



FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board Meeting Buzz



Fayette County Board of Education

December 14, 2020

As part of our commitment to providing timely, clear, and accurate information to students, staff, families, and community members, we are please to provide a recap of our monthly school board meetings.

WELCOME & RECOGNITIONS

Board Chair Stephanie Aschmann Spires welcomed those members of the public watching the school board meeting online, before sharing a [video tribute](#) to Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent Manny Caulk, who passed away on December 4, 2020.

Spires then recognized school board members Daryl Love and Ray Daniels on the occasion of their final Fayette County Board of Education meeting. Love served on the board for 10 years and Daniels served on the board for four years.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Acting Superintendent Marlene Helm and members of the district leadership team provided additional information about plans to return to In-Person Learning when conditions allow.

Helm began by recognizing the heavy lift shouldered by staff and families since the advent of COVID-19 in Kentucky last March, and acknowledging the fervent desire of students, families and employees to return to in-person learning.

To guide those decisions, district leaders have developed the [Fayette County Public Schools COVID-19 In-Person Learning Matrix](#), which provides specific metrics outlining when students will be able to return to campus. The tool, which builds on the state's color-coded incidence rate map, includes five stages based on the average daily COVID-19 cases in Fayette County. The method also incorporates orders from the Governor, student and staff absences, isolations and quarantines, operations and support considerations, community vs. institutional spread, community trends and vaccine uptake.

In an effort to be transparent, while prioritizing the health and well-being of our

students and staff, this approach is both data-driven and safety-minded. The goal is to minimize the likelihood of COVID-19 exposure and maximize in-person learning opportunities.

Although district leaders will track data daily, decisions for the upcoming week will be made on Tuesdays according to the 7-day average of new COVID-19 cases in Fayette County falls:

- 3.3 cases or less: Stage 1, green, low risk: All schools are open. Curriculum delivered on campus via face-to-face instruction, with blended learning strategies that integrate digital resources. FCPS will monitor and be prepared to respond to identification of COVID-19 positive tests that affect staff members or students. Additional health and safety guidelines may be enacted in consultation with the Health Department.
- 3.3 to 33 cases: Stage 2, yellow, minimal risk: Schools are open for in-person learning. However, short-term closures may occur for COVID-19 affected classrooms or buildings. These short-term closures may be impacted by one or more transition factors and will be communicated by both the school and district.
- 34 to 83 cases: Stage 3, orange, moderate, but increasing risk: Schools are open for graduated in-person learning. Short-term closures may occur for COVID-19 affected classrooms or buildings due to transition factors. These closures will be communicated by the school and district.
- 84 to 132 cases: Stage 4, red, significant risk: FCPS will consider moving to remote learning with targeted services being provided for students that need extra support. Based on FCPS transition factors and the FCPS COVID-19 In-Person Learning MATRIX, a graduated in-person learning model will be considered.
- 133 cases or more: Stage 5, purple, substantial risk: All schools are closed. Students are not physically attending school and are completing coursework through Non-Traditional Instruction: Differentiated Distance Learning (NTI: 2DL).

Regardless of the In-Person Learning Stage, remote learning will be provided five days a week for students whose families prefer that option.

The team also announced that winter break will be extended by three days for students to provide staff time to prepare for a return to in-person learning. In two weeks, specifics about the roll out for graduated in-person learning will be shared. Rather than starting all students back on the same day, consideration will be given to students who have never been in their schools before and those who may need more time to learn routines.

JOHN D. PRICE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

By unanimous vote, the school board agreed to name the new Fayette County Board of Education Building, at 450 Park Place, the John D. Price Administration Building in honor of the longtime board chair. A generous and caring man who championed equity and social justice throughout the community, Price worked tirelessly for more than 30 years to make Fayette County Public Schools a place of opportunity for children. "It was always about what's best for our students. John never wavered in his commitment in trying to do the right thing," said board

member Daryl Love, who served with Price. [Read more here.](#)

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS



Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the [December construction highlights](#), providing an update on the addition of secure vestibules at 28 schools that previously had none and a review of progress on the new Tates Creek High School building.

AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Among the action items, board members voted to approve:



- The [Comprehensive District Improvement Plan](#) which lays the roadmap to accelerate student growth and achievement.
 - A contract to continue the REAL Read program, which puts books into the hands of our students to build their at-home libraries.
 - A contract with Jonathan Shaw and Grant Chenoweth, (of the firm Porter, Banks, Baldwin and Shaw, PLLC), to provide legal services to the school board.
 - A grading scale change for Lafayette High School to match the 10-point scale that other district high schools use.
 - The 2020 Financial Records Audit, which will be posted online when finalized. The district received the highest possible rating.
 - The [monthly financial report](#).
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The official minutes from December 14 will be posted within the agenda of the January 25 school board meeting.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

The school board's action meetings are televised live on FCPS-ETV (Spectrum Channel 197, Windstream Channel 13, and MetroNet Channel 2) starting at 6 p.m. Because of COVID-19 precautions, the meetings are virtual, so community members may [email input to school board members](#). The meetings are also replayed the same week at 2 p.m. Tuesday, 8 p.m. Wednesday, and 2 p.m. Saturday, and are then archived through the [FCPS YouTube channel](#). Planning and action meetings are also streamed live through the district's [YouTube channel](#) and [Video on Demand service](#). If watching on the district website, please hover over the Live Streams banner at the top and click on the play button to begin on your device.