



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education

February 26, 2018



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 one of the many ways we work to provide honest, proactive, consistent, and responsive communication to those we serve.

WELCOME & BOARD APPRECIATION

At the start of the meeting, the board welcomed this month's honorary board members: classified representative Steve Collins from Plant Operations (right), student representative DeMarius Wilson of Tates Creek High School and Locust Trace AgriScience Center (center), and teacher representative Sara Merideth of SCAPA at Bluegrass (left).

February's opening student performance featured the orchestra from Jessie Clark Middle School.



KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS

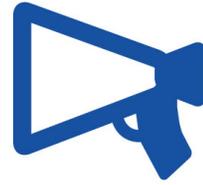


The school board recognized the following students and staff for recent accomplishments:

- Kevin Jing of Dunbar, elected governor during the fall's Kentucky Youth Assembly;
- [Merise Mwambayi](#) of Dunbar, recipient of an MLK Youth Leadership Award;
- [Three students from Winburn Middle](#) who made the national Honor Roll of Distinction in the AMC-8 math competition;
- [Two cheer squads from Dunbar](#), as a winner and a runner-up in KHSAA state championships;
- [Eighteen seniors](#) chosen as Presidential Scholar candidates;
- [Teachers](#) who recently earned National Board Certification; and
- Recipients of the Superintendent's 212 Degrees Award, including the outgoing Chief of the Fayette County Public Schools Department of Law Enforcement Lawrence Weathers and Tates Creek Elementary School Principal Carrie Paul. Weathers was honored for making significant improvements to the Department during his two years with the district, expanding services to schools, establishing a vision that others could buy into and setting a standard of excellence for all of us to aspire to. Paul was recognized for demonstrating the care and concern our employees have for every child in the community, regardless of where they go to school. After receiving a phone call in the middle of the night about a child the police had found walking along the side of the road, she went straight to the police station to help officers identify the child who was unable to communicate verbally and reunite him with his family, even though he did not attend her school.

PROCLAMATIONS

The board approved proclamations for [National Athletic Trainer Awareness Month](#), [National Foreign Language Week](#), [National Music in our Schools Month](#), and [National Professional Social Work Month](#).



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manny Caulk provided an update on the steps being taken in FCPS to ensure that our schools are the safest places in our community. He reviewed the district's five-pronged safety approach for prevention and deterrence, which is built upon partnerships with students, families, employees, law enforcement officers and community members, in addition to summarizing existing safety and security procedures.



Caulk then recapped information shared at his [February 22, 2018 press conference](#), including eight immediate steps the district will be taking to enhance school safety and the establishment of a [District Safety Advisory Council](#).

He closed his remarks by noting that in response to the school shooting in Florida, Republican Governor Rick Scott has issued an action plan to put a law enforcement officer in every public school, hire mental health counselors in every school, and increase safe schools funding to provide metal detectors, bulletproof glass, steel doors and upgraded locks in schools. Gov. Scott has estimated the price tag for those changes in Florida schools to be \$450 million and he's also calling for a \$50 million investment in mental health services throughout the state.

"We should follow their lead in some respects," he said. "I commend Governor Bevin for proposals in his budget to raise the salaries for social workers and to reform the adoption and foster care systems. Those investments will help provide for the safety of children in a loving home. But that safety should extend to the school house. I continue to implore the Governor to fully fund education, add additional funding for school safety and security, and increase funding for mental health services. It shouldn't matter where you live. Every child in Kentucky deserves to attend a safe school. I and many leaders across the state stand ready to work with the Governor to bring forward a system school safety and security plan."

EQUITY UPDATES

Acting Equity Officer Darryl Thompson and Educating Boys of Color support specialist Christian Adair shared highlights of the district's REAL Men Read mentoring program, which encourages community volunteers (especially men) to read with students throughout the school year.



Now implemented in 29 elementary schools across the district, nearly more than 7,500 students are benefiting from the program. Every school has tailored its approach to best meet the needs of students, but each program brings in volunteers from the community into classrooms to read aloud with students.

Volunteers read pre-selected books that are targeted for different grade levels and every child in the class takes a copy of that book home with them. The program takes the guess work out of mentoring by providing the volunteers with helpful tips on reading with the students and suggested discussion questions to ask. Since the program launched in October, more than 42,000 books have been put into the homes of children throughout the community.

A teacher and two students from Lansdowne Elementary spoke about how the program is encouraging students to read at home and build their home libraries. The principals from Tates Creek High School and Tates Creek Elementary School shared how their partnership is building bridges across the campus.

OPERATIONS & SUPPORT

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the good news that the bids to build the new elementary school at Athens-Boonesboro Road \$1.7 million under the projected budget.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Among the action items, board members:



- Approved additional schoolwide fundraising projects;
- Revised the job description for the Chief of Law Enforcement;
- Approved a resolution to issue revenue bonds for more than \$10.6 million to finance the land, buildings, personal property, and improvements at 1555 Georgetown Rd.;
- Approved the [January treasurer's report](#), as presented by

Financial Services Director Rodney Jackson and Chief Financial Officer John White.

The official minutes from Feb. 26 will be posted within the agenda of the March 26 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.

859-381-4104
fcps.net/board

Meetings are open to the public, and community participation is welcome.

Fayette County Public Schools, 1126 Russell Cave Road, Lexington, KY 40509

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