



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education Meeting

December 18, 2017



From left: Ray Daniels, Melissa Bacon, Doug Barnett, Stephanie Spires, and Daryl Love

Providing timely, clear, and accurate information to students, staff, families, and community members about the latest Fayette County Public Schools news is an important part of meeting our mission to create a collaborative community that ensures all students achieve at high levels and graduate prepared to excel in a global society. Only an informed community can fully participate in improving the quality of our schools, and these monthly school board meeting summaries are just one of the many ways we work to provide honest, proactive, consistent, and responsive communication to those we serve.

KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS

At the start of the meeting, the board welcomed this month's honorary members: teacher representative Amy Pavona of Dixie Magnet Elementary, student representative Christian Cobb of Eastside Technical Center, and classified employee representative Sgt. Martin Schafer of Law Enforcement.



December's opening student performance featured The North Star a capella ensemble from Frederick Douglass High School singing three holiday favorites: "Sleigh Ride," "Ding A Ding A Ding," and "Carol of the Bells." This group is directed by Jessica Greene.

The school board then recognized the following students and staff for recent accomplishments:

- [Gia Jimenez of Northern Elementary](#), runner-up in the Kentucky Association for School Social Workers logo contest;
- [Aisha Ndayishimiye of the STEAM Academy](#), recipient of an Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award;
- [Anne Boggess of Henry Clay and Zsombor Gal of Paul Laurence Dunbar high schools](#), 2017 Youth Leaders of the Year;
- [Henry Clay social studies students](#), recipients of Model United Nations awards;
- [A veterinary science team from Locust Trace AgriScience Center](#), first place in a state FFA contest;
- [Football team from Edythe J. Hayes Middle School](#), A-league city champions;
- [Band from SCAPA at Bluegrass](#), 2017 Mark of Excellence Award;
- [Marching band from Lafayette High School](#), 2017 state champions;
- Daniel Hill, P.E. teacher at Tates Creek Elementary, newly elected president of the Kentucky Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance;
- 212 Degrees Award recipients included the team who helped make the Frederick Douglass High School ribbon cutting a resounding success, and Soraya Matthews, FCPS Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, who responded to a late night call to help a former student from another school district.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

First under the superintendent's report, Caulk invited principals from two of the district's empowerment zone schools to give the board and community an update about ongoing improvement efforts. Empowerment zone schools were selected to receive additional support, such as increased staffing and intensive professional learning, from the school district. The board heard presentations from Northern Elementary School principal Meredith Ramage and William Wells Brown Elementary principal Jay Jones.



Ramage and Jones shared student achievement data showing that increased percentages of student are making growth in reading and math this year as compared with the same time period last year. Both principals credited an increased focus on sound instructional practices and praised teachers for embracing the work. They also thanked the board for funding School Based Instructional Support Specialists to provide embedded job development for staff at their schools.

Next up, Caulk invited the district's lobbyist, Bob Babbage, managing partner with Babbage Cofounder, to present a draft of the school board's legislative priorities, which include advocating that legislators:

- Address the pension funding problem in a way that keeps the pension promise in its entirety to all current and retired participants.
- Increase state revenue streams in order to assure revenue to fully fund SEEK and restore flex focus funds, provide universal pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten and fully fund the cost of student transportation.
- Identify funding for charter schools that does not reduce existing public schools.
- Oppose the use of public dollars to support programs that fund non-public schools, such as private school vouchers or tuition tax credits.
- Consider changes to SBDM and tribunal laws.

The board will formally adopt its priorities during its planning meeting on January 8, 2018.

AGENDA ITEMS

Among the action items, the board members:

- Approved a first reading of proposed amendments to the Equity Council's bylaws.
- Approved a contract for additional professional development for teachers in The Academies of Lexington.
- Approved the [November treasurer's report](#), as presented by Financial Services Director Rodney Jackson and Chief Financial Officer John White.
- Voted to refinance district construction bonds at lower interest rates.



board meeting.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

School board meetings are televised live on Spectrum cable channel 197 and can be [streamed live](#) with an IE browser. The meetings are also replayed the same week at 2 p.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m. Wednesday, and 2 p.m. Saturday. In addition, the broadcasts, board agendas, and official minutes are [available online](#) along with these "Board Meeting Buzz" highlights.

FCPS is governed by an elected five-member board that meets on the second and fourth Monday each month in the district's offices at 701 E. Main St., Lexington, Ky. Meetings are open to the public, and community participation is welcome.

859-381-4104

www.fcps.net/board