

**ESTILL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)**

**Regular Board Meeting
September 18, 2025
Estill County Board of Education
Boardroom
253 Main Street
Irvine, KY 40336**

Board Members

Donna Isfort
Carrie Smallwood
Shiela Samples
Tammy Hardy
Sharon Whitaker came in at 6:13

Visitors: Jessica Mullins, Todd Reece, Tonya Miller, Emma Miller, Jeremy Simpson, Josh Yost, Tasha Halcomb, Tammy Combs, Andrea Williams, Amanda Bryant, Brooke Mays, Angie Howell, Toni-Garrett Hall, Darrell Billings, Jacob Estes, and Bobby Short

I. Call to Order

Ms. Donna Isfort called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

A. Welcome/Pledge

Chairperson Ms. Donna Isfort welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Emma Miller, a Middle Schooler, to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Reminder to Sign In

C. Revisions

No Revisions to this agenda

II. Action Items

A. Consideration/Approval KEDC Membership

Order #15307 - Motion Passed: The board approved the KEDC membership with a motion by Ms. Shiela Samples and a second by Ms. Tammy Hardy.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Absent

B. Consideration/Approval of MOA with Baptist Health For Mental Health Services

Order #15308 - Motion Passed: The board approved the MOA with Baptist Health for mental health services, passed with a motion by Ms. Tammy Hardy and a second by Ms. Shiela Samples.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Absent

C. Consideration/Approval of Shortened School Days For A Student

Order #15309 - Motion Passed: Approved the shortening of the school day for an individual student, passed with a motion by Ms. Shiela Samples and a second by Ms. Carrie Smallwood.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays - 1 Abstained

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Abstain

D. Consideration/Approval of the Following Out-of-State Trips

Order #15310 - Motion Passed: The board approved the seniors' trip to New York City for their Senior trip from April 20-24, passed with a motion by Ms. Shiela Samples and a second by Ms. Sharon Whitaker.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Yes

1. Senior Trip to New York City April 20th-24th, 2026

E. Consideration/Approval of the FY26 Working Budget

Order #15311 - Motion Passed: Approve the FY 26 working budget passed with a motion by Ms. Shiela Samples and a second by Ms. Sharon Whitaker.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Yes

F. Consideration/Approval of Capital Funds Request For FY 2025 and 2026

Order #15312 - Motion Passed: Approved the capital funds request for FY25 and 26, passed with a motion by Ms. Tammy Hardy and a second by Ms. Carrie Smallwood.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Yes

G. Consideration/Approval of The Amendment to the Interagency Agreement

Order #15313 - Motion Passed: Approve the amendment to the Interagency Agreement passed with a motion by Ms. Shiela Samples and a second by Ms. Sharon Whitaker.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Yes

H. Consideration/Approval of the Local Head Start Memorandum of Agreement

Order #15314 - Motion Passed: Approve the Local Head Start Memorandum of Agreement passed with a motion by Ms. Shiela Samples and a second by Ms. Sharon Whitaker.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Yes

III. Consent (Action) Items

Order #15315 - Motion Passed: All Consent items, which included minutes of August 21, 2025, regular meeting, treasurer's report, and payment of bills, and the approval of Superintendent's travel, passed with a motion by Ms. Tammy Hardy and a second by Ms. Shiela Samples.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Yes

A. Approve Minutes of August 21, 2025 Regular Meeting

B. Approve Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills

C. Approve Superintendent's Travel

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Update

The Superintendent attended the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents (KASS) meetings to discuss priorities, budget issues, and KTRS funding. Advocated for a \$300 per-student increase this year and next to restore buying power to 2008 levels.

SB 240 mandates reading plans for first graders who do not meet specific benchmarks; students who do not meet the criteria may need to be retained. The district is developing criteria and interventions to help students avoid retention. Working sessions are held with principals, with continued planning underway. Information will be communicated via report cards and other parent/student updates. Meetings held with Representative Wesley and Senator Smith regarding funding for the middle school project. October 15 scheduled for further legislative discussion and budget advocacy.

The district reported a slight decline in attendance compared to the previous year, attributed to later school start dates and public health challenges such as flu and COVID-19. However, enrollment showed a modest increase. 257 students (up from 251 last year).

B. Notification of Personnel Actions (See Insert)

V. Principals Report

Each Principal was allowed to speak to the board about what has been happening in their building and some upcoming events.

VI. Board Member Forum

Each board member took the time to comment on the KSBA Upper Kentucky River Regional meeting, describing it as a great success.

VII. Public Comments

Janet Rose:

Why is the public school transportation so underfunded? How is there not enough in the budget to pay transportation staff a decent wage, and buy necessary parts for the busse? Wasn't \$1.2 million allocated specifically for Estill county public school transportation?

Rose Barger:

Can our budget be made higher at the bus garage to buy coffee, cups, creamer and etc for our employees? I, myself have been buying these supplies and other people has as well. Our pop machine needs to be checked also and could we have a snack machine? Thanks for the time to request this.

*Answer for both question they are very similar. Superintendent noted that while transportation receives state funding, it is not fully funded, so the district supplements with general fund money. Board encouraged citizens to contact state representatives to advocate for full transportation funding.

Bobby Short

Q: Is it true the board is in the red? Mr. Short also had other question that did not pertain to the board agenda.

- Answer:
- The board is running on a balance budget.
- off-agenda topics cannot be debated during the meeting; one-on-one meetings offered for questions board emphasized transparency.

VIII. Adjourn

Order #15316 - Motion Passed: Adjourned Board Meeting at 7:23 pm passed with a motion by Ms. Shiela Samples and a second by Ms. Tammy Hardy.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays

Ms. Tammy Hardy	Yes
Ms. Donna Isfort	Yes
Ms. Shiela Samples	Yes
Ms. Carrie Smallwood	Yes
Ms. Sharon Whitaker	Yes

Charlie Brock, Secretary

Donna Isfort, Chairperson

September 18, 2025