



## BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education

May 21, 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, Chairwoman Melissa Bacon welcomed this month's honorary board members: teacher representative Ryan Harrington of LTMS, student representative Ashley Barnette of Lafayette High School, and classified staff representative Elmer "Junior" Davis of Logistical Services.

May's opening performance featured Maxwell Elementary School students performing a Latino dance.



## KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS



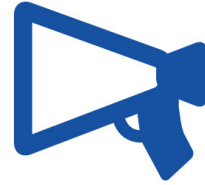
The school board recognized the following students and staff for recent accomplishments:

- [Calendar Art Contest winners](#);
- [Public Service Recognition Week poster contest runner-up](#);
- [Grand Concours national French contest honorees from SCAPA at Bluegrass](#);
- [Kentucky Art Education Association's all-state honorees](#);
- [State MATHCOUNTS champions from Winburn](#);
- [Congressional Art Competition honorees](#);
- [Craft Academy Class of 2020](#);
- [Gatton Academy Class of 2020](#);
- [Kentucky World Language Association's state showcase honorees](#);
- [Battle of the Books winners from Bryan Station Middle and Dixie Elementary](#);
- [Kentucky Chess Association's scholastic state tournament standouts](#);
- [Lexus Eco Challenge winners from SCAPA at Bluegrass](#);
- [National History Day state winners](#);
- [Kentucky High School Speech League state champions from SCAPA at Bluegrass](#);
- [Future Business Leaders of America state contest winners from Dunbar](#);
- [Kentucky Science & Engineering Fair winners](#);
- [FCCLA state contest winners from Beaumont and Henry Clay](#);
- [SkillsUSA statewide winners from Southside and Eastside Tech](#);
- This month's 212 Degrees Award recipient was student support services administrative assistant Pam White, for going above and beyond in the service of students and families experiencing homelessness. White recently noticed a mother and child waiting at the bus stop in front of the school district office on Main Street. After seeing the pair several days in a row without coats, she struck up a conversation with the mother only to find out that the family had recently fallen on tough economic times and had no place to live. During the conversation, the mother shared that she was afraid to reach out to the school for fear of being told she would have to enroll her middle school daughter in another school. Instead, the mother was getting up with both of her children each day to catch the city bus to ensure her middle school daughter made it to school on time. Because of her familiarity with the federal McKinney-Vento program, White knew that students experiencing homelessness are able to stay in their home school with transportation provided. She brought the family into the district office

where she registered them for the federal assistance program and provided coats for the mother, toddler, and middle schooler.

## PROCLAMATIONS

The board approved a proclamation for [Internet Safety Month](#).



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

As part of his monthly report, Superintendent Manny Caulk introduced several district staff members to present updates on initiatives tied to the school district [strategic imperatives of Excellent Student Opportunities, Excellent Schools, Excellent Relationships](#) and ensuring that every student in the Fayette County Public Schools develops the attributes and skills outlined in our Portrait of a Graduate.



**[Seal of Biliteracy](#)**: Associate Director of Federal, State and Magnet Programs Michael Dailey and World Language Specialist Laura Roche' Youngworth shared information about the Seal of Biliteracy, which is an endorsement that students in Fayette County can earn in conjunction with their high school diploma. To receive the [seal of biliteracy](#), students have to demonstrate proficiency in two or more languages. FCPS is the first school district in the state of Kentucky to offer the seal districtwide. During the first year of implementation in 2017, 85 students applied and 66 earned the seal. This spring, 104 students applied and 87 students earned the seal.

**[Academies of Lexington](#)**: Strategic Partnerships Manager Kim Lyon, Bryan Station High School Principal James McMillin, Frederick Douglass High School Principal Lester Diaz, Tates Creek High School Marty Mills and Business and Education Network Executive Director Betsy Dexter shared some of the highlights and successes of the first full year of wall-to-wall academies in the Fayette County Public Schools.

In the academy model, students are enrolled in smaller learning communities broadly organized by career themes tied to growing local industries, such as medicine, engineering, teaching and advanced manufacturing. Learning is collaborative and interdisciplinary and content is tied to post-secondary and industry standards so that students make meaningful connections among all subjects in relation to their college and career aspirations. To bring learning to life, students have the opportunity to visit college campuses and workplaces and learn from professionals in the fields they hope to enter.

