

Bourbon County Schools

Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/24/2026 | Time: 5:31 PM | Chair: Justin Roe

1. Call to Order

- **Opening:** Justin Roe called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

2. Financial Update: Baird (District Financial Representative)

- **Presentation:** A presentation was given regarding the district's financial standing (see [attached presentation for full details](#)).
- **Audio Enhancement:** Noted that Audio Enhancement is handled differently because it was not included on the District Facilities Plan (DFP) at the time of installation.
- **Tax Rates & Revenue:** * An extensive discussion was held regarding recallable nickels and similar funding mechanisms.
 - Bourbon County Schools currently has the 30th lowest tax rate in the state.
 - While the state requires a minimum tax rate of .31, Bourbon County's total rate sits at .54.
 - **Financial Outlook:** The district is currently in good financial standing, though cautious spending is necessary to maintain stability. A community pushback suggests an additional nickel tax would likely fail; therefore, the focus should shift to optimizing and upgrading existing facilities.

3. Facilities & DFP Overview: Ross Tarrant Architects

- **Purpose:** The committee reviewed the core purpose of these ongoing meetings. The group is early in the process of building the new DFP, and critical upcoming decisions will require active participation.
- **KDE Formula & Operational Needs:** At the last meeting, it was noted that approximately \$98 million in work is required to keep the district operational. This figure is based on a standard Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) formula. The district's current physical shape is stable, and this number should not cause immediate concern.
- **KDE Student Capacity Rule:** It was noted that KDE penalizes districts that maintain school buildings with fewer than 300 students.

4. Facility Specifics & Proposed Projects

North Middletown Elementary School (NMES)

- **Redistricting:** The committee discussed whether redistricting is an option to address NMES. No final decisions will be made until this is thoroughly investigated. NMES currently costs the district \$500,000+ annually to operate.

Cane Ridge Elementary School (CRES)

- **Capacity Issues:** CRES is currently at capacity. If students choose not to attend Bourbon County Elementary School (BCES), CRES lacks the space to absorb them. Due to building capacity limits, it is difficult to secure enough funding (approx. \$500k) to bring it up to necessary standards.
- **Gymnasium Proposals:** * **Proposal 1:** Convert the current CRES gym into 5 new classrooms and construct a new, larger gymnasium.

- **Redistricting Impact:** Implementing this would require re-districting elementary-aged children county-wide.
- **Current Gym Condition:** The existing gym was not built for the current student population size. The flooring is tearing, requires full replacement, and the bleachers are in major disrepair and need immediate replacement.
- **District Auxiliary Idea:** If the gym is replaced, the district should consider a "district-style" auxiliary gym to help alleviate overall space constraints across the county.

Bourbon County Elementary School (BCES)

- **Roofing:** The building requires a complete new roof. There is currently a building-wide risk of mold development and related issues.

Bourbon County High School (BCHS)

- **Front Porch & Entry:** The front porch has major structural issues. Plans are needed to replace it and integrate a secure vestibule. This area is also a significant drain on utility efficiency.

Bourbon County Middle School (BCMS)

- **Boiler & Mechanical Room:** Critical issues in the boiler room must be corrected. The current boiler is heavily aged and requires a total replacement.
- **Plumbing:** The plumbing infrastructure needs to be updated and sectionalized, allowing maintenance teams to shut off water to smaller sections of the school rather than shutting down the entire building.

District-Wide Infrastructure

- **Elevators:** The district needs to prioritize addressing and servicing two district elevators sooner rather than later.

5. Land Acquisition & Strategic Mindset

- **The Core Question:** The committee must decide whether to leverage bonding potential to purchase new property or focus those funds entirely on upgrading current facilities.
- **Properties Discussed for Potential Purchase:**
 - The residential property originally intended to become a coffee shop (potential use: Daycare or Alternative School).
 - The warehouses located behind the softball field off Clintonville Road.

6. Next Steps & Action Items

- **Priority 1 Needs:** Ross Tarrant Architects requested a finalized list of Priority 1 needs from the committee.

7. Adjournment & Next Meeting

- **Next Meeting Date:** July 15, 2026
- **Schedule:**
 - **5:00 PM:** Open Public Forum
 - **5:30 PM:** LPC Meeting