

**MEMO**

TO: Bullitt County Board of Education

From: Adrienne Usher & Kali Ervin

Date: May 6, 2024

Re: May 20th 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 Spring 2024 recipients of these awards.

**Moving Forward Award:**

**Eric Culver, Community Member**

“Sergeant Culver recently retired from LMPD and now volunteers at Mt. Washington Middle School mentoring a group of students every week. Having had the privilege of working alongside Eric, I can attest to his steadfast belief that students are the focal point of all decisions within an educational environment. Sgt. Culver approaches every aspect of his work with an unwavering dedication to fostering an environment where his group of young men have the opportunity to thrive.

His belief in the potential of each of these students is not just rhetoric; it is a guiding principle that he shows during his interactions with them and influences the actions they in turn take. During his interactions with this group of students, Eric consistently demonstrates a deep understanding of the diverse needs they require and works tirelessly to ensure those needs are met. What truly sets Sgt. Culver apart is his commitment to accountability. Eric approaches accountability as an opportunity for growth and development. He skillfully balances compassion with firmness, guiding students to take ownership of their actions and learn from their mistakes. He has a knack for connecting with students on a personal level, earning their trust and respect. Eric is a natural leader who inspires those around them to strive for excellence. His passion, dedication, and leadership qualities make him an invaluable asset to our district.”

**Core Values in Action Awards:**

**Students Matter Most: Brittney Reid, FES School Counselor**

“Brittney exemplifies many of the BCPS Core Values, but one in particular stands out...Students Matter Most. Every day Mrs. Reid walks into the building, she lives out that value with a warm smile and caring demeanor, especially during two tragic situations that have impacted our school family. This fall our Freedom community was rocked by a tragic situation involving two students. When our school received the devastating news, Brittney immediately jumped into action,

arranging, supporting, loving on students, talking to parents, and meeting with teachers. Brittney was “the calm” in a sea of chaos. She always demonstrates that our students, families, and staff matter. During all the twists and turns of this school year, Brittney made sure the focus remained on what was best for our students and families. Her attitude and “Can Do” spirit make her invaluable to our school and to BCPS.”

#### Embrace Differences: Jennifer Fletcher, Special Education Instructional Coach

“Recognizing Jennifer's exceptional commitment to embracing differences, she stands out as a true example of acceptance and tolerance. She fosters positive relationships with unwavering dedication, going above and beyond to ensure understanding and acceptance, valuing the input of every individual, especially students. Proactive and efficient, Jennifer consistently reaches out, communicates, and follows up with a genuine and patient approach. In her daily work with colleagues, she not only demonstrates an open mind but also shares invaluable knowledge and expertise, empowering educators to connect with and serve their students effectively. Jennifer's tireless dedication to cultivating a culture of acceptance and understanding makes this individual exceptionally deserving of this award.”

#### Service Before Self: Carla Wilson, District Instructional Coach

“Mrs. Wilson embodies and exemplifies the value of Service Before Self in the role of collaboration with teachers. This is my third year teaching, and she has been an asset to me in growing and developing my teaching craft over the last three years. Carla goes above and beyond in her role in order to ensure that staff, families, and students' needs are met. Mrs. Wilson has met with me on several occasions for various needs, has helped me to plan units, construct procedures in my classroom, create station schedules, and so much more. When you ask her for help, she jumps in to do whatever needs to be done. Carla is also dedicated outside of the school walls for our students and families. During my second year, Carla shared with me that she would do home visits before school started with her students while teaching. She asked me if I would be interested in doing home visits with my third grade class, I said absolutely! Last year as well as this year, Carla went with me to deliver hand wrapped Christmas gifts to each of my students. Seeing the look on their faces makes every moment worth it. I could not create that experience with the guidance and support of Mrs. Wilson. I cannot think of another person that puts the lives of others above their own more.”

#### Proactive Innovation: Taylor Stratton, MTSS Coach

“Taylor is always thinking about ways to bring the community together, putting students in the forefront to lead, giving extra care to staff and to improving all of our systems. Mrs. Stratton came up with the idea of a school event bringing the entire community together for a back to school bash. She builds community naturally and rallies around all of our community schools. Taylor's passion for our school and our students is contagious. She comes up with ideas that allow our students to lead and showcase them in all they do. Taylor cares for her colleagues through planning a variety of activities to recognize them and show appreciation to them. She is always looking at new and creative ways to improve our systems and exemplifies being BCPS a Proactive Innovator!”

#### Shared Accountability: Sylvia Starkey, Exceptional Childhood Consultant

“Mrs. Starkey always ensures everyone involved with students has a voice. She helps to collaborate with all involved to form the best decisions. These decisions are ethical and always in line with the law, as well as helpful in building trust between families and staff. Sylvia holds all accountable in a respectful, dignified way, is helpful when questions arise, and is supportive to stakeholders at all times.”