

**MEMO**

TO: Bullitt County Board of Education

From: Kali Ervin

Date: November 27, 2023

Re: December 18th Board of Education Meeting Recognitions: Moving Forward and Core Values in Action Award Recipients

This year, BCPS continues the two new recognitions we started last year: The Moving Forward Award and The Core Values in Action Award. These awards symbolize the heart of Bullitt County Public Schools: our tagline and the fundamental values we strive to follow each day. The Moving Forward Award is open to any BCPS student, parent, other family member, a Bullitt County community member, or business and the Core Values in Action Award serves to recognize BCPS Staff Members.

Tonight, we are pleased to announce the Fall 2023 recipients of these awards.

**Moving Forward Award:**

**Lou Foster, Family Member of a BCPS Student**

“Mrs. Foster is the grandparent to one of our students. She comes to school each and everyday to run the stop sign for our car rider line. She is here early to be out in the front drive with the Welcome sign turned and ready to go before the bell rings. She is here no matter the weather. She puts this volunteer position first and if she absolutely must miss (which is rare) she communicates well in advance. She has become such a part of our team that she wears her vest, monitors traffic lines, and keeps watch for any student around the cars. Drivers dropping off probably assume she is hired by the school. She is a great extra set of eyes to watch and she makes sure our students matter most. She is truly one of the first positive faces to welcome our students as they come to school and start their day. We appreciate her time and dedication that she gives to service our school and think she is well deserving of the Moving Forward Award.”

**Core Values in Action Awards:**

**Students Matter Most: Melanie Sparks, BCHS Choir Director**

“Ms. Sparks puts her heart and soul into the kids at Bullitt Central. She works with the kids to help them grow not only musically but also developing leadership skills. She gives her time to these kids and helps them serve our local community by having a group sing at various Veteran events, singing the National Anthem at those events plus local parades. She does these events so the kids understand the importance of volunteering in their local community. Ms. Sparks hurts when her kids hurt. She encourages her kids to come out of their shell with her nurturing manner. Ms. Sparks embraces and welcomes all kids and respects them completely. She is also known as the “snack room” – when kids get hungry they come to her for snacks or coffee in the morning. I have never seen a teacher care so much about the kids!”

**BULLITT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS AN EQUAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT INSTITUTION**

#### Service Before Self: Jake Mitchell, Director of Bands at Hebron Middle School

“Mr. Mitchell pours every ounce of himself into his students. His ability to build relationships and spark enthusiasm in his students is like nothing I have ever seen. He sacrifices so much of himself and his time to help his students improve and succeed. He spends time before school, after school, during his planning, and even on the weekends and weeknights supporting his band students and building them up. He does not turn anyone away and makes each student feel like they are phenomenal. All of his students grow so much during their time with him as a testament to Mr Mitchell’s Service Before Self. He creates a love and excitement for perfecting their crafts. My son wants to get better and play his instrument so much simply because Mr Mitchell has encouraged him and makes him feel confident. Mr Mitchell has ignited something in him that he will take with him all the way through his future as he talks about how he now wants to try and get a marching band scholarship for college. That would have never happened without Mr Mitchell’s guidance. Mr Mitchell makes all of his students feel this way. He is one of a kind in his selflessness and Service Before Self. He is always smiling, positive and always upbeat which influences his students to do the same. I am so thankful Mr Mitchell is a part of my son’s journey.”

#### Proactive Innovation: Megan Eskridge, FES 4th Grade Teacher

“What makes Megan an exceptional teacher and deserving of this recognition is her unyielding focus on the students she serves. She is always eager to learn new teaching strategies and provide authentic learning experiences for her students.

Megan empowers students to be self-directed navigators and to “own” their education. Megan recognizes that true learning is not just about imparting knowledge but also about helping students discover their own purpose, meaning, and joy in education and in life. In her classroom, it's not uncommon to find students deeply engaged in authentic learning projects, collaborative discussions, and innovative problem-solving activities. Megan's teaching methods not only make learning fun and exciting but also instill in her students a sense of responsibility for their own growth and development.

Megan's commitment to Proactive Innovation is not limited to her teaching methods alone; she is also a source of inspiration and support for her colleagues. She readily shares her insights, resources, and experiences, sparking innovation with her team and school community. Her eagerness to work with others and her strong desire to always get better at what she does has a positive impact that goes beyond her classroom, impacting both the students and the teachers she works with. Megan is a shining example of what it means to be a proactive and innovative educator, and her contributions are making a significant difference in the lives of our BCPS students.”

#### Shared Accountability: Chelsea Mayfield, Exceptional Child Educator at BCHS

“Chelsea embodies the very essence of shared accountability in her daily work as our Inclusion and Resource Special Education Teacher at Bullitt Central High School and in her interactions within our educational community. Chelsea's extraordinary role as a co-teacher in our inclusion model of special education deserves special recognition. Effective collaboration is paramount in an inclusive classroom, where students with diverse learning needs are integrated into general education settings. Chelsea has been instrumental in creating an inclusive environment where students of all abilities can thrive. Chelsea creates an environment where students feel safe, valued, and empowered to reach their fullest potential. She collaborates seamlessly with her co-teaching partners and general education colleagues to ensure that students receive the individualized support they require while participating fully in the general curriculum. Chelsea's role as a co-teacher extends beyond supporting students; she is equally devoted to supporting her colleagues. Her willingness to share her expertise, resources, and innovative strategies has profoundly impacted the growth and development of both new and experienced educators. Chelsea's mentorship and guidance have been invaluable to our teaching staff, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared responsibility. Chelsea Mayfield exemplifies the qualities of a true leader in the realm of shared accountability, especially in the context of the inclusion model of special education.”