of Agenda Planning Meeting Minutes of July 9, 2007*
2. *Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2007*
3. *Approval of the Confidential Minutes of July 23, 2007*
4. *Approval of Special Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes of August 1, 2007*

06211

A motion was made by John Price and seconded by Amanda Ferguson, to approve the minutes. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

J. Approval of Consent Items

a. *A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by Melissa Bacon, to receive the information items and approve the action items in the consent section of the agenda. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0*

1. **Award of Bids/Proposals and Bid Contract Extensions**
2. **Actions for Post Approval and Claims**
3. **Special and Other Leave of Absences**
4. **Requests from Principals for Extended Trips**
5. **Professional Leave by District Personnel**
6. **School-wide Fund-raising Projects**
7. **Fayette County Health Department Contract 2007-2008**
8. **Approval of Development/Installation of Playground Equipment for Glendover Elementary by PTA**
9. **Approval of a BG-4 and Final Payment Application to the Construction Contract for the Jessie Clark Middle School Gym Air Conditioning Project BID 22-07 BG 06-147**
10. **Approval of a BG-4 and Final Payment Application to the Construction Contract for the Lafayette High School Electric Service Replacement Project BID 33-07 BG 07-207**

K. Approval of Action Items

11. Monthly Financial Report

Stu Silberman – Per a request by the Board, there will be an oral monthly financial report along with the written report.

Rodney Jackson –

- Changes in the format were made per Board request
- Summary page - cumulative summary of revenue and expenses
- Summarized revenue report
- Detailed expense report – broken out by function, such as instruction, student support services, business, etc.
- June is un-audited at this point; auditors will be starting in September. The beginning or ending balance could change depending on adjustments, accruals, and escrows. Typically July, August and September are very slow months for revenue coming in, therefore with the zero based budgeting, regarding the operations side, we planned accordingly to make sure that we have operational money to last during those months to pay expenses like accounts payable and salaries.
- Prior year encumbrances included in the ending balance.
- In comparison to previous years there is no variance that needs to be reported.

John Price – Thanked Rodney and the staff for the expense portion of the report. In the past the report only showed the total spending in each category, but with this report there is more detailed information giving a much better way to look at the budget, line by line, showing us how the money is being spent.

A motion was made by John Price and seconded by Melissa Bacon, to accept the Monthly Treasurer's Report of Revenue/Expense reports sent to the Board. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

12. Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky/Dual Credit

Stu Silberman – This agenda item was discussed at the Planning Meeting.

Scott Hawkins – This is a great opportunity for two of our students to participate in the Western Kentucky University Math and Science Academy where they will be attending classes on Western's campus and taking a full course load. They will receive college credit and high school credit at the same time.

Becky Sagan – Is there any cost to Fayette County?

Scot Hawkins – No cost and we receive the ADA for these students and they will be tested in the spring with the results being sent to us.

Larry Conner – Are they seniors?

Scot Hawkins – Yes, and they will be closely supervised. There are several people that oversee the program and are there to watch over the kids.

John Price – Is there a cost to the families or students who participate in terms of tuition?

Scot Hawkins – Not sure and there wasn't any information in the packet regarding that.

Stu Silberman – We are assuming that each family would still have to pay the tuition, but it is a great opportunity for the students.

Melissa Bacon – This is all OK by the parents?

Scott Hawkins – Yes, parents have to sign off on the application process.

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by Amanda Ferguson, to approve student participation in the Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky dual credit program. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

13. Approval of Proposed Change Order (No.One) to the Construction Contract for the Jessie Clark Middle School Gym Air Conditioning Project BG 06-147 BID 22-07

Mary Browning – This is a small change order which was an additive as well as a deductive change order. We needed to relocate a data cabinet at a cost of \$3,700.00 so that it would not block the new air conditioning system. At the same time, once we got into the project we realized that the duct work was in better shape than we had anticipated when the project was bid and we were able to reuse it so the net cost of the change order is \$334.50.

