

**Powell County Board of Education Regular Meeting  
December 17, 2024 6:00 PM  
Powell County Middle School Media Center**

**Attendance Taken at : 5:57 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 #25-87 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve agenda 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

**IV. Staff/Student Recognitions**

A group of 5th graders from Clay City Elementary were recognized as they performed a song they wrote with the help of Greg and Shelly Bates. The group delighted the Board and those in attendance with their rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas at CCE. After their performance, they inducted the Board members into their Math Intelligence Agency and gave each Board member and Superintendent a card identifying them as a member.

**V. Communication Report**

Superintendent Wasson gave the following Board Communication Report:

- Since the last Board meeting, I have completed all my site visits with the principals. They are all focused on academic achievement and continuing to build upon the positive culture in our schools. We are really blessed to have the instructional leaders that we have in the district.
- I attended the Kentucky Association of School Superintendent conference where the focus of the event was much on local accountability and building a model that works for our district and community. Local Accountability is the term that is being used by KDE to reflect a focus on what we think is important and being accountable to that. For example, when our community helped us develop our Learner Profile, they wanted to see students who can collaborate, communicate, contribute, and think critically. The conference helped us begin thinking about how we can reflect those values and demonstrate that we have accomplished getting students to be able to do these things upon graduation from high school.
- We have received information from the Kentucky Association of School Administrators regarding potential federal funding cuts after the election. The cuts that are being considered are completely eliminating all Title programs except for Title I, and Title I could potentially receive a 25% reduction. The loss of this

federal funding would be an extreme burden for our district. Currently, we pay the following out of these Title Programs:

- o Title V- 100% of our Drop Out Coordinator AND 60% of our Dean of Students at the high school.
- o Title IV- 40% of our Dean of Students at the high school, 25% of one teacher who teaches the Teaching and Learning Pathway, 30% of our Gifted & Talented Teacher, as well as some software and technology.
- o Title II- 100% of our part-time curriculum specialist who works with math and a lot of professional development, trainings, and conferences as well as our teacher mentor program this year.
- o Title I- 90% of a District Administrator, 70% of a District Account Clerk, 100% curriculum specialist mainly focused on reading, 16 teachers, 2 assistants, and Programs and supplies at our schools.

All of these cuts would devastate the resources in our district, and it would simply be difficult to have school. We will be advocating for keeping the Title funding coming to the districts and ask that all Board members and public help us in this effort.

· Over the winter break, Mr. Lyons and I will be doing a lot of work with salary for the budget. We do not at this time think we can do another raise beyond the step raises because we put about as much as we thought we could into the raise last year knowing that attendance has dropped significantly and the claw back provision will be over for Powell County after this year. We have been exploring potential benefits that we could put in place for our staff and we will explore the cost of starting a day care at a low cost for staff. Mr. Lyons put out a survey to staff and the response he got demonstrated we could potentially fill a room of 0-1, 2-3, and 4 and 5 year olds. Mr. Lyons has spent a lot of time communicating with Clark County personnel who have been through the process, and he asked a person who can help us with compliance to come to the district. She looked at the space we would have at the current Stanton Elementary School and said we would be in good shape. We know that it would not be completely self-supporting as we start the program up, but the benefits to keeping some of our quality staff who are looking to leave due to not having affordable childcare is pushing us to seriously consider a program. As we learn more about the costs, we will bring that to the Board for discussion and decisions.

## New Construction

· I received a call from a representative of the Kentucky Transportation Department telling me that they were going to do some survey work and take pictures out in front of the high school so they could start the sidewalk project. I didn't know anything about this project, but apparently a 5 foot wide sidewalk is being planned along the main highway in front of all three of our schools. I asked her if this was in any way tied to the road widening project that is supposed to take place in front of our new elementary school. She hadn't heard of that project because she was fairly new, but she checked and said it was a different project. However, she also found out that the funding for the road widening project has now been approved. She said it will still take quite a few months to get that project off the ground, but it should be much sooner than the projected 2027 or 2028 completion date. This is critical to the success of transportation in front of the new school and our existing schools.

