

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

Regular Board Meeting
February 17, 2026 6:00 PM
Estill County Board of Education
Boardroom
253 Main Street
Irvine, Kentucky 40336

Present Board Members:

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

Visitors: Donald Norton, Josh Yost, Tasha Halcomb, Tonya Miller, Todd Reece, Brenden Hughes, Brain Collier, Amanda Bryant, Brooke Mays, Victoria Barnett, Jeremy Simpson, David Johnson, Toni-Garrett Hall and Trent Singleton

I. Call To Order

The regular meeting of the Estill County Schools Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 PM.

A. Welcome/Pledge

The Board began by standing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by Brenden Hughes who volunteered to participate.

B. Reminder to Sign In

II. Recognitions

A. Student Recognition for Submitted Entries in the Kentucky Martin Luther King Jr Celebration and Awards.

Superintendent Mr. Brock recognized students who participated in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Awards. Mr. Brian Collier, teacher at Estill County High School, presented on behalf of five students who completed creative projects for the celebration, including poetry and visual arts. Student Brenden Hughes read his poem publicly to the Board.

Mr. Collier shared that students had submitted entries and were awarded honorable mentions statewide. Mr. Brock commended students and staff for their accomplishments and emphasized the importance of recognizing achievements even during periods of snow or illness.

III. Local Planning Committee

A. Consideration/Approval of Board Appointed LPC Member

Order #15356 - Motion Passed: Board member Donna Isfort was nominated to serve as the Board’s representative on the Local Planning Committee 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

B. Consideration/Approval of Three LPC Community Leaders

Order #15357 - Motion Passed: The Board approved moving forward with the application process to select three community members for the Local Planning Committee. Applications will be posted online and available at the Central Office. Mr. Brock noted that these community members will contribute to the District Facilities Plan in accordance with legal requirements passed with a motion by Ms. Carrie Smallwood 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

IV. Action

A. Approval/Appointment of 2026-2027 School Calendar Committee

Order #15358 - Motion Passed: Board approval was requested for the 2026–2027 School Calendar Committee. The committee includes staff, parents, and one Board representative. Sharon Whitaker was nominated as the Board representative, 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

B. Consideration/Approval of the Following Agreements with Young Smiles Dental

Order #15359 - Motion Passed: The Board approved the annual agreement with Young Smiles Dental, which provides free dental care to students passed with a motion by Ms. Sharon Whitaker 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

C. Consideration/Approval of a Shortened School Day For An Individual Student

Order #15360 - Motion Passed: The Board reviewed and approved a recommendation from the ARC (Admissions and Release Committee) for a shortened school day for an individual student 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

V. Consent

Order #15361 - Motion Passed: All consent items, minutes from the January 22, 2026, Special Called Board Meeting, treasurer's report, and monthly bills for payment 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

A. Approve Minutes of Special Called Meeting January 22, 2026

B. Approve Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills

VI. Superintendent's Report

A. Update:

Mr. Brock provided updates on district enrollment and attendance:

- Enrollment: 2,032 students (slightly down from previous year).
- Attendance: 92.74% despite snow and illness.
- Mr. Brock reported that the middle school building remains structurally sound but continues to show movement, tracked by sensors. Structural engineers' reports confirm safety; however, proactive measures are being pursued. The Board encouraged community advocacy for funding of a new middle school. An additional inspection by a building inspector is scheduled for the following week.
- The Board is scheduled to attend the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) conference Thursday through Sunday. Mr. Brock emphasized the time commitment involved in serving on the Board, including meetings, training, and constituent communication.

B. Notification of Personnel Action

(See Insert)

VII. Principal Reports (See Insert of Handouts)

Estill County High School – Principal Trent Singleton

- FCCLA students competed at the regional competition, achieving nine first-place finishes across multiple categories.
- Baseball team volunteered at the “Night to Shine” prom for special needs students, engaging with attendees on the red carpet and during the dance.
- Prom Fashion Show scheduled for students during the day and open to the community at 5:00 PM in the auditorium.
- Mr. Singleton highlighted student leadership, service-learning, and positive school culture.

West Irvine Elementary – Principal Ms. Miller

- Short month due to weather, but students completed NTI days successfully.
- Celebrated Kindness Week with activities promoting positive student interactions.
- Valentine’s Day celebrations, including after-school dance, were held.
- Recognized staff through Counselor Appreciation Week, Family Resource Center Week, and School Resource Officer Chief Bell.
- Emphasis on building strong school culture and student engagement as spring approaches.

South Irvine Preschool – Principal Ms. Hall

- Conducted first extended field trip for preschool students as part of a “Buildings in the Community” unit.
- Scavenger hunt across town included real-world learning experiences for students.
- Four-year-olds visited a local Mexican restaurant; three-year-olds had a picnic on site.
- Enrollment increased by three students from December to January.
- Upcoming exercise trip to local gym rescheduled due to snow.

Estill County Middle School – Principal Ms. Halcomb

- Future Problem Solving (FPS) Team crowned Regional Champions; advancing to state competition.
- 22 FCCLA students advancing to state, with all regional participants placing first, second, or third.
- Sixth-grade volleyball team earned season championship and conference runner-up – a first in school history.
- Counselor hosting “Coffee with the Counselor” for parents of 8th-grade students preparing for high school transition.
- Several students traveling to Washington D.C. for student leadership conference.

Estill Springs Elementary – Principal Ms. Mays

- Students returned excitedly after snow days; fourth-grade students engaged in science experiments remotely.
- Academic Team regional success, including FPS first-place finish.
- Guest instructor “Captain Science” provided engaging, extended science lessons.
- Cafeteria staff recognized for preparing over 1,000 meals prior to extended snow closure and continued meal service during NTI days.
- Teachers engaged in ongoing winter assessment data analysis to adjust spring instructional plans.

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VIII. Board Member Forum

- Discussion regarding spring break survey results:
- Potential last day of school discussed as June 4th (pending Board approval).
- Student representative expressed excitement about returning to school.

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IX. Public Comments

Connor Childers: In a district that has some of the lowest test scores in the state, coupled with a high majority of students performing below grade level, how is a shorten school day even up for discussion, or how could it be thought of as a good idea. Who would this benefit?

Answer: Mr. Brock clarified that such arrangements are for individual students with medical or special needs, approved by the ARC with parent participation.

X. Adjourn

Order #15362 - Motion Passed: Meeting adjourned at 6:45 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