A motion was made by Melissa Bacon and seconded by John Price, to approve the proposed Change Order No. One to the contract with Total Comfort for the Jessie Clark Middle School Gym Air Conditioning project in the amount of \$334.50, subject to the approval of the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Facilities Management, per the provisions of 702 KAR 4:160. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

14. Approval of Proposed Change Order (No.One) to the Construction Contract for the Lafayette Electrical Service Replacement Project BG 07-207 BID 33-07

Mary Browning – This project required us to upgrade the system in order to turn it over to KU for continued ongoing maintenance. Because the project was complicated and required a fair amount of trenching, we were not sure of what kinds of unforeseen conditions we would run into so we asked for an allowance of \$5,000.00 so that we would be able to resolve any of these concerns. Fortunately it was unnecessary so there is a deductive change order in the amount of \$5,000.00.

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by Melissa Bacon, to approve the proposed Change Order No. One to the contract with Art's Electric for the Lafayette High School Electrical service replacement project in the amount of -\$5,000, subject to the approval of the Kentucky Department of

Education, Division of Facilities Management, per the provisions of 702 KAR 4:160. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

15. Approval of a Proposed Change Order (No. Two) to the Contract for the New Construction at William Wells Brown Elementary School BG 06-035

Mary Browning – This change order is in regard to a small amount of unsuitable soils that needed to be addressed and resulted in a \$2,800.00 increase. We also had to make an accounting adjustment as we had a subcontractor who indicated that the cost of some materials would be in his contract when actually they were a direct purchase arrangement. This is an effort to correct this clerical error. The net result is a deductive change order of \$160,377.49 out of the contractor's contract.

A motion was made by Amanda Ferguson and seconded by John Price to approve the proposed deductive Change Order No. Two to the contract with Alliance Corporation, for the new construction at William Wells Brown Elementary School in the amount of \$160,526.00, with a transfer of \$2,856.00 from Object code 0840 to 0450, a corresponding transfer of \$148.51 for design consultant fees from Object Code 0840 to 0336 and a purchase order issued in the amount of \$163,382.00, subject to the approval of the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Facilities Management, per the provisions of 702 KAR 4:160. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

16. Approval of a Proposed Change Order (No. One) to the Contract for the New Construction at Sandersville Elementary School BG 06-037.

Mary Browning – When the Sandersville Elementary bid came in higher than the other two schools, we went back to see what caused the higher prices. The architects and engineers went through the plans and identified some areas where they felt that we could have some cost savings without sacrificing the quality of the building. We are recommending that we take a \$60,362.00 credit to make adjustments to the building.

Becky Sagan – The architect was at the planning meeting and we talked about the specific things that we were reducing and not doing something that would make the project less, it is value engineering.

Mary Browning – Yes, we asked them to go through and make sure that we were providing quality, similar to the Liberty Road project.

A motion was made by Becky Sagan seconded by John Price, to approve the proposed deductive change Order No. One to the contract with D.W. Wilburn, Inc., for the new construction at Sandersville Elementary School in the amount of \$60,362.00 with no transfer of funds from Object Code 0840 to 0450, and no transfer of funds for design consultant fees to Object Code 0336, subject to the approval of the Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Facilities Management, per the provisions of 702 KAR 4:160. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

17. Approval of a BG-1 Project Application for the Construction of a New Band Tower at Tates Creek High School Funded by School Booster Funds

Mary Browning – This project will be paid for with booster funds and no cost to the district.

Larry – You are asking the Board to approve this proposal so that it can be submitted for approval?

Mary Browning – Yes. All projects of this kind are submitted to KDE, they go through the usual process.

Larry Conner – Again, this at no cost to the district?

Mary Browning – Correct, the cost will come from the Band Boosters.

A motion was made by Melissa Bacon and seconded by Amanda Ferguson, to approve the submittal of the BG-1 Project Application for the proposed construction of a new band tower at Tates Creek High School

with financing provided by the Boosters; approve agreements between the Board and the Tates Creek High School Band Boosters, Inc., and the commencement of the project subject to the approval of the Kentucky Department of Education. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

18. Board Policy Review – 2nd Reading

Stu Silberman – This is the fourth time that the Board has seen these policies.

