



BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education

January 22, 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 just 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: teacher representative Heidi



Thompson-Abell of Squires Elementary, student representative Madison Alexander of Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, and classified employee representative Tom Armstrong of the district's Maintenance Department.

January's opening student performance featured the chorus from Tates Creek Elementary School, under the direction of Candace James.

January is **School Board Appreciation Month**, so FCPS paused to thank its five school board members for their tireless work on behalf of students, families, staff, and the entire community. Laura Hatfield, director of ONE Lexington, read a proclamation from the city honoring the school board members. The board also received acknowledgments from Jessica Hiler, president of the Fayette County Education Association; Denise Gray, board member of the Fayette County Educational Support Professional Association; and Penny Christian, first vice president of the 16th District PTA. In closing, Superintendent Manny Caulk commended our board members for their leadership and guidance through various challenges and opportunities.

KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS



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

- Lafayette High School students [Aaron Choate \(dance\)](#) and [Katherine Copeland \(voice\)](#), whose talent was recognized by the National YoungArts Foundation;
- Winburn and Tates Creek middle school students, for excelling in their section competition of the state's [Sixth-Grade Showcase](#);
- [Morton Middle's A-league team and Beaumont's B-team](#), for winning the countywide girls' basketball tournaments;
- Edythe J. Hayes Middle School, which was designated a [National Beta School of Distinction](#);
- [Dance teams](#) from Paul Laurence Dunbar and Lafayette, for excelling in the inaugural KHSAA Dance Championships;
- [SCAPA/Lafayette drama students](#), who earned first-place honors and straight superior ratings at the Kentucky Theatre Association's state conference;
- [Dunbar cheerleading squads](#), for first and second place in the KHSAA state championships;
- [Brooke Powers](#), a math teacher at Beaumont Middle, as winner of a national Milken Educator Award;
- Recipients of the Superintendent's 212 Degrees Award were the following employees who came in on a day when schools were closed and wind

chills were in the double digit negatives to pack food backpacks and personally deliver them to the homes of our students to ensure that they and their families had food for the weekend: Dana Adams, the Youth Services Center Director at Beaumont Middle, Denis Beall, the principal from Beaumont Middle, Steve Duerson, a Social Worker from Paul Laurence Dunbar High and Kasey Spicer, the Family Resource Center Coordinator from Garden Springs Elementary.

PROCLAMATIONS

The board approved a proclamation for [National School Counseling Week](#), which is Feb. 5-9.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Under the Academic Services update, Principal Amber Catron shared ongoing improvements at Russell Cave Elementary, one of the district's Empowerment Zone schools.

Catron shared that this year, 96 percent of the incoming kindergarteners at Russell Cave did not meet state readiness benchmarks. She also provided student achievement data showing that increased percentages of students are making growth in reading and math this year as compared with the same time period last year. Her presentation featured a video of students and staff sharing the changes they've been making this year. Catron also thanked the board for funding supports for Empowerment Zone schools and shared her school's motto for the year: "Stay POSITIVE, work hard, MAKE IT happen."



EQUITY UPDATES



Acting Equity Officer Darryl Thompson explained that the Equity Council has recently been reconfigured to include 11 members instead of the 15 members the council previously had and introduced the current members: Craig Cammack, Denise



Brown, Betsy Dobbs, Malkanthie McCormick, Jervis Middleton, Sharon Mofield-Boswell, Abdul Muhammad, Bret Nathaniel, Sherelle Pierre, Carlos Ross and Torrey Woods. .

OPERATIONS & SUPPORT

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson presented the [Biannual Construction Report](#) as of December 31, 2017.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Among the action items, board members:



- Voted to award a contract to Cambridge Education to handle school improvement scholastic reviews at two of our schools;
- Revised an existing job description for a current position for the District PBIS Coach;
- Approved assurances required in order to remain eligible for Family Resource and You Service Center funding;
- Approved the [December treasurer's report](#), as presented by Financial Services Director Rodney Jackson and Chief Financial Officer John White.

Under informational items, the board received updates on the [2017 Wellness Report Card](#), and the draft budget for 2018-19.

The budget presentation included an overview of the budget process and timeline and an analysis of strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats considered during the development of the budget. The district faces proposed cuts to revenue of between \$16.3 and \$18.3 million, and mandated state expense increases of \$5.4 million.

Potential threats include:

- Cuts of \$12.3 million included in the governor's proposed state budget.
- \$5.4 million in a state-mandated increase to employer retirement contributions for classified staff.
- The possible elimination of the inventory tax which would take \$4 to \$6 million in school revenue away.
- Unclear funding for charter schools.

Officials advised the board that as the budget process moves forward in the legislature, the ability to pay for other strategic plan initiatives may be impacted.

The official minutes from Jan. 22 will be posted within the agenda of the Feb. 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

www.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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