

**Powell County Board of Education Special Called Meeting
September 16, 2024 6:00 PM
Powell County Middle School Media Center**

Attendance Taken at : 6:00 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

Order #25-35 - Motion Passed: Motion to approve agenda passed with a motion by Kim Hall and a second by Kathy Merriman.

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

IV. Gear Up Student Presentation

Mrs. Dolly Noble with GEAR UP program stated to the Board that 3 students will be presenting to them the role of GEAR UP in the high school.

Three (3) students presented to the Board information about the program and what programs they help students with, including:

- National Guard
- Mock Interviews
- College Visits

V. Communication Report

Mrs. Wasson presented the following communication report to the Board:

· Tonight we welcome two special guests to our meeting. Joining us are Jackson County Schools Superintendent Renee Smith and Jackson County School Board Chair Eddy Neeley. Superintendent Smith is in her first year of superintendency and I have been paired with her as her mentor. She is doing a great job continuing the high quality academic achievement in the Jackson County Schools as well as placing the resources of the district where they are most needed to take care of operational items that need to be addressed. She is laser focused in her work and Jackson County Schools are lucky to have her. Tomorrow night, Brenda and I will be attending the Jackson County school board meeting as part of the mentor program.

- We got confirmation today that the building of the scoreboard for the football field is complete and it is still on track to be delivered to us Wednesday. Jamie Craft is taking the old one down tomorrow, painting the poles, and replacing the electric box at the pole so when it arrives we will be able to work to get it installed before Friday's game.

- I attended the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents fall summit in Lexington and got a lot of great information on what the Kentucky Department of Education is looking at regarding a new accountability system. There is a small packet of information that has been sent out by KDE and I'm giving each board member a copy to look at. They are discussing how we can assess what they are calling "vibrant learning experiences" and they asked us for input at the summit. I sat with some superintendents from our area and we discussed that vibrant learning experiences would look very different for students in Lexington and Louisville than in more rural areas such as ours just because of the fact that our communities don't have the same types of opportunities for our students. However, we discussed that we all work to provide as many opportunities for our students as possible with what we have in our areas.

- There were also legislators in attendance who listened to our discussions and participated in a panel discussion. The topic of school funding through the SEEK formula was discussed and the legislators said the SEEK formula is too complex and nobody seems to know a number of what the base SEEK would have to be to "fully fund" public education. There is discussion of funding on membership versus attendance, but they know if they do that there will be some districts who get less than they usually do. There is a group that is taking on the task of evaluating the SEEK formula and is going to try to give input on possible changes by the 2026 legislative session.

- On day 2 of the summit I stayed in the afternoon for a meeting with the Council for Better Education to share the efforts being made to fight Amendment 2. They had several different speakers share thoughts and opinions of the legality of using school resources and time to get information out to the public about the devastation that Amendment 2 would cause public schools. The honorary Mr. Wayne Young with KASA spoke and explained It is "the statutory duty of local school boards to promote local education . . . and to do all things which are necessary in the opinion of the local board to promote public education . . . The Council and the local school boards . . . are statutorily obligated to promote public education for their respective constituents, the students in their school districts. The local school board and the Council have a judicially recognizable interest in a system of efficient common schools, and we so recognize and declare." *Rose v. Council for Better Education*, 790 S.W.2d 186 (1989). As Mr. Young stated, Passage of Amendment 2 goes far beyond vouchers. The General Assembly will be free to appropriate funds directly to private schools; to allow parents of home school students to seek tax refunds/credits for education expenses; to directly fund charter schools operated by for-profit, out-of-state entities. The consequences for our schools would be devastating. The group KY Policy provided a one-page document sharing the information for each district if Kentucky adopts a system like Florida has. In Powell County alone, we stand to lose 46 positions and \$4.8 million. When we review our budget tonight, I want us all to think about what \$4.8 million less would cause for our district. We would still have the same needs of electricity, our buildings would still need repaired, and we would still want to provide opportunities for our students. However, we would have to make cuts. The things that we have put back into our schools such as music in the elementary schools would likely have to go away. We may not be able to afford the in-school detention positions. We would have to make other cuts that quite honestly, I don't know where the funding would come from. Not only would the state funding travel with the students, but recent legislation that they tried to pass would allow for local tax dollars to also fund private schools. Rural communities would be hurt significantly if funding is allowed to go to unaccountable private schools.

- Construction Updates

- o A lot of floors have been poured, walls are going up and a lot of progress has been made.