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by John Price, to approve the changes as recommended by KSBA, Fayette County Public School Policy Review Committee and staff. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

19. Update #30 – Board Policy Revisions – 2nd Reading

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by John Price, to approve the changes as recommended by KSBA, Fayette County Public School Policy Review Committees and staff. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

Items 18 and 19 were voted on together.

20. Adoption and Levy of Tax Rates for School Purposes

Mary Browning - Each year a tax rate is brought to the Board for approval to support our operating budget. This year a proposal is also being brought to the Board to include a facilities tax.

Facilities Needs:

- The current Facilities Plan was adopted in 2004 and includes capital projects as well as some significant maintenance needs for a four year period. This plan will last through 2008.
- Not all the needs have been included on the Facilities Plan due to the way the plan must be written. This plan is developed, brought to the Board for approval and then sent to the Kentucky Board of Education for approval. The plan covers a four year period.
- There are approximately \$290 million in facilities needs – a list that includes approximately 50% of our schools that are currently identified on the District Facilities Plan or that have been identified as part of our facilities evaluation process.
- Current bonding capacity is \$27.6 million (a shortfall of over \$260 million).
- With the current bonding capacity, the existing plan will not be completed until around 2025.
- Delays in construction and renovation will simply drive the price higher.
- The Local Planning Committee is currently working on a focused intentional plan that will move our facilities well into the 21st Century. This is an ongoing process and we are actively working on this.

Local Planning Committee: Committee is made up of parents, school administrators, community leaders and a representative from the Division of Planning with the Urban Government.

Completed Projects:

- Since 1996 the district has completed 20 renovation projects and six new schools for a cost of slightly more than \$204 million.
- Three replacement schools are currently under construction for Russell, Johnson, Linlee and J.R. Ewan Elementary Schools.

- The 29 projects that have been completed have been in all areas of Lexington to meet the needs of students in every corner of the community.

Proposed Solution for 2007-2008 and Beyond:

- Tentative Budget is based on the 4% Increase Rate.
- Additional revenue is needed in the operating budget to cover legislative mandated salary increases and costs that have increased due to inflation (diesel fuel, heating and cooling costs, etc.).
- We are proposing no change in utilities, occupational license or motor vehicle rates.
- The 5.5 cent equivalent nickel increase over the 4% increase rate will go exclusively to the building fund for capital construction, renovation and major maintenance projects. The entire equivalent nickel will stay in Fayette County.

How do we proceed?

- The proposed facilities nickel will be dedicated solely to facilities. It will not only address the unmet need, but ensure that future needs are addressed proactively.

With the current bonding capacity we expect that we could only do the first three projects on the Facilities Plan and then it would be 2011 before we could undertake another renovation. Within ten years we are going to see additional needs that have been identified, as well as cost increases. With the implementation of the equivalent nickel tax we would have the bonding capacity to make an immediate impact on our facilities needs. By moving ahead and addressing the facilities needs in this fashion, we would save close to \$20 million dollars in needed maintenance costs which would be for replacing major components such as heating and air condition units or electrical systems.

Larry Conner – Could you repeat that please?

Mary Browning – We would save almost \$20 million in maintenance costs that would have come out of the operating budget. By moving forward with major renovations and new construction we would not be piecemilling our solutions. The cost implications for a family with a \$100,000 home would be 5.5 cents per \$100 of assessed evaluation translating to \$55 per year or just over \$1.00 per week.

Recommendation: That the Board of Education for 2007-2008 levy a total tax rate of 59.4 cents (real estate) and 54.2 cents (personal property) per \$100 assessed valuation, which includes a 0.1 cent increase on real estate and personal property that is allowable to recover prior year losses due to exonerations and an additional 5.5 cents on real estate for debt service, new facilities, and a total motor vehicle property rate of 59.2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Stu Silberman – During the public hearing there were 30 speakers and 27 of those came in support of the tax increase. Without the increase we are looking at 2025 before we can deal with all of our needs. Between now and 2025 there will be new projects added to the list. With the facilities nickel we would have the bonding potential to do everything on the Facilities Plan. Tonight we heard from parents, business leaders, and educators who shared their support. Principals spoke in regard to the number of maintenance requests that they have each day and these are distractions from the learning process. Growth is taking place in our schools – approximately 300 students a year on average. This year it is over 500 students. If all were to be in the same neighborhood this would mean a new elementary school. With the Continuation Plan we are basically filling up our schools and students are going to the next school. relief is needed. At Clays Mill, Picadome and Stonewall we are not

