



Dawson Springs Independent School District

118 East Arcadia Avenue
Dawson Springs, KY 42408
Phone: 270-797-3811 Fax: 270-797-5201
www.dawsonsprings.kyschools.us

Leonard Whalen, Superintendent

Board of Education

Vicki Allen, Board Chair
Tracy Overby, Vice-Chair
Lindsey Morgan
Wes Ausenbaugh
Steve Morse

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 26, 2018

The Dawson Springs Board of Education was very pleased to be the successful bidder on the real property located at 320 Hickory Street in Dawson Springs. It is anticipated this property may become a parking lot to ease parking issues we have at larger events. Our goal is that the upcoming review and potential revisions of our district facilities plan by our planning committee will include incorporating this property to maximize access, use and safety on our campus.

This property was on the tax rolls of the Property Valuation Administrator with a tax value of \$83,500 but the Board was able to purchase the property during an on-line auction for \$18,750, which saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars. The discussion and authorization in this matter regarding possible acquisition of real property was taken in closed session due to the concern that the publicity regarding the acquisition would be likely to affect the value of the specific piece of property to be acquired for public use, as authorized by KRS 61.810(1)(b). The acquisition of this property for public use has been completed and the Kentucky Department of Education recently approved this purchase on September 6, 2018.

On July 6, the Board received a complaint from Melissa Larimore, Managing Editor of the Dawson Springs Progress, requesting the Board acknowledge its action in open session at its next meeting. The Board did exactly that in its meeting on July 16. In addition, the Board responded to Ms. Larimore on July 10 and August 29 setting out its reasons for taking the action it took. Ms. Larimore then appealed the matter to the Kentucky Attorney General. The Board responded to the appeal and on September 21, 2018, the Attorney General determined the Board's actions were not in compliance with the Open Records Act. While we disagree with the decision, we do not plan to spend any additional legal fees to appeal this decision. We are pleased we were able to purchase this property for school use at a very good price that would not have been possible if we had announced in open session the amount the Superintendent was authorized to bid on the property.

Sincerely,

Vicki Allen

Board Chair, Dawson Springs Board of Education

The Dawson Springs Board of Education provides equal educational and employment opportunities and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex or disabling condition.