

**Powell County Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
**August 19, 2025 6:00 PM**  
**Powell County Middle School Media Center**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Adopt/Approve Agenda**

**Order #26-27 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve agenda passed with a motion by Mark Collier and a second by Kathy Merriman.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

**IV. Staff/Student Recognitions**

Superintendent Wasson recognized our new officers in the Powell County Schools Police Department.

Kenneth Yarber- Chief of Police- Currently serving the High School and Middle School

Donnavon Crabtree- Currently serving Clay City Elementary

Darren Farmer- Currently serving Bowen Elementary

Arthur Lacy- Currently serving Stanton Elementary and the Powell County Academy

**V. Communication Report**

Superintendent Wasson presented the following to the Board:

- We have had a great start back to school. In the first couple of days we had two water issues but the city did a great job fixing them and shutting down valves that allowed us to continue to have school.
- We have had the financial audit team in the district and are continuing to provide them the necessary documents to complete our financial audit.
- The middle school gym is being painted and flooring is supposed to come in this weekend. The HVAC in that gym is giving us some difficulty so Mr. Brewer is working on that.
- The roofing company has made at least two visits recently to our buildings and are preparing to do the work.
- WKU came Monday to begin work on the mesonet station
- My first meeting on the Superintendent Advisory Council with the Commissioner is next Wednesday.

## NEW SCHOOL PROGRESS:

- The new school is coming along very nicely. They are working on the terrazzo flooring. The ceiling grid in the cafeteria is up and looks amazing. The tile around the cafeteria and in the restrooms is beautiful.
- Ceiling fans have all been installed in the office area.
- Some of the glass is going in at the vestibule.
- New sidewalks are in.
- The back loop for parent pick up and drop off is now blacktop as is part of the access road from the middle school.

Superintendent Wasson shared pictures of various parts of the new school and the Middle School wall.

## VI. Consent Agenda

**Order #26-28 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve all consent items as presented passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Kathy Merriman.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

**A.** Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting 07.15.25

**B.** Approval of Payment of Claims

**C.** Approval of Monthly Financial Report

**D.** Approval of Orders of Treasurer

**E.** Trip Requests

**F.** Stanton Elementary PTA Fundraisers

**G.** Clay City Elementary PTA Fundraisers

**H.** Bowen Elementary Fundraisers

**I.** Rural Schools Collaborative Grant

**J.** Approval of MOA with Morehead State Rural Teacher Corps Community of Learners Project

**K.** Approval of Kentucky Law Enforcement Fund Program Resolution

**L.** Approval of MOA with Clark County Public Schools for School Psychologist Up To 5 Days

**M.** Approval of Bass Fishing Team and Cross Country Team to Utilize Generic Trip Resolution for Travel

**N.** Approval of Contract with Rick Drake for Bowen Elementary Sewer Plan Management

**O.** Approval of Superintendent Travel Reimbursement

**P.** Approval of FFA National Convention Request

**Q.** Consignment Agreement with Boyd Cat for Batteries

## VII. Facilities

### A. Stanton Elementary Pay App #18

**Order #26-29 - Motion Passed:** Approval of pay App 18 for Stanton Elementary Construction passed with a motion by Kathy Merriman and a second by Lisa Mays.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

### B. Middle School Wall Construction Pay App

**Order #26-30 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Pay App #5 and Direct Purchase Order list as attached passed with a motion by Brenda Crabtree and a second by Lisa Mays.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

### C. Revised BG1 - PCS Boiler and Chiller Project

**Order #26-31 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Revised BG1 relating to DFP Coding corrections and project cost adjustment passed with a motion by Mark Collier and a second by Kathy Merriman.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

Chief Operations Officer Doug Brewer shared the initial BG1 had a DFP coding issue that needed to be corrected, as well as a project cost adjustment relating to a freight charge that wasn't on the original boiler quote.

### D. JRA Architect Agreement

**Order #26-32 - Motion Passed:** Approval of owner/architect agreement for the Bowen and Clay City Vestibule projects passed with a motion by Brenda Crabtree and a second by Lisa Mays.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The Board was presented with an owner/architect agreement for JRA architect for the work on the vestibules.

