



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education

March 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 & STUDENT PERFORMANCE

**At the start of the meeting**, the board welcomed this month's honorary board members, left to right: student representative Reagan Smith of Henry Clay High School, classified staff representative Shannon Prather of Ashland Elementary, and teacher representative David Moore of Martin Luther King Jr. Academy.

March's opening student performance featured the Glee Club from Dixie Magnet Elementary.



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## KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS



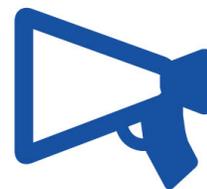
The school board recognized the following students and staff for recent accomplishments:

- [Governor's Cup regional winners](#) from Rosa Parks Elementary and elsewhere;
- [Junior Beta Club state honorees](#) from Edythe J. Hayes and Leestown middle schools;
- [National High School Cheerleading Championship](#) runner-up from Hayes;
- [Japanese Speech Contest winners](#) from Lafayette High;
- [Smoky Mountain Invitational champions](#) from Henry Clay High School;
- [Indoor track & field state champions](#) from Lafayette and Bryan Station high schools;
- [KHSAA state swim meet honorees](#) from Tates Creek and Henry Clay high schools;
- [American String Teachers Association honorees](#);
- Recipients of the Superintendent's 212 Degrees Award were bus driver and bus monitor Rechelle Jones and Tenika Walker-Segar for taking their responsibility to care for the children of Fayette County to heart. Earlier this month they noticed a small child walking on New Circle Road near Broadway and stopped to ask the youngster if he needed any help. The first grader was visibly upset and scared and couldn't find the right words to communicate what was wrong. Instead, he handed Rechelle and Tenika his backpack and they could see from his transportation tag that he was a long way from where he belonged. The student, who attends Northern Elementary, had missed his ride and was trying to walk to school instead. Rechelle and Tenika invited the student aboard their bus and took him safely on to school. They escorted him inside and ensured that he was settled for the day before leaving to complete their normal daily tasks.

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## PROCLAMATIONS

The board approved proclamations for [Administrative Professionals Week](#), [Autism Awareness Month](#), [Occupational Therapy Month](#), [Public School Volunteer Week](#), [School Library Month](#), and [Student Leadership Week](#).



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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

First under the Superintendent's report, Caulk called upon Chief Academic Officer Kate McAnelly and math specialists Natalee Feese and Debbie Waggoner to present [highlights of the enVision math curriculum](#) for middle schools.



Caulk noted that last year the district took the historic step of adopting a districtwide English Language Arts curriculum for grades K through 12 to ensure that all students have the benefit of a challenging and rigorous curriculum. Feedback from schools, teachers and family members has been positive, he said.

"The first step to achieving equity is ensuring that all students have access to a guaranteed and viable curriculum," Caulk said.

Next, Caulk called upon Technology Director Bob Moore to present the district's brand new app. "You may recall that during our press conference about the district's ongoing efforts to ensure that our schools are the safest place for students in our community, we shared that we would be rolling out an enhanced emergency communication system to provide just-in-time information to our families, staff, students and community," Caulk said. "This will allow everyone to stay connected to what's happening in our schools using a platform that we have all embraced."

To download the app, search for FCPS KY in the App Store or Google Play Store. Once you launch the app, you will have option of selecting which schools to follow. To receive emergency alerts, please allow push notifications.

Moore highlighted features of the app, including a tip line, the ability to receive emergency alerts and an activity stream featuring news stories and social media posts from the district and schools. The launch of the app adds to the ways the district can communicate with all members of the community. Families are already able to receive alerts via phone, email and text. Now, students, staff and community member can also access announcements by using the app.

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## EQUITY UPDATES

School board members received an update on the joint Family University and Lifting and Impacting Futures Today conference, which was Saturday, March 24, 2018 at Tates Creek High School. The college and career readiness conference event was a partnership between the school district, the Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County, the YMCA Black Achievers Program, the Community Action Council, the



Urban League Young Professionals, Commerce Lexington and the City of Lexington.

In all, 468 people registered for the event, including 65 elementary students, 94 middle school students, 91 high school students and 97 parents and caregivers. Attendees spoke English, Spanish, Nepali and Arabic.

Designed to help families overcome obstacles and help their children navigate the world of college and career readiness, the event featured workshops for parents and caregivers as well as college and career activities for students of all ages. Topics and hands-on sessions included science, engineering, financial literacy, social media, healthy relationships, summer employment, goal setting, and leadership. Workshops for adults covered the new language arts curriculum, behavioral and mental health trends, safety and the Every Student Succeeds Act. At the end of the day, students walked away with \$8,000 in scholarships and connections to other scholarships they may be eligible to receive.