Data from the three schools where academies were implemented this year showed better attendance, fewer disciplinary issues, and higher achievement levels across the district. Caulk thanked the school leaders for "being disrupters to the traditional high school instructional model that may not be working for all children," and praised the school board for investing in the initiative.

**Success Academy:** Director of Student Support Services Faith Thompson gave the board an update on the Success Academy, which will open in the fall of 2018 to serve students who are not currently on track to graduate on time. "In this district, all means all," Thompson said. "What we're doing for students in the academies, we want to do for these students as well."

Designed to serve students who are 16 or older and have earned five or fewer high school credits, the Success Academy will provide a safety net and personalized alternative pathway to an ever growing group of students who need a nontraditional and accelerated educational pathway to graduate and make a successful transition to college or workforce.

The program will operate in partnership with community agencies including the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, Jobs for America's Graduates KY, the Urban League of Lexington Fayette County, Community Action Council, and the Mayor's Office, and will link students to accelerated academic development and career development. The program will initially serve 50 to 60 students with a hybrid of online learning and teacher directed instruction and flexibility in scheduling to accommodate work schedules, internships, career and technical training and academic demands.

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Caulk then called upon Chief Financial Officer John White and Budget Director Julane Mullins to give present an overview of the Fayette County Public Schools 2018-2019 Tentative Budget. The budget approved by the Kentucky General Assembly left the school district with a \$9.7 million reduction in state funding, including a \$2.9 million cut eliminating state grants for instructional materials, teacher training and tutoring for struggling students.

Anticipated increases in local revenue will help cover a portion of the remaining \$6.8 million cut, but in order to balance the budget, Caulk proposed eliminating 22 positions at the district office, cutting one staff development day, and trimming district operating budgets by \$2.9 million. None of the cuts are to direct services to students.

The proposed budget also includes investments in more teachers for special education, English language learners and gifted and talented students, the opening of the Success Academy, intensive support for struggling middle schools, a mentoring program linked to reading and expansions in career and technical education.

"We are putting forth our best recommendations to invest in initiatives that will support our most vulnerable students, but this is not enough," Caulk said. "The budget that came out of the legislative session did not meet our request to fully fund education, invest in school safety initiatives or expand mental health services. We would like to do more."

Caulk noted that the budget does not include any money to move forward on the recommendations made by the FCPS District Safety Advisory Council.

"We just had another tragedy at Sante Fe High School in Texas on Friday," he said. "We know the recommendations put forth by the Advisory Council are the right ones to increase the safety of our children at school, at home and in the community, but we are going to have to find another source of revenue to make those a reality."

## EQUITY UPDATES



Acting Equity Officer Darryl Thompson introduced Dale Morgan and Mia Farrell of UK College of Agriculture, Melanie Trowell of Carter G. Woodson Academy, and Anne DeMott of Locust Trace AgriScience Center to present a partnership between the school district, UK and MANNRS to create more access and opportunities for historically underrepresented student groups in the area of agriculture. The collaborative efforts between FCPS and UK have given nine high school males of color the opportunity to participate in semester long independent research projects with UK professors and have opened the Jr MANNRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences) leadership development program to students at Locust Trace. The goals of these efforts have expanded opportunities for students of color and given them the opportunity to compete at the highest levels.

## CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATIONS

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the [latest update on construction](#) of Fayette's newest elementary school, off Athens-Boonesboro Road.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Among the action items, board members:



- Approved the [proposed 2019-20 instructional calendar](#), with August 14, 2019 as the first day of school for students and May 26, 2020 as the last day of school for students. The school year includes a fall break on October 3 and 4, 2019, a three-day Thanksgiving break, winter break from December 23, 2019 through January 3, 2020, and spring break from March 30 through April 3, 2020.
- Approved the 2018-19 salary schedule for district employees;
- Approved the district's 2018-19 tentative budget. School board members lamented the difficult choices in the budget proposal. "This is not ideal,"

said school board member Doug Barnett. "The problem is that it's the best we've got.";

- Approved a revised job description for Family Resource Center coordinator;
- Approved the [April treasurer's report](#), as presented by Financial Services Director Rodney Jackson and Chief Financial Officer John White.

*The official minutes from May 21 will be posted within the agenda of the June 25 school board meeting.*

## SEE FOR YOURSELF

School board meetings are televised live on FCPS-ETV 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](http://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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