

SENATE MEMBERS

Robert Stivers
President, LRC Co-Chair
David Givens
President Pro Tempore
Max Wise
Majority Floor Leader
Gerald A. Neal
Minority Floor Leader
Robby Mills
Majority Caucus Chair
Reginald Thomas
Minority Caucus Chair
Mike Wilson
Majority Whip
David Yates
Minority Whip



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

State Capitol 700 Capital Avenue Frankfort KY 40601

502-564-8100

Capitol Fax 502-564-2922

Annex Fax 502-564-6543

legislature.ky.gov

Jay D. Hartz
Director

HOUSE MEMBERS

David W. Osborne
Speaker, LRC Co-Chair
David Meade
Speaker Pro Tempore
Steven Rudy
Majority Floor Leader
Pamela Stevenson
Minority Floor Leader
Suzanne Miles
Majority Caucus Chair
Al Gentry
Minority Caucus Chair
Jason Nemes
Majority Whip
Lindsey Burke
Minority Whip

MEMORANDUM

TO: SARAH WASSON, SUPERINTENDENT
POWELL COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FROM: W. BRYAN JONES, ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OF THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY

DATE: AUGUST 1, 2025

SUBJECT: FINAL INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

The Office of Education Accountability (OEA) has completed an investigation of allegations of wrongdoing in the Powell County School District. Kentucky law empowers OEA to investigate complaints alleging violations of education statutes and regulations.

OEA staff conducted a phone interview with Superintendent Sarah Wasson on June 5, 2025. OEA also obtained relevant documents. The following represents OEA's **ALLEGATIONS, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, and RESOLUTIONS.**

ALLEGATION: Failure to post an athletic director vacancy prior to posting other district athletic director positions.

FINDINGS

OEA received a complaint that the athletic director position for the high school was not properly advertised to find the best candidate. However, the position in question is the athletic director for the Powell County School District, not Powell County High School.

Superintendent Sarah Wasson said athletic director positions are not highly sought after because they are “extra duties” that are added to an existing full time employee’s responsibility. Superintendent Wasson provided the 2024-2025 board approved stipend pay schedule that included the district-wide athletic director, district-wide assistant athletic director, and the middle school athletic director. The district-wide athletic director position is compensated with an additional 20 days plus a stipend of \$9,975. The additional 20 days with pay was approved by the Powell County Board of Education at its’ regular scheduled meeting on October 15, 2024.

Superintendent Wasson said current coaches would not be considered for the vacancy because the duties require the evaluation of all coaches in the district. Superintendent Wasson assigned the extra duties of athletic director to the guidance counselor at Powell County Middle School, effective November 11, 2024. This was reported to the Powell County Board of Education at its’ November 2024 meeting.

A job description was provided to OEA that included the following duties:

- Help supervise athletic programs for middle and high school.
- Ensure coaches do weekly athletic grade checks.
- KHSAA Title IX reporting/compliance.
- Assist head coach in preparation of all game contracts.
- Co-coordinate securing/payment of all referees.
- Act as supervisor at all home athletic events. Designate “person in charge” at away athletic events if unable to attend.
- Assist head coach in obtaining athlete transportation.
- Supervise all ticket sales, concessions, and fund-raising events of the athletic program.
- Coordinate with police/security and EMT’s for all athletic events.
- Maintain master schedules of all athletic events which have been approved by the principals.
- Assists the head coach in purchasing and monitoring inventory of all equipment and supplies.
- Assists the head coach in ascertaining that all equipment, facilities, and conditions ensure health and safety of team members in practice and games.
- Assists head coach to assure all first aid supplies are available for the athletic teams
- Assist in collecting required physical examination and parent permissions forms
- Oversee and coordinate all financial matters of athletic teams in accordance with the Red Book.

The district has a job description for district-wide athletic director in case it becomes a full-time position. Superintendent Wasson stressed to OEA in a response to the

preliminary version of this report that job descriptions are also utilized so that those who hold that position will know the duties and expectations of an athletic director. Superintendent Wasson said during her time in the district it has never been a full-time position. The other athletic director positions mentioned earlier in the report were filled after the district-wide athletic director position was filled. The district-wide assistant athletic director position and the middle school athletic director were both advertised. These positions are “assignments” and are not associated with a job description. According to Superintendent Wasson the extra duties for the district-wide assistant athletic director and middle school athletic director could have been assigned to individuals, but district administrators did not know anyone willing to accept the positions, so they posted them to try to generate interest.

CONCLUSIONS

The district-wide athletic director’s duties are not extensive enough to constitute a full-time position. Hence, the position is treated as an extra duty that is added to an existing district employees’ certified position. The district-wide assistant athletic director and middle school athletic director are handled the same way.

The school district has been consistent for over the last twenty years in assigning the duties of the district-wide athletic director this way. The Powell County Board of Education has approved this position and stipend on a yearly basis as extra duties.

Since the athletic director jobs are extra-duty assignments, they are not subject to the posting and advertising requirements of certified positions (KRS 160.380) or classified positions (KRS 161.011). They may be assigned by the superintendent. Therefore, no violation of education law occurred.

RESOLUTION: There being no violation of education law or policy, there is no need for resolution.