"It was a phenomenal day," said Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County Chief Administrative Officer Annissa Franklin, who helped establish the LIFT conference in 2003 based on her own experiences as a first-generation college graduate.

Equity Council Chairman Abdul Muhammad thanked Superintendent Manny Caulk for his leadership in establishing the District Safety Advisory Council to bring a diverse group of community leaders together to look at the issues of safety impacting the young people of Fayette County. Muhammad shared some of his observations about the topics examined by the council, including state and national best practices, juvenile justice, mental health and social media. "I've learned a lot," he said. "We all want our young folks to go out and perform at the highest levels, but that is going to require a discussion at all levels of our community. It's going to take everybody."

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## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

**Among the action items, board members:**



- Adopted the enVision math curriculum program for grades 6, 7, and 8.
- Adopted a policy and to lay the foundation for the installation of fixed metal detectors in the district and to provide guidance for random suspicionless searches using metal detector wands.

The superintendent had previously announced that the district would begin installing stationary metal detectors in its high schools starting with Frederick Douglass. "I anticipate this will expand to include other schools as well, but we have to start somewhere and given the nature of the facility at Douglass it is likely to pose the fewest complications, which will allow us to work through the process and better anticipate issues on other campuses," Caulk said. "In the meantime, these policy and procedure changes will allow our middle and high schools to immediately begin using the hand-held metal detector wands more frequently to conduct random searches of students and campus visitors. When students come to school we need to ensure that they are not bringing contraband or items that will not aid in their learning."

- Amended the [2017-18 instructional calendar](#) to forgive the snow day taken on

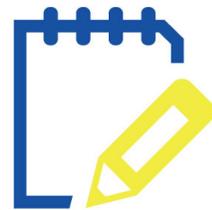
March 12 and approve an emergency day for when pipes burst at the STEAM Academy. The last day of school for students will be May 31, 2018 and employees will work with their supervisors to complete their contract days.

- Approved a contract with the Lexington Center to hold high school graduations at Rupp Arena according to the following schedule: May 31 at 4 p.m. – Lafayette, and 7:30 p.m. – Paul Laurence Dunbar; and June 1 at 9 a.m. – Tates Creek; 12:30 p.m. – Bryan Station; 4 p.m. – Frederick Douglass; and 7:30 p.m. – Henry Clay.
- Approved the [2018-19 schedule](#) of regular school board meetings.
- Approved the [February treasurer's report](#), as presented by Financial Services Director Rodney Jackson and Chief Financial Officer John White.
- Voted to rescind its January action, and exercise its option to nullify a tentative contract to purchase roughly 20 acres of land on Squires Road from the Kentucky American Water Company for a new middle school. The original vote was contingent upon several additional steps, including final approval from the Kentucky Department of Education.

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## BUDGET UPDATE

Chief Financial Officer John White and Budget Director Julane Mullins presented the board with a summary of the potential impact of the draft budget proposals that have been presented by lawmakers in Frankfort. In summary:



- The Governor's proposed budget would cut \$18.4 million from our district.
- The House's proposed budget would cut \$4.3 million from our district.
- The Senate's proposed budget would cut \$13.2 million from our district.

Cuts in both the Governor and Senate versions would strip \$1 million from Fayette County's preschool services, family resource centers, safe schools and other state grants. All three of the draft budgets eliminate \$1.8 million in funding for professional development, instructional materials, support for new teachers and community education.

The Governor's proposed budget also shifts a portion of employer paid health insurance and KTRS match onto local school districts, which would cost our district \$3 million. Other cuts in the Governor's budget include \$6.5 million in transportation funding and \$6 million in SEEK funding.

The Senate's draft budget shifts an even greater portion of the employer paid health insurance and KTRS match onto local school districts, which would mean a \$4.5 million cost for Fayette County and includes a \$5.9 million cut in SEEK funding for our district. While failing to provide full funding for our public schools, the Senate budget provided a funding mechanism for charter schools.

The SEEK cut for FCPS in the House version is \$2.5 million.

In addition to the cuts included in the three draft budgets, the district remains concerned that there has been no movement on SB 66, which would cap annual increases in the employer match for CERS. Without that help, FCPS is looking at a \$5.4 million increase in these costs next year, which will be a significant hit.

"The cumulative impact of these cuts would leave more of our students behind," Caulk said. "Our Senators and Representatives have the capacity to exacerbate or ameliorate the conditions that keep our students from reaching their unlimited potential. We need our lawmakers to fully fund K12 education, invest in school safety and increase funding for mental health services."

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*The official minutes from March 26 will be posted within the agenda of the April 23 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**  
[fcps.net/board](http://fcps.net/board)