· The entire outside of the building has been closed in with walls. The gymnasium concrete issue has been resolved and they have poured concrete in the ICF up another level. They have been placing the rebar into the ICF so they can continue going up with concrete. The last pour of the concrete is supposed to take place the week of January 6. There has been a lot of progress inside the building now that the roof is on in certain areas. A lot of HVAC, electrical, and plumbing has taken place. They can only do masonry work when the temperatures are above 42 degrees according to the construction workers, so they have been in and out of

work these past few weeks. They are working to get the load bearing walls up so they can get more of the roof structure in place. They have started the roofing over in section B at what I call the nose of the airplane shape. The tall area of the media center is going up and one wing of the building is pretty much complete with masonry.

· I went over the casework for each room with the architect and made a few adjustments for the needs of the teachers. I have one more meeting on Friday morning to discuss possible casework in the library area and maybe in each Discovery Zone. I'm asking for a price to determine if we want to seek that change or not.

· I took several staff from Stanton Elementary to the building on the afternoon of one of our two NTI days and they got an idea of classroom size and how the building is laid out. It was truly exciting to see them inside the school.

## VI. Public Comments

Powell County Girls Basketball head coach and senior players spoke to the Board in regards to an overnight trip request for the team. Information they presented to the Board included the fact that they hadn't planned to take this particular trip as they were raising money. They usually attend a tournament in Paintsville over the break but that tournament got cancelled. The reason they wanted to stay overnight in Mt. Sterling was to make memories with each other as a team, and for the seniors, this was a really important event. They understand that transportation was an issue but stated that they had many parents that were willing to transport them.

## VII. Consent Agenda

**Order #25-88 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve all consent items as presented 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

- A. Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting Minutes 11.19.24
- B. Approval of Payment of Claims
- C. Approval of Monthly Financial Report
- D. Approval of Orders of Treasurer
- E. Approval of Renewal of Builder's Risk Policy for SES Construction
- F. Retroactive Approval of Grants
- G. Approval of Monthly Trip Requests
- H. Approval of School Wide Fundraiser- CCE

## VIII. HS Girls Basketball Overnight Trip

**Order #25-89 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve an overnight trip request for the High School Girls Basketball Team as long as transportation needs are met through the district's waiver policy 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

After listening to the concerns of the coaches and players, the Board members considered the request for the overnight stay in Mt. Sterling. Board member Kathy Merriman explained to the girls present that the Board was made up of members who were also involved in sports when they were younger and who understood the value of an overnight trip. She also explained that the trip being just 20 minutes away from Powell County made it hard to justify, along with the fact that because we didn't have a bus driver that was able to make the trip, transportation was an issue of liability for the Board. After much discussion and consideration, it was discussed that many parents of players on the team were planning to attend the game and were willing to transport students. The Board members also recognized that there is no current policy regarding distance required to stay overnight on a trip. Superintendent Wasson also offered to transport those students who did not have transportation available in the school van to the game and to the motel. The Board determined that because we have a transportation waiver that can be utilized, they would approve the trip as long as the transportation waivers were signed and the team recognized that once a parent gave permission for someone to take them in their vehicle they had to remain with that person for the entire trip. There are enough drivers to send one on Sunday to pick the students up and get them back to the tournament.

#### **IX. Design Plans for Middle School Gym Wall Repair Project**

**Order #25-90 - Motion Passed:** Approval of plans for the Middle School gym wall project passed with a motion by Diann Meadows and a second by Lisa Mays.

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

Eric Steva from JRA Architects presented the design plans for the gym wall project. He stated that in the base plan for the project the items that would be included are the tear down of the gym wall, replace the gym floor, paint the gymnasium, and replace the ladder to the gym roof. He showed the Board the design plan for the paint in the gym and on the gym floor. There was some discussion of whether or not to put PCMS on the gym floor or wall or somewhere in the gymnasium, and Mr. Steva stated that could be thought out and the paint could be changed at a later date. He also explained that score boards would be installed on opposite sides of the gym so players knew to always look to the right when they were coming down the floor regardless of which way they were traveling.

Mr. Steva also explained the alternates in the project. There is an alternate to replace the existing goals, a second alternate to install moveable goals on the side court, and an additional alternate to install goals above the bleachers so there could be two half courts for practice use.