#### E. Sale of Property to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

**Order #26-33 - Motion Passed:** Approval of appraisal and sale of property in front of the Powell County Middle and High School to the Kentucky Department of Transportation passed with a motion by Mark Collier and a second by Lisa Mays.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

Superintendent Wasson shared that this item relates to the sale of property that borders the main highway in front of the Powell County Middle School and Powell County High School to the Kentucky Transportation Department. This property will be used for a sidewalk.

#### F. Resolution Authorizing Sale of Property & Authorizing Execution of a Partial Release of Lease Agreement and Statutory Mortgage Lien and Revenue Pledge

**Order #26-34 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Resolution Authorizing Sale of Property & Authorizing Execution of a Partial Release of Lease Agreement and Statutory Mortgage Lien and Revenue Pledge passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Mark Collier.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

The Board discussed the sale of the property that the Finance Corporation approved to sell in front of the new elementary school to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

#### G. BG-1 For Sale of Property in Front of Middle and High School

**Order #26-35 - Motion Passed:** Approval of BG-1 for property sale in front of Middle and High School passed with a motion by Kathy Merriman and a second by Brenda Crabtree.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

#### H. BG-1 For Property Sale in Front of New Stanton Elementary

**Order #26-36 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the BG-1 for the property in front of the new Stanton Elementary passed with a motion by Brenda Crabtree and a second by Lisa Mays.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

## VIII. Emergency Substitute Teachers

**Order #26-37 - Motion Passed:** Approval to allow Powell Co Schools to submit emergency sub teacher applications passed with a motion by Lisa Mays and a second by Kathy Merriman.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

HR Director David Lyons presented the need for emergency substitute teachers. Annually we utilize substitutes who have a high school diploma but do not have a bachelor degree or two years of college. We have some great substitutes in this category and would like to continue doing this.

## IX. Emergency Teaching Certificates

**Order #26-38 - Motion Passed:** Approval of emergency certifications as presented passed with a motion by Kathy Merriman and a second by Brenda Crabtree.

Mark Collier	No
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

We are asking for emergency teaching certification for the following personnel:

Justin Rowland- Middle School Math

Bradley Charles- High School English

Bonnie McQuinn- Middle School Social Studies

## X. Informational Items

### A. Personnel Report

HR Director David Lyons approved the attached personnel report.

### B. Letter from Office of Education Accountability Regarding Athletic Director Hire

Superintendent Wasson shared with the Board a letter from W. Bryan Jones, Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Education Accountability (OEA) regarding the hiring of the Athletic Director. OEA received a complaint that the athletic director position for the high school was not properly advertised to find the best candidate. The letter explains that this position was not a high school position but actually a district position. The OEA determined that the district-wide athletic director's duties are not extensive enough to constitute a full-time position and therefore the position is treated as an extra duty. Since they are extra-duty assignments, the district is not subject to posting and advertising requirements of certified positions.

The resolution line of the letter states: There being no violation of education law or policy, there is no need for resolution.

### C. Federal Funding

Assistant Superintendent Tiffany Anderson presented the federal funds that the district receives. She spoke of the following supplemental programs from which we receive federal funds:

Title I- \$1,988,313 for academic achievement of disadvantaged

Title II Part A- \$129,042 for supporting effective instruction

Title V- \$67,311 for rural education achievement

Title IV- \$87,230 for student support and academic enrichment for safe and healthy schools and well rounded education.

Perkins- \$41,170 for High School CTE Programs

IDEA & Preschool IDEA- \$644,542 for students with special needs

#### **D. Tax Rate Presentation**

Superintendent Wasson presented information to the public on the tax rate proposal. The nickel tax is a term used to describe a tax that generates 5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. These funds can only be used for facility improvements. The state generates the exact rate that a district must implement for the nickel tax, and for Powell County that is 5.8 cents. With almost \$50,000,000 of unmet need outlined in the District Facility Plan and the opportunity for the funds to be equalized by the state generating 150% of the state's assessment per child, the District needs these funds to be able to improve facilities throughout the district including athletic facilities.