able to fit in any more students, we need a new school in this area and we need a new school east of I-75 for the growth in that area. We need to be able to accommodate the growth that is taking place. We would not be asking the Board members to approve a tax increase if there was any other option available to us. For the last three years we have lobbied the legislature for ways to increase funding to FCPS. Our local delegates from Fayette County fought hard for us, but it is the counties all over the state that have to give up a little to make it work and they are not going to do that. We have exhausted all means. With the nickel tax every penny will stay here and go to bricks and mortar. None of the tax can be used for operations. The investment that we are asking our community to make is about \$1.00 - \$3.00 a week for the investment in the future of our kids.

Melissa Bacon – Can you address some of the budget cuts that have been made?

Stu Silberman - Over the last five year period we have had a net cut of 68 positions and those reductions in total have generated a savings of \$4 million a year. At IAKSS we are leaner because we have moved people out to the schools and the content specialists have been reduced. Through the 2020 Vision process and the work of Jack Hayes, we are providing some of the services through supplemental duties. Overall the reductions are very clear and people are working hard and long hours.

Melissa Bacon – When was the last time a tax proposal like this was brought before the Board?

Stu Silberman – About 40 years ago. Over the years the Boards have managed extremely well to take us to this point.

John Price – One speaker commented on the lack of public involvement in this process. Could you tell us how the Local Planning Committee works? What I remember is that the plan was developed by the LPC, then there were about three public meetings in different locations and after the input was received the LPC looked at the plan and a public hearing was held in Norsworthy at IAKSS. This was at least four opportunities, in addition to the public members on the LPC, for the public to be involved in the process for developing the plan. Is this correct?

Mary Browning – That is correct and additionally the LPC has included in their agenda opportunities for the public to speak. These are public meetings and a notice of the meeting is posted.

John Price - The public has had multiple opportunities to be involved in the process of the plan that the LPC brought to the Board and that process is beginning again as another plan is being developed by the LPC.

Mary Browning – That plan will probably be finalized and brought to the Board in late 2008.

John Price – Between now and the end of 2008 there will be additional opportunities for the public to comment on the proposal as far as the facility plan is concerned.

Stu Silberman – During the meetings that I attended I heard that we were dealing with a very limited amount of money along with great needs. People were standing up saying that their school needed to be done first because the basement floods more than other schools. If we move forward we wouldn't have to worry about which basement floods the most, we will be able to get all the buildings fixed.

Becky Sagan – I have been asked that since Fayette County is a fairly property rich district and property assessments have been going up, why is this not enough to satisfy the needs?

Stu Silberman – This year is a great example. The state mandates that have come down, such as the salary increases, which the Board does not have an option on, costs \$17 million a year and \$8 million was received from the state. Our teachers are working their fingers to the bone and deserve this raise. This is where the additional dollars from the assessments go, to make up the difference and also for inflationary costs.

Becky Sagan – So that money we are already spending wisely. In order to do the things on the facilities plan is why we are asking for additional money because we are spending what we have as wisely as we can.

Stu Silberman – We are actually looking at two different budgets. The budget for operations, which includes salaries, is totally separate from the construction budget. The facilities nickel tax is strictly for construction and cannot be used for any operations. The public will be able to see tangible results from the facilities nickel tax.

Becky Sagan – Are we eligible for any additional funding due to the growth of students in our district?

Stu Silberman - We will pick up additional ADA funding for those students, but what happens when you have more students is that you need more teachers, so the additional funding we receive for these students equates out to salaries for the needed teachers.

Becky Sagan – We heard a lot tonight regarding maintenance and maintenance requests. We already staff under the national average per square foot and we have limited employees that make sure that the buildings are maintained correctly and they are doing a good job, but there is no fat in this budget to allow us to take money from this budget and apply it to facilities. It is not just a case of getting more employees and fixing things.