#### **X. Take Gym Wall Project To Bid**

**Order #25-91 - Motion Passed:** Approval to submit the specification for the gym wall project to bid 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

Mr. Steva explained that he would like to submit the project for bid in January to be able to get the bids in by the February Board meeting for approval. The goal would be to start the project a little before the first week in April to allow for completion before the school year starts in 2025.

#### **XI. Informational NTI Presentation**

Superintendent Wasson provided information to the Board regarding NTI days because they had received an email about the use of NTI days only on days when staff could make it to school and there were questions as to when NTI days would be called. Mrs. Wasson shared the following information with the Board.

- The top priority in any decision is the safety of students and staff.
- One thing learned through COVID is that our students need to be with their teachers for optimal learning to occur. Through many days of virtual learning, students lost out on critical instructional pieces despite the best efforts of staff and students. In the opinion of Mrs. Wasson, in person learning is always the best option.
- NTI days are not the same from district to district. Superintendent Wasson shared a table of surrounding districts that detailed how many instructional days surrounding counties started with in their school calendars. One example is Wolfe County starts with 177 instructional days where Powell County starts with 170 instructional days. If Wolfe County takes 10 NTI days, they still have 167 in person instructional days. If Powell takes 10 NTI days, we only have 160 in person instructional days. Each county is different.
- NTI work is meant to be a review of content already learned. The teachers do Google meets for the students who can get on their computers, but no new learning takes place. Students that can't do their NTI work on NTI days then make up their work taking them out of further instruction on in person days.
- In regard to staff coming to work on NTI days, Superintendent Wasson stated that she is accountable for the use of public tax dollars and she can't justify paying staff for work they can't do. She shared that it is fairly easy for most teachers to do Google meets from home, grade papers, communicate with students, and plan lessons, etc. However, there is not work from home that cooks, bus drivers, secretaries, custodians, and many other employees can perform. The only solution she could come up with is to make the time up later by adding time on to a day or working another day that was not scheduled in the school calendar. And, she shared that after the wage and hour audit we carefully track time so adding time to a work day could run into an overtime issue.
- Superintendent Wasson then shared the cost of utilizing NTI days. When an NTI day is taken, the district loses funds to both food service and transportation. Mrs. Wasson shared the loss of funding of transportation in the 2023-2024 school year was \$5,318 per day. With the increase in transportation funding this year, the loss is \$6,955 per day. At nearly \$7,000 per day, 5 NTI days incurs a loss of the salary equivalent of an emergency certified teacher and 10 days at \$69,555 is the loss of an experienced teacher. With salary increases and carefully planned budgets, that money has to come from somewhere and cutting the budget is difficult.
- While Superintendent Wasson prefers to only use in person learning days, she understands there is some value to NTI days but will utilize them when the conditions are right for staff to come in. However, utilizing a full 10 days will be a challenge for the budget and she will try to use as few NTI days as possible.

## **XII. Approval of 25-26 School Year Calendar**

**Order #25-92 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the 25-26 School Calendar as presented passed with a motion by Kathy Merriman and a second by Diann Meadows.

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

DPP Meredith Robinson presented the 2025-2026 school calendar and stated that it had not changed since it was presented at the November Board meeting.

### **XIII. Approval of Little League Basketball Gate Fee & Pay Rates for Workers**

**Order #25-93 - Motion Passed:** Approval of gate fee of \$3.00 per adult, \$30 for referee / per game and the remaining pay scale as is. 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 Little League Basketball program is run by the school district. There has been a surplus of funds in the little league account, but the expenses of the season will soon deplete that account if there is not a ticket fee for entry into the games. Additionally, there have not been any approved rates of pay for workers such as refs or clock keepers for little league. Athletic Director Meghan Mays and Superintendent Wasson collaborated to review what had been done in the past and Little League Director David Marcum provided information on how many games there are and what he foresees the expenses to be.

The Board discussed the rates that were recommended by Superintendent Wasson and Athletic Director Meghan Mays and determined to establish the following rates:

To keep the cost for parents and families at a minimum and be able to cover the expenses, \$3.00 per adult for entrance into a little league game will be charged. No charge for students.