- o We have picked the color scheme throughout the interior of the building. We are going to be consistent with the other schools in the district and use a gray color for the walls. There will be light gray and dark gray tiles in the floor along with a red color for an accent color. The media center will have the tree feature with the green floating hexagons in the ceiling as well as blue rectangles for sound reduction that will resemble clouds.
- o They are working on a small exterior wall sample to display the various materials that will go on the outside of the building. They want to see how everything looks together before they start putting it up. So far, they just have the masonry wall built and haven't added any exterior finish.
- o During the inspection of the stem wall on the exterior of the gymnasium, the Solid Ground inspection company found that the concrete was not holding up to the standard strength. They have done tests of the concrete after various numbers of days, but even on the 56 day test the concrete strength wasn't what it was supposed to be. We are now waiting on Sherman Carter Barnhart to come up with a plan of what will have to be done to correct this problem. While they wait on that, they can't continue going up with the gym walls, but they are working on other parts of the building. At Tuesday's construction meeting we may learn more in regard to the plan to correct the problem.
- o The state is currently continuing to consider the expansion of the road in front of the school. They are looking at an option to possibly move the water and sewer line to the opposite side of the road because they would have to buy more of our land if they put it on the school side and they say there aren't funds for that. They also indicated one area of the line would have to be underground about 30 feet and that is not something that works for the lines.

VI. Public Comments

Ms. Ruby Richardson requested to speak to the Board in regard to a bullying issue at the middle school.

The Board and Mrs. Wasson listened to what Ms. Richardson had to say. Mrs. Wasson stated that this is not a Board issue but someone will be in contact with her grandson's mother tomorrow (Tuesday, September 17, 2024) in regards to the issues she has raised.

VII. Consent Agenda

Order #25-36 - Motion Passed: Motion to approve all consent items as presented passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Kathy Merriman.

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

- A.** Approval of Minutes for Special Called Meeting 08.12.24
- B.** Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting 08.20.24
- C.** Approval of Payment of Claims
- D.** Approval of Monthly Financial Report
- E.** Approval of Orders of Treasurer
- F.** Approval of Waiver for Shortened Day/Week
- G.** Approval of Clay City Elem. School Wide Fund Raisers
- H.** Approval of Donation for Red Ribbon Week
- I.** Approval of Clay City Elem STEM Grant Submission
- J.** Approval of Trip Requests

K. Approval of Superintendent Travel

VIII. Approval of Code of Acceptable Behavior Revision

Order #25-37 - Motion Passed: Approval of Code of Acceptable Behavior Revision 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

Mrs. Wasson asked the Board to consider adding expulsion to consequences of behavior for terroristic threatening in the second degree. Currently, the most severe consequence is an alternative placement. Mrs. Wasson stated expulsion carries more weight and assists surrounding districts from potential enrollment because most districts have a policy whereby they get to choose whether or not a student who is expelled in another district is allowed to enroll.

IX. Approval to Set Tax Rate

Order #25-38 - Motion Passed: Approval to set the tax rate at 52.5 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

Superintendent Wasson recommended to the Board to set the tax rate at the current rate of 52.5 cents.

X. Approval of FY25 Working Budget

Order #25-39 - Motion Passed: Approval of FY25 Working Budget 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 FY25 Working Budget was presented. Chief Financial Officer Alicia Frazier explained the reduction in SEEK funding and projected carry over funds from the tentative budget. SEEK funding was reduced, likely due to attendance and variation in at risk count from our prediction. The carryover funds were reduced because the money set aside for the middle school gym wall project was put into a construction fund. In addition to the general items put into the budget we have included funds for the following:

1. Football Scoreboard
2. Improved lighting at the football field
3. A pull behind lift to be able to work on exterior projects

4. Potential vehicle purchases (NOTE: Of the \$200,000 placed into this category there is \$161,000 for the new school bus that was purchased last year. It has not arrived and will be paid for when it comes this year. An additional \$39,000 was added to that to try to ensure we can clean parking lots in the winter and a possible tech car or additional van for student transportation.)

5. Money for other maintenance repair and facility improvements (HVAC and more)- This category appears reduced because the \$1,000,000 we set aside for the gym wall at the middle school was transferred to a construction fund. We are leaving money in to do other maintenance projects and have funds in the category to pay for the awnings.

6. \$10,000 was added to general supplies to give the PCA a specific budget for projects throughout the year.

XI. Approval of First Reading of Revision of Policy 07.1 Food/School Nutrition Services

Order #25-40 - Motion Passed: Approval of revisions to Board Policy 07.1 first reading 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

Food Nutrition Director Laura Young presented a change to Board Policy 07.1. During the food service audit KDE staff recognized that policy 07.1 indicated we don't allow charges and yet listed that students could charge up to three meals. They asked us to clarify the policy. We do not allow charges, so we are asking the Board to approve revision of the policy.

