

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS

(MINUTES)

Regular Meeting
August 18, 2025

The Fayette County Board of Education met in Room 150 at the John D. Price Administration Building located at 450 Park Place Lexington, KY 40511 at 6 p.m. on August 18, 2025, with the following members present:

Attendance Taken at 6:03 p.m.

Present Board Members:

Amanda Ferguson
Amy Green
Tyler Murphy
Penny Christian
Monica Mundy

Administration Present

Demetrus Liggins, Superintendent
Houston Barber, Deputy Superintendent
Bill Bradford, Assistant Superintendent of School Leadership
Tracy Bruno, Chief of Staff
Shelley Chatfield, Chief Legal Officer
Myron Thompson, Chief Operating Officer

A. CALL TO ORDER

A.1. Roll Call

B. EXTEND WELCOME TO GUESTS

C. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Board Member Amanda Ferguson invited the audience to observe a moment of silence to acknowledge the tragic deaths of Elez Alija, who served our students, staff, families, and

community as a custodian at Edythe J. Hayes for seven years; Anthony Brusate, who started his career in the district as a substitute teacher for three years before accepting a position as a math teacher at The Learning Center, where he served seven years; Donna Graham, who joined Fayette County Public Schools as a food service assistant substitute before accepting a full-time position at Breckinridge, where she spent the past three years; Tonya Jones, a 20-year veteran teacher who spent 17 years at Eastside Technical Center and taught technology at Bryan Station High School for the past three years; Larry McRae, who was a member of the transportation team for six years – first as a bus monitor and for the past four years as a driver; and Abigail Omlor, who was a member of Team FCPS for a total of four years and most recently taught at Morton Middle School. Our hearts remain with their families, friends, and all those touched by their passing.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Amanda Ferguson led the pledge of allegiance.

E. READING OF MISSION STATEMENT

Board Member Amanda Ferguson read the mission statement.

F. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Passed: *A motion to approve the agenda with the lifting of J.I.b. Professional Leave from the consent section to allow for discussion, passed with a motion by Amy Green and a second by Monica Mundy.*

Amanda Ferguson	Yes
Amy Green	Yes
Tyler Murphy	Yes
Penny Christian	Yes
Monica Mundy	Yes

G. STUDENT PERFORMANCE

G.1. Bates Creek High School Percussion

Discussion: FCPS Director of Fine Arts Katherine Lowther introduced Bates Creek High School Assistant Band Director Brent Hunt and percussionist Elena Hunt to speak about the impact of the band program and introduce a special performance of the Bates Creek High School Percussion Ensemble performing “Watercolor Sun.”

H. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

H.1. Progress Reports

H.1.a. Superintendent's Report

Discussion: Superintendent Demetrus Liggins praised members of Team FCPS for their work to prepare for the first day of school on August 13, and shared highlights from the first three days of the 2025-26 school year.

H.1.a.1. Community Partner Update: University of Kentucky Federal Credit Union

Discussion: External Partnerships Manager Michael Adams Jr., UK Federal Credit Union Business Development Manager Janet Beard, and Frederick Douglass Alum Hemil Sheth provided information how UKFCU supports FCPS students and staff, provides internships for high school students, and supports financial literacy programs.

H.1.a.2. Budget Solutions Workgroup Update

Discussion: Deputy Superintendent Houston Barber and Executive Director of Financial Accounting, Budget, and Benefits Rodney Jackson reviewed recommendations from the FCPS Budget Solutions Work Group and the board discussed the district's financial status and possible next steps.

H.2. PUBLIC COMMENT (persons who have signed up to speak)

H.2.a. There are two opportunities for the public to address the Board

Discussion: The following members of the public addressed the board: Frankie Langdon, Rachel Buser, Jillian Kyde, Matthew Vied, Hunter Stout, Norma Justice, and Larry Moore addressed issues related to the budget.

