

**CHRISTIAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 16, 2025  
6:00 P.M.**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

The Christian County Board of Education met on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. for a Regular Board Meeting.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Tom Bell, Chair

Mr. Lindsey Clark, Vice-Chair

Ms. Erin Westerfield

Ms. Ambrea Watkins

Ms. Mollie Goode, Student Board Member

Ms. Aniyah Lewis, Student Board Member

Mr. Chris Bentzel, Superintendent and Board Secretary

Also present: Mr. Jack Lackey, Jr., School Board Attorney, Administrators, and Guests

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Rebecca Pepper

**ACTION/ITEMS**

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**SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH**

In honor of School Board Recognition Month, Christian County Judge Executive, Jerry Gilliam, was present to read the Proclamation. Gifts were presented to each Board Member.

**RECOGNITIONS:**

CCPS “ALL IN” Student and Employees of the Month:

- A) *Jacoby Simmons* – Student of the Month, Alternative Programs
- B) *Taneisha Dubose* - Elementary Certified Employee of the Month, Sinking Fork Elementary
- C) *Lacey Francies* - Secondary Certified Employee of the Month, Christian County Middle
- D) *Richard Dooley* - Classified Employee of the Month, Gateway Academy
- E) *Dr. Jason Wilson*, Administrator of the Month, District Technology Coordinator

A special thank you to:

*Bell Engineering*

“ALL IN” Sponsor for January 2025

- F) National Board Certified Teachers:  
*Jessica Dixon*  
*Kristin Haley*  
*Paula Snorton*  
*Meagan Wise*
- G) Kentucky Community Schools Initiative:  
*Christian County High School*  
*Freedom Elementary School*

**CCPS MISSION, INVOCATION, PLEDGE, AND CALL TO ORDER**

Student Board Member, Mollie Goode, read the CCPS Mission Statement. The invocation and prayer was led By Ms. Goode and Ms. Lewis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Jacoby Simmons, student at Alternative Programs. Mr. Bell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**#121 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to elect Tom Bell as Board Chairman.

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#122 ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Motion by Mr. Bell, second by Ms. Watkins, to elect Lindsey Clark as Board Vice-Chairman.

Voting Yes: Mr. Bell, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

**#123 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to approve the Agenda as presented (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**PRESENTATIONS: NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Kevin Hitchel, Alliance Corporation, was present to provide the Board with a Construction Update on the new Christian County High School (a copy of which is attached to the minutes.)

**FINANCE UPDATE**

Jessica Darnell, Director of Finance, was present to provide the Board with a finance update (a copy of which is attached to the minutes.)

The intent of the update is to keep the Board informed with the financial status of Christian County Public Schools and to also update them if any new state or federal guidance has been received.

The Treasurer's Report shows all balances, receipts, and expenditures of each fund of the District. Ms. Darnell discussed each fund in depth, reviewed any new state or federal guidance, discussed monthly open records requests, and answered all questions from the Board.

### **DRAFT BUDGET UPDATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

Chris Bentzel, Superintendent and Darnell, Director of Finance, were present and provided the Board with a Draft Budget Update for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (a copy of which is attached to the minutes.)

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Ms. Westerfield** provided a PBIS Committee Update.

**Mr. Bell** provided an Equity Committee Update.

**Ms. Goode** provided a HHS Principal's Advisory update.

### **COMMUNICATIONS, VISITORS, AND OPEN FORUM**

None

#### **#124 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL CHANGE ORDER NUMBER FIFTY SEVEN (57) FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to approve the Change Order Number Fifty Seven (57) for the New Christian County High School (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

#### **#125 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL CHANGE ORDER NUMBER FIFTY EIGHT (58) FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Westerfield, to approve the Change Order Number Fifty Eight (58) for the New Christian County High School (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#126 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL CHANGE ORDER NUMBER FIFTY NINE (59) FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to approve the Change Order Number Fifty Nine (59) for the New Christian County High School (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#127 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL CHANGE ORDER NUMBER SIXTY (60) FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to approve the Change Order Number Fifty Nine (60) for the New Christian County High School (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#128 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL PAYMENT APPLICATION NUMBER SIXTEEN (17) TO ALLIANCE CORPORATION AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Westerfield, to approve the Change Order Number Seventeen (17) for the New Christian County High School (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#129 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL INVOICE TO HAFER ARCHITECTS FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to approve the Invoice to Hafer Architects for the New Christian County High School Project (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#130 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE 2025-2026 CODE OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Westerfield, to approve Ambrea Watkins as the Board Member to Serve on the 2025-2026 Code of Acceptable Behavior & Discipline.

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#131 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL TO AWARD BID FOR WAN FIBER CONTRACT TO HOPKINSVILLE ELECTRIC SYSTEM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2030**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to approve to Award Bid for WAN Fiber Contract to Hopkinsville Electric System beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030 (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#132 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL TO AWARD BID FOR NEW BELL SYSTEM AT HOPKINSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to approve to Award Bid to South West Communications for the New Bell System at Hopkinsville Middle School (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#133 CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Westerfield, to approve to the following Consent Agenda:

- A) Financial Matters:
  - 1. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports and Authorize Payment of Bills
  - 2. Other
- B) Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held on December 19, 2024
- C) Approval School Related Trip Requests
- D) Approval School Related Fund Raiser Requests
- E) Approval Memorandum of Understanding between Christian County Public Schools and Murray State University

- F) Approval Memorandum of Understanding between Christian County Public Schools Police Department and the Hopkinsville Police Department
- G) Approval Memorandum of Understanding between Christian County Public Schools Police Department and the Christian County Sheriff's Office
- H) Approval for 2024-2025 Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)
- I) Approval 2024-2025 Comprehensive School Improvement Plans (CSIP)
- J) Approval 2024-2025 Superintendent GAP Assurance
- K) Acknowledgment Receipt of Month Four (4) Attendance
- L) Acknowledgement Receipt of Personnel Matters/Reports
- M) Approval Superintendent Contracted Day Calendar
- N) Establish Next Regular Board Meeting/Workshop for February 6, 2025 and Regular Board Meeting for February 20, 2025, 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room at the Central Office
- O) Other

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell, Ms. Lewis, Ms. Goode, and Mr. Bentzel all provided individual comments and/or concerns.

**#134 CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPOSED OR PENDING LITIGATION  
KRS 61.810 (1) {c}**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to Enter into Closed Session for the Purpose of Proposed or Pending Litigation KRS 61.810 (1) {c} (Time: 7:21 P.M.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#135 EXIT CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to Exit Closed Session (Time: 8:31 P.M.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**#136 ADJOURN**

Motion Mr. Clark, second by Ms. Watkins, to adjourn (Time: 8:31 P.M.)

Voting Yes: Mr. Clark, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Bell

Voting No: NONE

**APPROVED CHAIRPERSON** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED SECRETARY** \_\_\_\_\_