



## BOARD MEETING BUZZ

Fayette County Board of Education Meeting

Nov. 20, 2017



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.

## KUDOS & RECOGNITIONS

At the start of the meeting, the board welcomed this month's honorary members: teacher representative Jason Meenach of Frederick Douglass High School, student representative Carson Kreide of Douglass, and classified employee representative T.C. Johnson of Winburn Middle School.



November's opening student performance featured the eighth-grade choir from Morton Middle School.

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

- Jessie Clark Middle School's [volleyball team](#), as "A" league city champions;
- [Julie Moore](#) of Wellington, as Outstanding Elementary Science Educator;
- [Diann Shuffett Ashcraft](#), as Kentucky's School Psychologist of the Year;
- [Morton Middle](#), as a National Green Ribbon School;
- Sustainability & Wellness Scorecard award recipients; and
- [Douglass students](#), led by a Lafayette teacher, who presented at a national conference on how community violence impacts their lives.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Manny Caulk reviewed the structures the district has adopted to provide differentiated supports for schools -- including staffing, professional learning and funding -- to ensure student success.

In 2015, the district established the "partnership zone" and focused additional support on the schools in the Bryan Station feeder pattern. In 2017, the district identified "empowerment zone" schools and added instructional support specialists and additional professional learning for four elementary schools. At the high school level, the district has implemented The Academies of Lexington model to transform education, and will soon be looking at a middle school redesign to make changes at that level.



The next step at the elementary level, Caulk said, is adding a school turnaround model. To jump start the effort, he said, officials are seeking board approval to solicit proposals (called an RFP) for an external review of Arlington and Booker T. Washington elementary schools.

Senior Director of School Leadership Schuronda Morton and Associate Director of Federal, State and Magnet Programs Michael Dailey gave more details on the request for proposal process, during which the district will accept proposals from outside firms or consultants to conduct a comprehensive review of the two schools and make concrete recommendations to "improve and sustain student growth and achievement."

Morton said the results should include recommendations at both the school and district level. "We need to identify reasons for lack of progress and performance," she said. "Once we know what the root cause is, we can provided targeted support and assistance."

The review will look at student demographics and mobility patterns, disaggregated data on multiple forms of assessments, curriculum, instruction, and assessment, MTSS, strategic allocation of resources, school improvement and turnaround practices, and student participation in-school and extracurricular. Additionally, the district would like the audit team to conduct surveys and interviews of students, staff, and families, and focus groups with community members to gather input on reimagining the school.

"It's important to have that community and family voice in this work," Caulk said. "What do they want to see the school become? We are committed to ensuring that in every neighborhood, students and families have access to a great school."

Later in the agenda the board voted unanimously to approve the RFP and release it November 21, 2017.

## AGENDA ITEMS

Among the action items, the board members unanimously:

- Agreed to request permission from the Kentucky Department of Education to reassemble the Local Planning Committee in order to consider changes to the District Facilities Plan;
- Approved a change to grading at Frederick Douglass High School to move to a 10-point scale;
- Amended district policy to add provisions for veteran-owned businesses to the FCPS economic inclusion plan and recommended goals.
- Approved the [October treasurer's report](#) and the [2017 financial records audit](#), as presented by Financial Services Director Rodney Jackson and Chief Financial Officer John White. The school district received the most favorable audit opinion possible -- a "clean" opinion on the financial statements as a whole.



*The official minutes from Nov. 20 will be posted within the agenda of the Dec. 18 board meeting.*

## SEE FOR YOURSELF

School board meetings are televised live on Spectrum cable channel 197 and [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**  
**[www.fcps.net/board](http://www.fcps.net/board)**

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