

**Powell County Board of Education Regular Meeting  
December 12, 2023 6:00 PM  
Powell County Middle School Media Center**

**Attendance Taken at : 6:53 PM**

**Present Board Members:**

Brenda Crabtree

Kim Hall

Lisa Mays

Diann Meadows

Kathy Merriman

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Adopt/Approve Agenda**

**IV. Staff/Student Recognitions**

Ms. Patricia Burton, teacher at Powell County High School, spoke to the Board about the students at Powell County High School. She shared that several students had received a scholarship from the HS Pigman KYSTA Scholarship organization and were going to further their education in college in the engineering field. She also shared that a presenter came to the school to get the kids interested in cyber security and was very impressed with the knowledge and skill level of our students.

**V. Communication Report**

Superintendent Wasson shared the following information:

- The District now has three bids on repairing the diesel lines at the bus garage. The highest bid was Petro Towery with a bid of \$145,242.31. Oscar W. Larson Company bid \$99,640.00 but left the new Veeder Root system off the bid. The company we will use based on the bids is Southern Kentucky Maintenance, LLC who bid \$106,402.91 for the entire project including the Veeder Root equipment needed. This is a savings of \$38,839.40.
- Rick Sunderman with Garland Roofing came last Wednesday to meet with Eskola Roofing to develop a plan of action for replacing the gutter system at Stanton Elementary. They haven't shared an update with us yet, but we will keep you informed.
- The lights have been removed from the property where Stanton Elementary will be built. The field is now ready for the construction project to begin.

**VI. Public Comments**

Board Chair Kathy Merriman recognized Mr. Brian Marcum to speak to agenda item XII, Board Redistricting.

Mr. Marcum began by asking the Board what their number one priority was in the redistricting. Board Chair Kathy Merriman informed Mr. Marcum that it was brought to the Board, and Superintendent Wasson shared that the goal was to meet the magisterial districts.

Mr. Marcum agreed that the Board districts were way out of bounds, but he believed the baseline targets that he came up with by dividing the total on Mr. Whisenhunts document by 5 were not being met. He believed the districts could be balanced better by taking from the larger districts and giving to the smaller districts. Mr.

Marcum showed numbers that he came up with and said they aren't near as big of a discrepancy as the numbers the Board came up with.

Board Chair Kathy Merriman stated that the Board did not come up with these numbers and Mr. Marcum asked who decided the numbers.

Superintendent Wasson clarified that the goal was to make the districts as close to the magisterial districts as possible to make voting simple for the whole community. She met with Mr. Whisenhunt and Ms. Everman and started with the magisterial districts and there were two board members in the same magisterial district so the Board couldn't keep all districts the same. In trying to keep the two districts as similar to what they are now, Mr. Whisenhunt clicked on various populations to make the district numbers as close as possible.

Mr. Marcum told the Board the definition of gerrymandering is when you try to pick up a certain population and try to influence who is voting and Superintendent Wasson stated that was not done.

Mr. Marcum continued conversation with the Board attempting to clarify who created the new boundaries and why they were being done in the manner they were, and the Superintendent and Board continued to express they were based on magisterial districts to the extent possible without forcing two Board members in the same magisterial district to draw straws.

Additionally, Mr. Marcum pointed out that the census number used was not correct according to the 2020 census. He indicated the number should be 13,129. It was not known why this number of 13, 168 was used.

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

**Order #24-78 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve all consent items as presented passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Diann Meadows.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

- A. Approval of minutes for regular meeting 11.21.23
- B. Approval of Payment of Claims
- C. Approval of Monthly Financial Report
- D. Approval of Orders of Treasurer
- E. Monthly Trip Requests
- F. Approval of Overnight Trip Request - HS Girls Basketball

## **VIII. Facilities**

- A. View of Pictures of Stanton Elementary Updated Renderings

Superintendent Wasson and Allison Commings with SBC Architects shared renderings of the new Stanton Elementary School. Ms. Commings explained that the arched roofs were taken out and we simplified the structure to make it more cost efficient. The footprint of the gym and cafeteria were expanded. She also shared perspective views showing that the arched theme was kept. There is some stone veneer to pay homage to the Gorge but there is the Stanton red brick that we are likely familiar with. The cafeteria has windows all the way around. The emblem with Stanton Elementary School is on both sides of the gymnasium.