Regarding pay for workers, the Board set the following rates:

Referee: \$30.00 per game (2 referees per game)

Ticket Takers: \$30.00 per evening on weekdays, \$40.00 per day on Saturday: (2 Ticket Takers)

Clock Keeper: \$30.00 per evening on weekdays \$40.00 per day on Saturday: (1 Clock Keeper)

### **XIV. Instruction**

#### **A. Principal Instructional Comments**

Bowen Elementary:

- Growth that we are seeing on Winter Map looks promising. We are using PLC Time to analyze our data and adjust instruction accordingly. We are reviewing our focus students and looking at their progress.
- Continued focus on implementation of reading, math, science and social studies resources / curriculums

Stanton Elementary:

- Meeting with teachers about growth on Winter Map testing

Clay City Elementary:

- Monitoring of Waggle and Redbird learning platforms for into Reading and Reveal Math
- Attendance Review / Plan tied to instruction

Powell County Middle School:

- Winter MAP Growth
- Science Dept. Curriculum work
- TSI Committee Meeting
- 10 Days of Christmas / Treats for kids daily
- Parent Teacher Conference / Christmas Movie Night
- PRI: Mobile Planetarium / Tall Cop Says Stop
- Field Trips: 8th - "The Elf" Musical / 6th - Ice Skating

Powell County High School:

- Working on schedule for next year to reflect student needs and longer class time
- Admin led PLC on Learning Targets - why and how for all staff in PLC's
- Admin still going in and teaching classes
- Science Curriculum and Learning Target Work
- Working with District Admin to find more data points for high school
- 12 Days of Christmas dress up and giving back
- Staff survey sent out and results being used for planning and current changes

**B. Approval of District Comprehensive Improvement Plan**

**Order #25-94 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Powell County CDIP passed with a motion by Diann Meadows and a second by Lisa Mays.

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

CAO Tonya Roach presented the highlights of the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan. By 2027 Powell County Schools will increase the percentage of students scoring Proficient/Distinguished in:

- Reading for Elementary from 32% (2024) to 38%, Middle School from 21% (2024) to 31%, and High School from 32% (2024) to 40%.
- Math for Elementary from 29% (2024) to 36.17%, Middle School from 17% (2024) to 27.11%, and High School from 22% (2024) to 30%.
- Science for Elementary from 20% (2024) to 29%, Middle School from 7% (2024) to 20%, and High School will increase by 14% overall.
- Social Studies for Elementary from 21% (2024) to 29%, Middle School from 21% (2024) to 29%, and High School from 17% (2024) to 25%.
- Combined Writing/Editing and Mechanics for Elementary from 24% (2024) to 34%, Middle School from 31% (2024) to 40%, and High School from 21% (2024) to 30%. By 2027 Powell County Schools will increase:
- Postsecondary readiness status from 88.4 to 89.4.

- Climate index for Elementary from 79.8 to 85.8, Middle School from 67.3to 74.2, and High School from 61.4 to 65.4.
- Safety index for Elementary from 74.1 to 78.6, Middle School from 57.3 to 62.8, and High School from 55.8 to 59.8.
- 4-year graduation rate from 91.4% to 93.4%

### **KCWP 1: Design and Deploy Standards**

- Curriculum Specialists continue to support reading teachers in implementation of the new High Quality Instructional Resource.
- Training provided from Houghton Mifflin, Savvas, McGraw Hill and curriculum specialists for teachers based on the new curriculum.
- Collaboration with CKEC to support standards alignment with instructional resources.
- Social Studies training connected to Kentucky Academic Standards and document usage.

### **KCWP 2: Design and Deliver Instruction**

- District and building leadership will use Elements of Effective Lesson walkthrough document district wide to evaluate and monitor instruction.

### **KCWP 4: Review, Analyze and Apply Data Results**

- KSA (Kentucky Summative Assessment) test scores from previous school year analyzed for areas of growth?
- NWEA MAP assessment data will be analyzed following each administration and students will be identified who need additional support in the tested area.
- Provide alternative learning environments to support pathways to graduation based on student data. (Powell County Academy, Virtual Learning Academy, Connect Academy, Dean of Students at PCHS and Drop-out prevention staff member)

### **KCWP 5: Design, Align and Deliver Support**

- District and building administration will work with CKEC (Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative) to align processes for MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) at both the district and building level.
- Daytime ESS (Extended School Services) provided at every school level. KCWP 6: Establishing Learning Environment and Culture
- Review, add or remove career and technical education pathways based on the results of a needs assessment.
- Increase collaboration and planning with Estill ATC, MSU, Murray, EKU and MCTC.



