

**RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS  
(MINUTES)**

Fayette County Board of Education Planning Meeting  
December 5, 2022

The Fayette County Board of Education met in Room 150 at the John D. Price Administration Building, located at 450 Park Place, Lexington, KY 40511 at 5:30 p.m. on December 5, 2022, with the following members present:

**Attendance Taken at: 5:34 p.m.**

**Present Board Members:**

Ms. Amy Green

Mr. Tom Jones

Mr. Tyler Murphy

Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires

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**Administration Present**

Demetrus Liggins, Superintendent

Houston Barber, Deputy Superintendent

Meocha Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services

Shelley Chatfield, Chief Legal Officer

Myron Thompson, Chief Operating Officer

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Tyler Murphy called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**A.1. Roll Call**

**B. EXTEND WELCOME TO GUESTS**

Mr. Tyler Murphy welcomed guests in attendance.

**C. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**E. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT**

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**F. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**F.1. Addendum:**

**F.1.a.** \_\_\_\_\_

**F.1.b.** \_\_\_\_\_

**F.2. Deletions:**

**F.2.a.** \_\_\_\_\_

**F.2.b.** \_\_\_\_\_

**G. STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

**G.1. Student Performance**

**G.1.a. Performance, Edythe J. Hayes Middle School Choir**

**H. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

**H.1. Progress Reports**

**H.1.a. Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Demetrus Liggins welcomed guests at the planning meeting and provided an overview of the agenda for the regular meeting on December 15.

**H.1.a.1. Academic Services - Innovative Programs Showcase**

**Discussion:** Acting Chief Innovation Officer Ron Chi and Project Manager Vee Pryor shared information about the Innovative Programs Showcase planned for January 7, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tates Creek High School. The event is part of district efforts to increase access to and raise awareness of the innovative special and magnet program offerings available in FCPS.

**H.1.a.2. Operations & Support**

**H.2. Remarks by Citizens (persons who have signed up to speak):**

**H.2.a. There are two opportunities for the public to address the Board:**

**I. ROUTINE MATTERS:**

**I.1. Minutes of the November 28, 2022, Regular Board Meeting**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022, regular board meeting of the Fayette County Board of Education passed with a motion by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires and a second by Ms. Amy Green.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
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Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
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Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
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Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes
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**J. CONSENT ITEMS:****J.1. Award of Bids/Proposals****J.2. Post Approval Placeholder****J.3. Special and Other Leave of Absence****J.4. Approval of a Proposed Change Order (No. Thirty-four) to the Contract for the Construction of the New Tates Creek High School BG# 20-082****J.5. Approval of Third-Party Special Inspection Agreement for the Construction of the New Combined CTE School at Midland Avenue BG# 22-167****J.6. Approval of Commissioning Agent Agreement for the Construction of the New Combined CTE School at Midland Avenue BG# 22-167****J.7. Approval of Contract for HVAC Testing and Balancing Services for the Construction of the New Combined CTE School at Midland Avenue BG# 22-167****K. ACTION ITEMS:****K.1. Redrawing School Board Boundaries**

**Discussion:** Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires read a statement and requested it to be included in the minutes verbatim. Her full written statement is included at the end of the minutes.\*

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to adopt Option 2 for redrawing school board precincts/divisions passed with a motion by Mr. Tom Jones and a second by Ms. Amy Green.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	No

**K.2. Renaming of Carter G. Preparatory**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to rename the Carter G. Woodson Preparatory Academy to become George Washington Carver STEM Academy for Boys passed with a motion by Mr. Tom Jones and a second by Ms. Amy Green.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

**K.3. Professional Leave District Personnel**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to approve the professional development as listed in the agenda passed with a motion by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires and a second by Ms. Amy Green.*

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Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

**K.4. Request for Extended Field Trips**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to approve the requests for extended field trips as listed passed with a motion by Ms. Amy Green and a second by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

**K.5. Teach Upbeat, LLC Contract**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to approve the Teach Upbeat, LLC contract to administer one survey to FCPS staff during the 2022-2023 school year with the understanding the board members would receive the results of the survey data passed with a motion by Mr. Tom Jones and a second by Ms. Amy Green.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

**L. PLANNING DISCUSSION (ACTION AT THE REGULAR MEETING):**

**L.1. Teach Upbeat, LLC Contract**

**Discussion:** Middle Schools Chief Bill Bradford shared information about a proposal to administer a survey to all staff and explained that if the board took action at the regular meeting, the district would receive the results of the survey in March, but if they took action at the planning meeting, the results would be available in February.

**L.2. Adoption of Legislative Priorities**

**Discussion:** Abby Piper and Jared Smith from the lobbying firm of Piper-Smith reviewed a draft legislative agenda with the board. Board members asked that the legislative agenda be amended to encourage lawmakers to take steps to address childhood poverty.

**L.3. Approval of Comprehensive District Improvement Plan**

**L.4. Authorize the Reassembling of the LPC**

**Discussion:** Chief Operating Officer Myron Thompson reviewed the facilities planning process outlined in state statute.

#### **L.5. 2022 Financial Records Audit Report**

**Discussion:** Jenna Jones, a partner with the district's external auditing firm of Strothmann & Company, presented the results of the annual financial audit. The district received an unmodified clean opinion, which is the highest possible evaluation.