- B. Approve Base Bids for New Stanton Elementary Construction Project

**Order #24-79 - Motion Passed:** Approval of base bids as presented passed with a motion by Diann Meadows and a second by Kim Hall.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The base bids for the project were provided to the Board of Education by Codell Construction. Board Member Diann Meadows asked for an explanation of bid packages and if those bidding knew about the opportunity to bid on a bid package. Superintendent Wasson asked Kenny Davis from Codell Construction to explain combined bid packages. He shared that all companies had the opportunity to bid as a combined package and that the savings often comes from having the same construction manager and set up on site. He showed the bid package document that informed those bidding that they could look at combined packages. He shared that two companies provided a combined bid package- Rising Sun Developing, Inc. and Rosa Mosaic & Tile Company. Mr. Davis informed the Board that they could select any of the bids. The Board adopted the lowest bid packages including the combined bid packages.

**C. Approve Alternate Bids for Stanton Elementary Construction Project**

**Order #24-80 - Motion Passed:** Approval of alternate bids 1 through 10 passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Brenda Crabtree.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The following alternate bids were accepted by the Board:

Alternate #1- Right of way work for main entry (will be reimbursed by state when completed)

Alternate #2- Connector road to the middle school

Alternate #3- Alternative exit route off property

Alternate #4- Pre-Engineered Walkway Covers

Alternate #5- Terrazzo flooring throughout the building

Alternate #6- Owner preferred door hardware

Alternate #7- Right of way work for Alternate #3- Additional Exit (will be reimbursed by state when completed)

Alternate #8- Pre-Engineered Wood Bucks

Alternate #9- Card Readers throughout interior of the building

Alternate #10- Owner Preferred ECT/Alerton HVAC Controls

**D. Approval of Revised BG-1 for Stanton Elementary Construction Project**

**Order #24-81 - Motion Passed:** Approval of revised BG-1 as presented passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Lisa Mays.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The revised BG-1 demonstrating the total expenses and funds available for construction was presented to the Board.

**E. Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Powell County School District Finance Corporation to issue School Building Revenue Bonds**

**Order #24-82 - Motion Passed:** Adoption of Resolution authorizing the Powell County School District Finance Corporation to issue School Building Revenue Bonds passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Kim Hall.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The following resolution was presented to the Board by Dwight Salsbury with RSA Advisors:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE POWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, CONFIRMING THE ACCEPTANCE OF AN OFFER OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE KENTUCKY SCHOOL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT WITH SAID COMMISSION; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE POWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE CORPORATION AND ANY FURTHER NECESSARY INSTRUMENTS; APPROVING CERTAIN ARCHITECTS' PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CERTAIN SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT; APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF CONTINUING DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES AND THE EXECUTION OF TAX COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES; AND APPROVING THE PLAN OF FINANCING THE COST OF SAID PROJECT.

**IX. Approve a motion to take a temporary recess of the Powell County Board of Education meeting to convene a special called meeting of the Powell County School District Finance Corporation**

**Order #24-83 - Motion Passed:** Approve a temporary recess of the Powell County Board of Education meeting to convene a special called meeting of the Powell County School District Finance Corporation passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Kim Hall.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

Dwight Salsbury explained that the Board of Education cannot borrow money for more than a year, so the process that is followed all over the state of holding a meeting of the Finance Corporation of Powell County is utilized to sell the bonds.

**X. Approval to Reconvene the Powell County Board of Education Meeting**

**Order #24-84 - Motion Passed:** Motion to Reconvene the Powell County Board of Education Regular Meeting passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Diann Meadows.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

**XI. Approval to Explore Options for a Secondary Account for Bonds Sales & Other Construction Funding for the New Stanton Elementary School**

**Order #24-85 - Motion Passed:** Approval to explore options for secondary account as presented passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Brenda Crabtree.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Abstain
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

Ms. Alicia Frazier presented to the Board that, with bonds being sold and a significant revenue coming to the district at one time, it might be in the best interest of the Board to explore options of a secondary account for the bonds issued and other construction funding for the new Stanton Elementary School that would yield the highest return. Ms. Frazier and Superintendent Wasson shared that they spoke with Board Attorney Grant Chenoweth and he said it is not uncommon for districts to do that and our agreement with our current bank allows for us to explore these options. She asked the Board for their approval to explore options with our local banks and possibly other banks.