XII. Instruction

A. Instruction Information Report

Chief Academic Officer Tonya Roach presented an overview of what the district is doing to improve student academic achievement. Superintendent Wasson let the Board know that she has asked principals to come to each upcoming meeting to share what they are doing in their specific schools in a short presentation each month.

The principals are holding monthly principal meetings focused on instructional vision using the book Leading with Focus by Mike Schmoker. They created an updated version of an instructional walkthrough document that includes all elements of an effective lesson.

The district has provided the following Professional Learning & Support:

- Math & Reading Programs
McGraw Hill and HMH facilitated professional development sessions to enhance teachers' knowledge and confidence in our programs.
District curriculum specialists are continuing to work with teachers to provide ongoing support.
- Social Studies Program (Savvas)
First year of implementation. Initial PD session was held via Zoom. Planning next session to support ongoing implementation.
- Building Walkthroughs
Principals are focusing on completing weekly building walkthroughs, collecting data, and being intentional with providing feedback to teachers to support instructional growth.

District building walkthroughs are also being held.

- Beginning this week in elementary schools and next week for secondary schools.
- Classroom visits conducted by teams of 2-3 with a focused area for each walkthrough.
- Data will be tallied and reviewed to determine next steps and supports that may be needed.
- District staff are also going into classrooms to make classroom visits and provide positive comments to teachers and share possible improvements with principals.

XIII. Facilities

A. Approval of Pay App #7 & Solid Ground Invoice

Order #25-41 - Motion Passed: Approval of Pay App #7 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

B. Approval to Transfer Funds to Close Construction Projects

Order #25-42 - Motion Passed: Approval of fund transfers from Fund 360 (Construction) to Fund 2 (Grants) to close out projects 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

Funds not used in our construction projects from ESSER funds must be moved back to ESSER so they can be spent prior to September 30.

C. Approval of Revised BG1-Bowen Elem Roofing

Order #25-43 - Motion Passed: Approval of Revised BG1 for Bowen Ele Roofing Project BG#22-196 passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Kathy Merriman.

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

D. Approval of District Facility Plan

Order #25-44 - Motion Passed: Approval of Powell County District Facility Plan passed with a motion by Kathy Merriman and a second by Lisa Mays.

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

The DFP must be Board approved again after the public hearing. The newest version will need a slight adjustment from Sherman Carter Barnhart on the Clay City Elementary category 3.2. Some of the items were removed from previous DFPs but the cost was not adjusted.

E. Approval of Powell County Schools DFP Public Hearing Report

Order #25-45 - Motion Passed: Approval of District Facilities Plan Public Hearing Report 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

XIV. Approval of Leave Requests

Order #25-46 - Motion Passed: Approval of leave requests for Erica Redden and Rachel Howard 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

Leave requests are being presented for:

Erica Redden- Maternity Leave

Rachel Howard- Military Leave

XV. Approval of Archery Coach Stipend

Order #25-47 - Motion Passed: Approval of archery coach stipend of \$1,050 passed with a motion by Kathy Merriman and a second by Kim Hall.

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

The position of archery coach was approved previously, but a stipend was not associated with the position. We would like to see about interest in creating an archery team again and we have some interest from community members in starting archery. We would like to start with a \$1,050 stipend for coach as we build the team and revisit that in the future if it takes off. Archery would be another opportunity for our students to participate in something that interests them.

XVI. Approval of Middle School Clock Keeper Position & Pay Scale

Order #25-48 - Motion Passed: Approval of adding a middle school clock keeper position and pay scale of \$40.00 to the existing pay scale 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

At times the middle school wants to pay a person to keep the clock for games but no position or pay scale exists. The requested rate is \$40.00 per evening.

XVII. Informational Items

A. Personnel Report

Superintendent Wasson presented the personnel report.

XVIII. Enter into closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(m) to discuss student requests for hardship graduation and partial day students and (1)(c) discussions of proposed or pending litigation involving a public agency.

Order #25-49 - Motion Passed: 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

XIX. Return to Open Session

Order #25-50 - Motion Passed: Approval to return to open session passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Kathy Merriman.

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

XX. Approval of Action Taken as a Result of Closed Session

Order #25-51 - Motion Passed: Approval of all student hardship applications 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

All students who applied for hardship graduation were approved. During discussion, DPP Meredith Robinson indicated that students who missed more than 8.5 days, excused or unexcused, would have to make up those days after the end of the semester and she was going to let them know. She also indicated if all work was not completed by the end of the semester the students would have to stay in the following semester.

XXI. Adjourn

Order #25-52 - 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

Board Chairperson

Board Secretary