Mary Browning– Our maintenance staff work very diligently and there are a limited number of employees and they have worked very hard to move into a more proactive preventive maintenance mode instead of reactive maintenance. We have gone to any extreme necessary to make sure our buildings are safe. One of the issues that was brought to us tonight was the air conditioner that is running on one wire and in this case some of the major components are not there and we can't get parts.

Becky Sagan – Two years ago I went on a facilities tour of the schools on the list and the needs have increased and you can see that we need this tax increase so that we can move forward and take care of the buildings on the facilities list.

John Price – My understanding is that the rate that we are applying toward the \$100 of value for operations is actually being reduced. For the current school year our rate was 54.1 cents that was allocated for operations. The proposal tonight is 53.9 cents. We are actually going to be charging less per \$100 for the upcoming year compared to the prior school year. To that reduced rate for operations we are adding the 5.5 which will be dedicated strictly to facilities.

Tim Eifler – Regarding inflation in the value versus the tax rate, since 1979 the legislature has imposed very strict guidelines on tax increases for local government. One of the restrictions is the compensating rate which says that as property values inflate, the tax rate has to deflate to compensate for that.

Larry Conner – Regarding the cost for BSHS, approximately \$43.5 million, there has been some reference to the school as being the Tajmahal. Would you compare BSHS to other facilities that are being built in the state and also the rate that we were able to negotiate to build the school?

Mary Browning – BSHS has the same amenities as other schools across the state. We worked very closely with the staff and KDE to develop a plan for the transition in the middle of the year. Also knowing that this is a growth area, we planned ahead to be able to handle more students as they came in and we made sure that we have the technology and science areas that are needed. BSHS is no different than any other school in the district or across the United States. The cost for the building itself was about \$128 per square foot. The building was bid when construction costs were sky rocketing and we went back and looked at ways that we could maximize the dollars.

Stu Silberman – It is a beautiful building, but not a Tajmahal. The cost per square foot was a phenomenal price compared to today. What caused the overall cost to be high was that we built the building bigger than the current population and as it turned out we did the right thing because we have picked up students, 214 more students this year. We have three crowded high schools in addition to BSHS and students are now moving to BSHS. The Board had good foresight to build the schools bigger. The kids, the staff and the community needed this building, they have a renewed attitude toward education.

Larry Conner- Could you comment on the Board's decision to install artificial turf instead of natural turf in the stadiums?

Mary Browning – Our stadiums are beginning to age and started deteriorating several years ago. Because of some safety issues the Board was asked to replace some of the stadiums. TCHS was having some serious structural issues and the Board was asked to replace the stadium and make some improvements at the Dunbar stadium. An evaluation was done on artificial turf versus natural turf. Land in Lexington is hard to come by and there is not an opportunity to have separate practice fields. We found that the artificial turf had a long life cycle and had a pay back period of about ten years. This seemed to be a very wise decision because several groups could use the field: football, boys and girl's soccer, band and PE classes. There was a similar issue at Henry Clay where the bleachers were beginning to deteriorate and cause safety concerns. The Board gave approval to build a comparable stadium as with Tates Creek High School. At BSHS the project was included because we would be facing similar situations. We have addressed the needs of four of the high school and hope to deal with the situation at Lafayette shortly.

Stu Silberman – Key points are the pay back period and the Board having the foresight that it would pay for itself. There is not a lot of land in Lexington and we don't have the land to build fields on and the turf allows us to use one field for multiple activities without destroying the turf.

John Price – Does artificial turf reduce injuries?

Stu Silberman – I think in some old Board minutes that there was some information provided to the Board that said that there are fewer injuries on artificial turf.

Larry Conner – Tonight we heard comments that if we were not educating the illegal immigrants that we would have enough money. Would you comment on the legalities of our requirement of educating all students and if not educating that population would make a difference in completing our facilities plan?

Stu Silberman– From the legal perspective, we cannot ask that question, we are required to educate all children and plus we want to do that. If you look at the growth areas where we are having to expand with schools, these are not the areas where the ESL growth is. The two are really not connected. It is important to know that there are American citizens in all classrooms. The connection that is being made, from the aspect of the facilities tax, is that there is no connection between the two. We need to ask people to understand that there are kids all across the district that need better facilities.