Superintendent Wasson shared that the cost for property assessed at \$100,000 would be \$58.00 per year or \$4.83 per month. The funds brought in by this tax go directly into the local restricted funds to be utilized for building projects in our district. There are other funds provided by the state through an equalization match and through the SEEK formula. It was noted this tax does not affect motor vehicle or utility tax.

Superintendent Wasson shared that the number of nickels a district needs varies by district and by the district needs. The first nickel that Powell County implemented allowed enough funds to be able to build a new elementary school as well as complete many other projects for the district. It was shared that there are two ways to generate this nickel. One is by increasing taxes by the 5 cents per \$100 assessed property value and the other is to take additional money out of general fund to put in the building fund in the amount of a nickel. It was explained that in Powell County we have bond payments in the amount of approximately \$380,000 annually that we have to pay out of general fund now, so taking additional funds out of general fund would make funding general fund projects difficult.

Assistant Superintendent Tiffany Anderson made a presentation on what ESSER dollars were spent on because there were questions on why the district did not spend more ESSER money during the pandemic on facilities. She explained that the majority of the funds went to staffing for additional help to prevent learning loss. Many of the dollars also went to food service and transportation costs related to serving meals to families while they were restricted at home. Additionally, Assistant Superintendent Anderson explained that ESSER monies were restricted to what they could be used for and we were not allowed to use them for athletic facilities or building projects unless a need could be tied to the pandemic and for the types of projects that were needed in our district we couldn't do that. If we had done that, the federal

government would then own part of that facility and some districts have been asked to pay money back for things they were not allowed to spend the money on.

Superintendent Wasson shared pictures of the projects that have been completed with our current building funds including the new elementary school and the middle school gym wall. There are other projects in the planning stages with money set aside to complete them such as new roofs at the middle and high school, an HVAC project in the district, and security vestibules at Bowen and Clay City Elementary. She then shared pictures of a master plan that was created showing where we could put a baseball and softball field and the need to move the softball field in order to fix the football field and expand the track.

The nickel tax would increase our bonding potential from a little over \$6 million to over \$21 million if the state legislature agrees to equalize the revenue generated by the nickel. The state contributions have made significant impact to the district in the last 5 years with the projects that we have been able to complete.

Superintendent Wasson also shared that this is not all about athletic fields, but the reason athletic fields have taken so long to renovate is because prior to 2022 districts could not use building funds on athletic facilities. In 2022, the legislature enacted HB 678 allowing districts to prioritize their needs in the way they saw fit and then that bill was extended in 2024 to allow district choice until June of 2027. Superintendent Wasson came to the district in the fall of 2022 and worked to fix the safety and security issues and roofing and HVAC issues in the district as well as building a new school in these first three years. She shared that with all these big projects underway or planned with finances set aside, it is time to get the athletic facility work underway before the June 2027 deadline of being able to prioritize our needs the way the district determines is best.

It was pointed out at the end of the presentation that this tax is not just athletic facility improvements, but for any continuing needs of facilities in our district. Improving district facilities attracts families and business to the area and enhances the overall appeal and economic health of our community. Our schools are community hubs and are used for both times of disaster and times of enjoyment. Our students deserve improved facilities so they can continue to learn and grow and participate in extracurricular activities that help shape them into well rounded individuals who will contribute to our community or the world in the future.

## **XI. Public Comments**

Members of the public asked questions about the presentation and Superintendent Wasson answered them. People spoke both for and against increasing the tax rate.

## **XII. Other Business**

None

### **XIII. Adjourn**

**Order #26-39 - Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn passed with a motion by Mark Collier and a second by Lisa Mays.

Mark Collier	Yes
Brenda Crabtree	Yes
Lisa Mays	Yes
Diann Meadows	Yes
Kathy Merriman	Yes

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Board Chairperson

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Board Secretary