**XV. Approval of KETS 1st Offer of Assistance**

**Order #25-95 - Motion Passed:** Approval of KETS 1st offer of assistance in the amount of \$20,991 and match with general fund 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

CFO Alicia Frazier shared that this is the 1st offer of assistance for KETS funding. This offer is \$20,991 which will be matched by Board general funds.

**XVI. Facilities**

**A. Approval of Revised BG1 for Stanton Elementary Roof Project**

**Order #25-96 - Motion Passed:** Approval of revised BG1 for the Stanton Elementary roof project passed with a motion by Diann Meadows and a second by Lisa Mays.

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

CFO Alicia Frazier explained that the architect fee was not included in the invoices we received on the roofing project. Because ESSER funds had already been spent by the time it was determined that the invoice was still due, the BG-1 needs to reflect the architect fee paid from general fund.

**B. Approval of Pay App # 10 and Solid Ground Invoice**

**Order #25-97 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay App. #10 and Solid Ground Invoice 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

**C. Approval of Change Order 21-3**

**Order #25-98 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Change Order 21-3 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

This change order relates to the work on the connector road to the Middle School. They need to install a 2nd pipeless French drain system that is approximately 120 feet long and will tie into the previously placed French drain.

**D. Discussion and Take Action on Fiber Bid**

**Order #25-99 - Motion Passed:** Approval to reject the bid submitted by WAN Rack and rebid the leased lit fiber 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

CIO Ashley Randall explained the bid process for new fiber to the Board. The bid process has been finalized for the leased fiber. The only bid received did not follow the specifications of a 5 year lease on the currently leased lines. Instead, they submitted a price for leasing over a period of 20 years at which the end we would own the fiber and the price was very high. We feel like there could be a lot of changes in the next 20 years regarding the technology available and because of the cost and the fact that they submitted a bid for far more years and fiber than requested, we would like to reject the bid and open it back up for bidding.

**XVII. Approval of Leaves of Absence**

**Order #25-100 - Motion Passed:** Approval of leave of absence for Donna Rogers and Jonathan Conley 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

HR Director David Lyons presented a request for leave of absence for Donna Rogers who is going through lung cancer and Jonathan Conley who has had a liver transplant.

**XVIII. Approval to Amend the Extracurricular Academic Stipends Sheet**

**Order #25-101 - Motion Passed:** Approval to amend the Extracurricular Stipend sheet to include a 5th team lead stipend for the middle school 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 Powell County Middle School requested to have a 5th academic team lead stipend paid out of Title I funds.

**XIX. Informational Items**

**A. Personnel Report**

HR Director David Lyons presented the personnel report.

**XX. Set Regular Board Meeting Dates and Times for 2025**

**Order #25-102 - Motion Passed:** Approval to set the regular meeting of the Powell County Board of Education at 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month 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 discussed the meeting dates and time for the 2025 year. After discussion with current members and new Board member Mark Collier, it was determined to continue having meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. These dates will be:

January 21	February 18	March 18	April 15	May 20	June 17
July 15	August 19	September 16	October 21	November 18	December 16

**XXI. Other Business**

There was no other business presented.

Superintendent Wasson thanked Mrs. Kim Hall again for her service to the district. She has served on the Board of Education since November of 2015. After deciding not to run for the Board another term, her service was recognized. There have been many accomplishments in her tenure including the new school being built, pay raises for staff, and numerous things throughout her 9 years and 2 months of service. Ms. Hall stated that she has enjoyed serving the students and district and has no regrets as she steps away from the Board.

Mr. Mark Collier was in attendance at the meeting and he was recognized as a newly elected Board member to fill Ms. Hall's seat. Superintendent Wasson and the Board members welcomed him and look forward to working with him beginning in January.

**XXII. Adjourn**

**Order #25-103 - Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn 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

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Board Chairperson

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Board Secretary