I. APPROVAL OF ROUTINE MATTERS

I.1. Minutes

Motion Passed: *A motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2025, Planning Meeting of the Fayette County Board of Education passed with a motion by Amy Green and a second by Monica Mundy.*

Amanda Ferguson	Yes
Amy Green	Yes
Tyler Murphy	Yes
Penny Christian	Yes
Monica Mundy	Yes

J. APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

J.1.a. Request for Extended Field Trips

J.1.b. Professional Leave

J.1.c. Declaration of Surplus

J.1.d. Award of Bids/Proposals

J.1.e. Post Approval Report
J.1.f. Special and Other Leave of Absence
J.1.g. Special Education ARC
J.1.h. Request for Orchestra Booster Club
J.1.i. Charter Bus Contract
J.1.j. Administrative Office of the Courts Contract
J.1.k. Lexington Fayette Urban County Government Contract
J.1.l. Fayette Education Foundation Memorandum of Understanding
J.1.m. Fayette Education Foundation Endowment Agreement
J.1.n. Capital Funds Request for communication and intercom systems at George Washington Carver Elementary, Rise STEM Academy for Girls and Henry Clay High School
J.1.o. Capital Funds Request – Various Schools Repairs and Services
J.1.p. Facility Usage Hourly Rate Schedule for School Year 2025-2026 (Effective July 1, 2025)
J.1.q. Approval of a Proposed Change Order (No. Four) to the Contract for the Addition of Three Preschool Classrooms and HVAC Replacement at Harrison Elementary School BG #23-124
J.1.r. Approval of Revised BG-1 Project Application for the Addition of Three Preschool Classrooms and HVAC Replacement at Harrison Elementary School BG #23-124
J.1.s. Approval of a Proposed Change Order (No. Eleven) to the Contract for the Construction of the New Mary E. Britton Middle School on Polo Club Boulevard BG# 21-176

Motion Passed: *A motion to approve items J.1.a. and items J.1.c. through J.1.s. on the consent calendar including any items added by addendum passed with a motion by Amy Green and a second by Penny Christian.*

Amanda Ferguson	Yes
Amy Green	Yes
Tyler Murphy	Yes
Penny Christian	Yes
Monica Mundy	Yes

Motion Passed: *A motion to approve consent item J.1.b. professional leave requests, contingent upon a review by the superintendent to ensure that they are essential or mandatory, passed with a motion by Amy Green and a second by Penny Christian.*

Amanda Ferguson	No
Amy Green	Yes

Tyler Murphy	Yes
Penny Christian	Yes
Monica Mundy	No

K. DISCUSSION ITEMS

K.1. Property Tax Rate Reduction

Discussion: Rodney Jackson, executive director of Financial Accounting, Budget, and Benefits Services, recommended the school board adopt a property tax rate of 79.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value for real estate and 83.0 cents for personal property for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The recommended rates represent a decrease of 1.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value from the prior year, but will generate 4% more revenue than the previous year.

L. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

L.1. Personnel Changes

L.2. School Activity Funds Report

L.3. Running Board Approved Contracts

L.4. Construction Report

L.5. Procedure Update

M. PUBLIC COMMENT (persons who have signed up to speak)

Discussion: The following members of the public addressed the board: Matthew Vied spoke about the budget and past board decisions, Caitlyn Edwards spoke about communication and transparency, and Courtney Johnson and Eric Olson shared their thoughts about collective bargaining.

N. MOTION MAKING AGENDA PART OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD MINUTES

Motion Passed: *A motion to make the agenda dated August 18, 2025, on which action has been taken at this meeting, a part of the minutes as if copied in the minutes verbatim passed with a motion by Monica Mundy and a second by Amy Green.*

Amanda Ferguson	Yes
Amy Green	Yes
Tyler Murphy	Yes
Penny Christian	Absent
Monica Mundy	Yes

O. CLOSED SESSION

O.1. Reconvene in Open Session

P. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: *A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 p.m. passed with a motion by Amy Green and a second by Monica Mundy.*

Amanda Ferguson	Yes
Amy Green	Yes
Tyler Murphy	Yes
Penny Christian	Absent
Monica Mundy	Yes

Tyler Murphy, Board Chair

Demetrus Liggins, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board