



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education Meeting

July 24, 2017



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

This month's student performance featured Meaghan Haddix, a rising freshman in the SCAPA program at Lafayette High School, where she is a drama major. Meaghan presented her state-championship monologue.

Also, the board congratulated [Jennifer Williams](#) of Lexington Traditional Magnet School, on her selection as Kentucky TSA Adviser of the Year for middle schools.

212 DEGREES AWARD



The superintendent's 212 Degrees Award for going above and beyond is the team that worked tirelessly to make the district's new data dashboard a reality. The project was required cross collaboration between Infinite Campus, MUNIS, Technology, and the Data, Research and Evaluation departments. Honored in July were Billy Buchanan, Drew Butcher, Sam Conder, Susan Davis, Mary Fakharpour, Ian Gainey, Jill Garrett, Dana Hendrickson, Garry Hoover, Daphne Jenkins, Bob Moore, Michael Owen, Angela Roberts, and Jill Tuttle.

STUDENT-ATHLETES' CONCERNS

Before the business portion of the meeting, board Chairwoman Melissa Bacon addressed a concerned group of families with students in the Spanish Immersion Program at Bryan Station Middle School about qualifying for athletic participation. Bacon and the board agreed to vote at their next planning session to allow SIP student-athletes to "play up" at Bryan Station High School in 2017-18 since the Spanish Immersion Program is unique as the district's only K-12 magnet program. The issue involves rules requiring middle school athletes in magnet programs who play at the high school level to play at the high school their home address is zoned for. The board will consult with KHSAA given the unique nature of the K-12 Spanish Immersion Program. Superintendent Manny Caulk added that qualifying SIP students at Bryan Station Middle can practice with the Bryan Station High school teams immediately.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Superintendent Manny Caulk shared a recap of the second annual Superintendent's Leadership Institute, themed "Mission: Possible" - Season 2, and connected its focus on equity with the district's designation of four Empowerment Zone Schools this fall. The goal, Caulk said, is to provide necessary resources "for our students who come to school with less." Caulk did not name the four elementary schools that will be in the Empowerment Zone, but he noted that 82 percent of the students collectively served by the schools qualify for free or reduced price meals, a measure of poverty. Last year only 18 percent of the children entering those four schools were "prepared for kindergarten" according to state measures of school readiness. "We can take action -- we have a choice," Caulk said, thanking the board for budgeting to help ameliorate conditions that could hinder success for

students. The district is providing additional assistance in several areas including instructional support, leadership, learning culture and environment, and family resources. "It's not a 'one and done' ... but being consistent with what you're able to deliver," added board member Daryl Love.

In an unrelated report, Title I coordinator Paula Whitmer reviewed the status of the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP). The four annual phases of updating the plan, which runs from August to June, cover diagnostics, state testing results, goals and objectives, and progress monitoring. Among new initiatives for 2017-18 are next week's Teaching and Learning Conference and the creation of a Newcomers' Academy for students learning English whose education has been interrupted.

OPERATIONS & SUPPORT



Myron Thompson, senior director of Operations and Support, presented the [latest construction report](#) on Frederick Douglass High School, which welcomes students next month. "We're looking forward to opening this building," Thompson said, noting the school is about 98 percent complete. The ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for 10 a.m. on Aug. 7 at the new school, which is located at 2000 Winchester Road.

AGENDA ITEMS

Among the night's action, the board:

- Approved policy updates for the 2017-18 school year to ensure the policies are aligned to changes made during the legislative session.
- Agreed to continue the waiver for a standards-based grading system for Bryan Station High School and affirmed changes in the school's novice-reduction plan, which includes a new grading scale that eliminates "D" as a letter grade from the options. The goal is to make sure that grades communicate what a student knows, understands, or is able to do.
- Approved the biomedical sciences program at the new Frederick Douglass High School as a magnet program to start in 2018-19. Applications will be accepted this fall, as magnets and other specialized programs consider student interest a year in advance. Principal Lester Diaz noted that feeder schools will offer a Medical Detectives class for eighth-graders to stir interest in biomedical fields, which are among Lexington's top workforce needs, according to Commerce Lexington.
- Approved contracts with outside agencies to provide services for students



with special needs and to provide professional learning for teachers at
Tates Creek Middle School.

Note: There is no monthly finance report in July because of year-end closing requirements. Instead, two reports will be presented at the August board meeting: one for June as an unaudited year-end report, and the other for July as the first report of the new fiscal year.

The board went into closed session to discuss acquisition or sale of real property, proposed or pending litigation, or personnel matters.

The official minutes from July 24 will be posted within the agenda of the Aug. 28 board meeting.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

School board meetings are televised live on FCPS-TV (cable channel 197) and streamed live at fcps.net/tv 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



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