#### **L.6. Monthly Financial Placeholder**

### **M. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

#### **M.1. Personnel Changes**

#### **M.2. School Activity Funds Placeholder**

#### **M.3. Budget Transfer Report**

#### **M.4. Position Control**

### **N. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **N.1. Public**

#### **N.2. Board Request Summary**

**N.2.a.** \_\_\_\_\_

**N.2.b.** \_\_\_\_\_

**N.2.c.** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **N.3. Other Business**

#### **N.3.a. Board Discussion of Board Work**

#### **N.3.b. Staff**

### **O. MOTION MAKING AGENDA PART OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES:**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to make the agenda dated December 5, 2022, on which action has been taken at this meeting, a part of the minutes as if copied in the minutes verbatim, passed with a motion by Ms. Amy Green and a second by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

### **P. CLOSED SESSION:**

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**Motion Passed:** *A motion to go into closed session, pursuant to KRS61.810(1)(f) to discuss personnel passed at 7:39 p.m. with a motion by Ms. Amy Green and a second by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

**P.1. Reconvene in Open Session**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to reconvene in open session at 9:22 p.m. passed with a motion by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires and a second by Ms. Amy Green.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

**Q. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion Passed:** *A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 p.m. passed with a motion by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires and a second by Ms. Amy Green.*

Ms. Amy Green	Yes
Mr. Tom Jones	Yes
Mr. Tyler Murphy	Yes
Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires	Yes

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Tyler Murphy, Board Chair

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Demetrus Liggins, Superintendent and  
Secretary to the Board

**\*Statement by Ms. Stephanie Aschmann Spires regarding Item K.1. Redrawing School Board Boundaries**

Please include my words in the minutes of this meeting, verbatim.

This board made a promise to the community after the 2020 election cycle that through the redistricting process we would work to provide more opportunities for minority candidates to run for school board seats and in the interim we would engage community leaders and stakeholders, as well as dive in and do ongoing training as a board, and as individuals in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In early 2021, I shared with Board Chair Murphy and Vice Chair Green, the work that the prior board and Superintendent Caulk had done to begin the process of expanding the board to seven members like Jefferson County. This work included talking to legislators who represent Fayette County to determine the best way to bring this proposal forward to the Kentucky General Assembly for approval during the 2021 legislative session. I shared that redistricting needed to be a priority for the board and that expanding the board needed to be a legislative priority for the 2021 legislative session. I also gave an update to the Equity Council in early 2021 about the prior board's work on this issue. I shared how the board had engaged members of the Urban League, the NAACP, black faith leaders, and other community partners to determine the need to expand to a board of seven. When Superintendent Liggins was hired in the summer of 2021, I reiterated the need to redistrict and to explore expanding the board.

The feedback I received from the current board team was that they were not interested in expanding the board to seven members, and so I deferred to the will of the board.

Unfortunately, neither of the two proposals provided to us, fulfill this board's commitment to the community. I understand both proposals meet our legal obligation to provide representation to voters, however neither proposal increases the opportunity for minority candidates. In four of the districts, white voters make up over 50% of the population. As a minority/majority district, it is important that those making decisions for our students, represent and reflect the student population.

These two proposals have been presented by the committee and the board legal counsel as the simplest and easiest proposals to fulfill the legal obligations of this board. I find these descriptions concerning. Easy and simple will never break down systemic barriers. If the work was easy, it would have already been done.

Tonight, I am asking my board colleagues to fulfill our promise and listen to community partners and explore the process to expand the board to seven seats. I have heard the suggestion that we keep five districts and develop two at-large districts and I have heard the suggestion that we divide into seven districts. These terms would need to be determined by the Kentucky General Assembly. Currently we have five board members representing the same population that fifteen

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council members represent. In November's election, two of three at-large LFUCG council seats were won by minority candidates and while the school board lacks diversity, the incoming LFUCG council is the most diverse council in history. It is important to note that unlike FCPS, LFUCG completed the redistricting process ahead of the 2022 election cycle.

I understand that we may be under a deadline to submit the new districts before the 2023 election cycle, now that there will be a 2023 school board election, and I find that frustrating as I have brought up the need to redistrict many times to this board and board chair since January 2021. I do not understand why we have waited to the 11th hour to complete this process when many other school districts across the state have already completed this process, but regardless, we cannot hide behind a deadline as a reason to not fulfill a promise we made to community.

Tonight, I will not be voting for either proposal and instead ask my colleagues to send these proposals back to the committee and ask them to begin to explore the process to expand the board. I want to thank the committee for their work thus far. I do not want committee members to think their efforts and work are not appreciated. In fact, it is the opposite. I think that this process was important to recognize that under the current system it is not possible to increase the opportunities for minority representation, further supporting the need to expand the board.

This board has made equity a priority. We created an equity statement. One of the top priorities we have charged the Superintendent is equity. The district has developed the office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, under this board's leadership. This board has worked alongside the FCPS Equity Council to strengthen the relationship between the committee and the board and determine the council's scope of work. Now it is time to look at this team and how this team can best represent the FCPS community.

Thank you!