



Fayette County Board of Education May 24, 2021

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

WELCOME & BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Board Vice Chair Amy Green welcomed members of the public watching the school board meeting online. The Lexington-Fayette County Health Department has advised adults in the school district to continue meeting virtually wherever possible, including faculty meetings, committee meetings, professional learning opportunities, and meetings of the Fayette County Board of Education. The board anticipates transitioning to in-person meetings in the near future.

She then introduced this month's teacher, student and classified employee representatives:

- **Aimee Graham**, a Lexington native who attended Millcreek Elementary, Tates Creek Middle School, and Tates Creek High School. Five years ago, she landed back on her beloved Tates Creek campus as a middle school social studies teacher and is elated to continue carrying the Commodore banner for many years to come. Her two sons, Charlie and Noah, attend Tates Creek Elementary School. Aimee lives in Lexington with her husband, sons, and cats.
- **Ruby Sharrard**, who recently graduated from the Engineering Academy and Spanish Immersion Program at the Academies of Bryan Station High School. She has been an Engineering Student Ambassador for three years and her career pathway is Mechanical Engineering. Ruby has also been an important contributing member of the VEX robotics team along with serving as the President of Technology Student Association. She has also been involved in Station Arts, specifically orchestra and theatre. Additionally, Ruby is a student athlete and member of the women's golf team. In the fall of 2021, she will be attending the University of Alabama in Huntsville to pursue her interest in Aerospace Engineering.
- **Sandra Ballew-Barnes**, a native of Lexington who graduated from Bryan Station High School and the University of Kentucky, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Individual and Family Development and a master's degree in Vocational Education. She began her career with FCPS at Crawford Middle School as a Family Resource Youth Services Center Assistant. Currently she is the Family Resource Center Director at Breckinridge Elementary. In the past, Sandra has served Lexington by working in the community as a Get On Board graduate, Lexington Urban League Young Professional, and Junior League of Lexington. Currently she is serving as board member of the following: Safe Kid's Coalition (Membership and Education Committee), Woodhill Community Center International Market Lead Volunteer, F.C.E.S.P.A. At Large Board Member, Region 10 FRYSC Advisory

Council, FRYSECKY Coalition Historian, and The Toy Chest. When she is not serving her community, Sandra enjoys being outdoors working in her garden and traveling. Sandra could not give of herself without the support of her family; Vicki and Tim Mitchell, her sister and brother in law, Lauren Mitchell, her niece, and Darren Barnes, her loving and supportive husband of 26 years.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Members of the Fayette County Board of Education announced the following candidates to become the next Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent:

- **Christopher S. Bernier, Ed.D.**, chief of staff for the Clark County School District (CCSD) in Las Vegas, Nevada, a large urban district of more than 310,000 students.
- **Melvin J. Brown, Ed.D.**, superintendent of Reynoldsburg City Schools, a district with 7,300 students in the metropolitan area of Columbus, Ohio.
- **Angela Dominguez**, the assistant superintendent of academic services in Edgewood Independent School District in San Antonio, Texas, an urban district of about 10,000 students.
- **Tawana Grover, Ph.D.**, superintendent of Grand Island Public Schools in Grand Island, Nebraska, a district of more than 10,000 students.
- **Demetrus Liggins, Ph.D.**, superintendent of schools in Greenville Independent School District, an urban district of 5,000 students outside of Dallas, Texas

Opportunities for Public Participation include:

- **Interactive Virtual Public Forums:** Each candidate will participate virtually in one-hour live public forums on Wednesday May 26 and Thursday May 27. Dia Davidson, a news anchor for LEX18 News, will moderate each of the five discussions. All are invited to view the virtual public forums via [live stream](#) or attend a live session in Norsworthy Auditorium at the former district office, located at 701 East Main Street. Members of the community can submit questions during the forums or in advance to [this link](#) by noon on Tuesday, May 25. After the forums, all are invited to send feedback to the board [here](#). Submit feedback by Friday, May 28 to help inform the board's next steps in the search.
- **Video Introductions:** Watch an introductory video about each candidate produced by [PLD Lamplighter](#) at fcps.net/search on Wednesday, May 26.
- **Meet and Greet:** The public will get an opportunity to engage with candidates in person on Wednesday June 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at Frederick Douglass High School.

Additional information about the search for the next Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent can be found at www.fcps.net/search.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Acting Superintendent Marlene Helm thanked the members of the COVID-19 Core Team, who have met more than 50 times between December and May. She shared that their work continues as the team is preparing guidelines for the 2021-22 school year.

Dr. Helm celebrated the success of the 13 vaccination clinics held in our district high schools in partnership with Wild Health, noting that close to 3,000 vaccines were distributed and the district was honored to host the Governor and Mayor for a press conference at Lafayette

High School on the last day of school.

In closing, Dr. Helm shared insight from students who wrote a book called *The Pandemic Press: Kids' Perspectives*. The project was a collaboration between fifth graders at Wellington Elementary and third graders from Glendover and Maxwell elementaries who wrote, revised, and edited pieces to capture their thoughts and feelings of the past year to record history for generations to come.



CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson shared the [May construction highlights](#), noting that the security vestibule for the new Carter G. Woodson Preparatory Academy is currently in the demolition phase and will be complete in July. He also shared an update on the new Tates Creek High School building, where 45% of the work is complete. The new school is slated to open in July of 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT

During the portion of the meeting for remarks by citizens, Board Chair Tyler Murphy explained that the board has instituted a process to allow members of the public to sign up to speak in advance of regular school board meetings similar to that used by the Lexington Fayette Urban County Council. Details on that process are available at <http://www.fcps.net/PublicComment>.

Five members of the public addressed the board regarding police presence in Fayette County Public Schools. Additionally, five members of the public submitted written comments. Their full submissions will be shared with the board members and included in the board meeting record, which is not the same as the board meeting minutes.

BOARD ACTION



The board voted to approve:

- Requests from 412 families for their children to repeat their current grade under the Supplemental School Year Program, and an accompanying set of assurances required by the Kentucky Department of Education.
- An addendum to the FCPS contract with the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department to provide nursing services for Summer Ignite.
- A contract to continue providing the Imagine Learning platform for students.
- A contract for a third-party claims administrator for liability claims.
- A revision to policy 08.221 that sets a 10-point grading scale for secondary schools and allows middle schools to have flexibility on whether to use the specified conduct grades.
- Updated job descriptions for the Safe Crisis and Social Emotional Learning Coordinator and District Mental Health Specialist Coordinator.
- A Revised Salary Schedule for 2020-21 to add a stipend rate for summer special education and technology services.
- The 2021-2022 Tentative Budget, which includes an optional work day for employees who work a 189-day calendar.
- The 2021-2022 Salary Schedule, including a 2 percent salary increase for all FCPS employees. Board members noted that employees have not had a pay raise in five years.
- The Student Code of Conduct for the 2021-22 school year.
- The annual offer of state funding through the Kentucky Education Technology System.
- Tentative Budgets for the 2021-22 School Activity Fund.
- The [monthly financial report](#).

The official minutes from May 24, 2021 will be posted within the agenda of the June 14, 2021 school board planning work session.

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. The meetings are also replayed the same week at 8 p.m. Wednesday, 10 p.m. Saturday, and 10 p.m. Sunday and are 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.

Fayette County Public Schools | fcps.net



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