Larry Conner– Our current bonding capacity is \$27.6 million and our facilities needs are approximately \$290 million, which leaves us with a need for approximately \$262 million in unmet needs. Is there any way that the district could cut costs or do whatever to come up with the money?

Mary Browning– If we could have come up with another plan, we would have already presented it to the Board. We have talked to the legislature in Frankfort and we tried to stretch our bonding capacity dollars as far as they would go to make sure that we addressed the most basic needs in the buildings. We don't see any other way that we can make that money up by trying to realign costs. This is entirely a separate budget from our operating budget. The nickel equivalent is what is needed to address these needs through bonding capacity.

Stu Silberman – When I first came here I heard that we needed to take a look at our budget. We formed a Finance Committee made up of members of the community who are in the field of finance and they look at our budget regularly. I feel good that we have looked at the budget and that we have outside eyes looking at the budget and saying that we are moving in the right direction. They have been part of our zero budgeting. It is not just us looking at the budget, it is outside people from the community and we have outside audits from firms that are not connected with the district. We were facing serious budget shortfalls several years ago and Boards did everything they could to make balanced budgets.

Melissa Bacon – As a Board of Education, our first responsibility is the children and it doesn't matter what child walks through the door, we have a responsibility to provide for that child whether they are an illegal alien or not.

A motion was made by John Price and seconded by Becky Sagan, to approve the motion that the Board of Education for 2007-2008 levy a total tax rate of 59.4 cents (real estate) and 54.2 cents (personal property) per \$100 assessed valuation, which includes a 0.1 cent increase on real estate and personal property that is allowable to recover prior year losses due to exonerations and an additional recallable 5.5 cents on real estate for debt service, new facilities and/or major renovations of existing school facilities, and a total motor vehicles property rate of 59.2 cents per \$100 assessed valuation; and that the Chair and Secretary of the Board approved a public hearing on August 27, 2007 for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding these proposed rates and cause preparation of the Working Budget for School Year 2007-2008. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

Stu Silberman – Thanked the Board for the steps that they have taken forward for the children of Fayette County. This is not only a short term investment, but a long term investment.

Larry Conner – This is a great day for the community. He thanked his fellow Board members for demonstrating their commitment to the kids of this district. The actions of the Board will allow a positive effect on the learning environment of this district long after the tenure of this Board. We don't provide an appropriate education if a disabled child can not go to the library on the second floor, as we have heard this evening. Our air quality in some of our schools, as we heard tonight, is not acceptable. Kids and staff are suffering from asthma without properly working AC units. The nickel tax will solve these problems and solve them quickly. This is what our kids deserve. He expressed his thanks for all the community leaders and business leaders for their support for this tax. This community is putting kids first in this community.

L. Informational Items

1. Personnel Changes – No discussion

M. Oral Communications

1. **Public Comments** – None
2. **Board Requests** – None

Becky Sagan – Thanked everyone for a great start to the school year. We have great faculty, staff and administrators welcoming the students and have heard nothing but positive comments. The new start times are going well and have had positive feedback. After spending time at TCHS the first week of school, she commended all the staff at TCHS for welcoming all the new students and making them feel important and this is happening at schools all over Fayette County.

John Price – Thanked Stu for paying good attention to the weather conditions and making sure that our athletes were safe.

Stu Silberman – Staff members, Vince and Scott, monitor that very closely and some mornings Lisa Deffendall has called. Lots of people making sure that our kids are safe.

3. Other Business

- a. **Board
Discussion of Board Work**

b. Staff

N. Motion Making Agenda Part of the Official Board Minutes

A motion was made by Melissa Bacon seconded by John Price, to make the agenda dated August 27, 2007, which action has been taken at this meeting, a part of the minutes as if copied in the minutes verbatim. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by Amanda Ferguson, to go into closed session at 8:43 p.m. to discuss proposed or pending litigation pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) and to discuss acquisition or sale of real property pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(b) The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

Open Session

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by Amanda Ferguson, to reconvene in open session. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Becky Sagan and seconded by Melissa Bacon to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. The motion carried with a vote of 5 to 0.

CHAIR

SECRETARY