**XII. Approval of Changes in Board Districts**

**Order #24-86 - Motion Passed:** Approval to postpone the decision for redistricting of Board districts to a meeting on January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. passed with a motion by Diann Meadows and a second by Kim Hall.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The Board discussed the comments from Mr. Brian Marcum and wanted to ensure that the overall population that was being used by Mr. James Whisenhunt for Powell County was correct. The Board wants to make sure the Board district are fairly represented and decided to postpone the vote again to give them more time to review the proposed changes and get Mr. Whisenhunt back to a Board meeting to provide more information. It was decided to hold a special called meeting on January 9, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for this discussion.

**XIII. Instruction**

## A. Approval of the 2023-2024 Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

**Order #24-87 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the 2023-2024 CDIP passed with a motion by Brenda Crabtree and a second by Lisa Mays.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

Mrs. Tonya Roach, Chief Academic Officer for the Powell County Schools, presented the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP) for approval by the Board. She shared the status of scores for elementary, middle, and high school, the goals for the scores, and strategies in place to be able to attain the goals. Board chair Kathy Merriman asked if the survey yielded any results and Mrs. Roach explained that there was some input from the community. Some people were pleased with the strategies in place and some people wanted to see more details. She explained that the schools would be presenting their individual plans in January.

## XIV. Approval of Fiber Lease Extension Agreement

**Order #24-88 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Fiber Lease Extension Agreement for the 2024-2025 school year with Gearheart Communications passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Lisa Mays.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

Each year, we renew our lease extension with Gearheart Communications so that we may continue to lease the WAN fiber that services our data and voice in the district. We are up for renewal and this needs Board approval. Mrs. Ashley Randall, Chief Information Officer, explained the lease and that the extension would allow us to continue to use the existing fiber.

## XV. 2024-2025 School Calendar Discussion

Per KRS 158.170 the local board of education is required to hear for discussion the school district calendar committee's recommendations and the recommendation of the superintendent at a meeting of the local board of education.

Mrs. Meredith Robinson, Director of Pupil Personnel, shared the calendar committee process and the results of the survey that was sent to parents, staff, students, and community members. The base calendar for both options included a Thursday and Friday break plus a planning day for the fall, two full weeks at Christmas starting December 21, a full spring break, and only 11 make up days in the calendar. The main difference between the two calendars is the starting date. The option that received the most votes was to start later in order to keep professional development days out of July.

Superintendent Wasson shared that while we only have to put 11 make up days in the calendar, any days missed will have to be added. If we don't put spring break or the flexible professional development days in February and March as make up days, there is potential that we would have to come to the Board in January or February of 2025 to ask to use those days. The trade off for starting later is there is a high likelihood of going to school into the month of June.

Also discussed was the concern of starting later would put our students a week behind the Estill County students at the ATC because they usually start the first week in August.

There was no action taken on the calendar as per KRS 158.170 the approval must take place at a subsequent meeting.

## **XVI. Informational Items**

### **A. Personnel Report**

Mr. David Lyons, HR Director, presented the personnel action. He indicated two positions at the middle school were filled with people with degrees who planned to pursue their teaching certification. He also indicated that he would be working with a list of new candidates for substitutes the following day. Many of the resignations were coaching or to take another position within the district, and there was a mid-year retirement on the list.

## **XVII. Set Regular Board Meeting Dates and Time for 2024**

**Order #24-89 - Motion Passed:** Approval to establish the regular Board meetings for 2024 to be the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Diann Meadows.

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The Board established their meeting dates and times for the calendar year 2024. Their current meeting dates of the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. work well for the Board members and they determined to keep these dates. It was noted that this date works for December in 2024 because there will be three full weeks before the winter break.

## **XVIII. Other Business**

No other business was noted.

## **XIX. Adjourn**

**Order #24-90 - Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Diann Meadows .

Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Kim Hall	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

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Board Chairperson

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Board Secretary