CHRISTIAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2026
6:00 P.M. CT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Christian County Board of Education met on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. CT for a Regular Board Meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**
Mr. Lindsey Clark, Chair	
Ms. Erin Westerfield, Vice-Chair	
Ms. Rebecca Pepper	
Ms. Ambrea Watkins	
Mr. Chris Bentzel, Superintendent and Board Secretary	

Also present: Mr. Jack Lackey, Jr., School Board Attorney, Administrators, and Guests

ACTION/ITEMS

RECOGNITIONS:

A) *Rhianna Harrell* – Kentucky Commissioner's Student Advisory Council

CCPS MISSION, INVOCATION, PLEDGE, AND CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Clark opened the meeting by reading the CCPS Mission Statement. Ms. Westerfield and Mr. Clark then led the invocation and prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 P.M.

#35 ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

Motion by Ms. Westerfield, second by Ms. Watkins, to elect *Lindsey Clark* as Board Chairman.

Voting Yes: Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#36 ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIRMAN

Motion by Ms. Pepper, second by Ms. Watkins, to elect *Erin Westerfield* as Board Vice-Chairman.

Voting Yes: Ms. Pepper, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#37 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Pepper, to approve the Agenda as presented (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Pepper, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

PRESENTATIONS:

FINANCE UPDATE
Jessica Darnell, Director of Finance, was present to provide the Board with a finance update and New CCHS project budget update (a copy of which is attached to the minutes.)

The intent of the update is to keep the Board informed with the financial status of Christian County Public Schools and to update them if any new state or federal guidance has been received.

The Treasurer's Report shows all balances, receipts, and expenditures of each fund of the District. Mrs. Darnell discussed each fund in depth, reviewed any new state or federal guidance, and answered all questions from the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE: BACK TO SCHOOL
Chris Bentzel, Superintendent, provided a Back to School Update (a copy of which is attached to the minutes.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS
None

COMMUNICATIONS, VISITORS, AND OPEN FORUM

None

#38 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL CHANGE ORDER NUMBER ONE HUNDRED FORTY THREE (143) FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Pepper, to approve the Change Order Number One Hundred Forty Three (143) for the New Christian County High School (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Pepper, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#39 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL PAYMENT APPLICATION NUMBER THIRTY SIX (36) TO ALLIANCE CORPORATION AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTORS FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

Motion by Ms. Pepper, second by Ms. Westerfield, to approve the Payment Application Number Thirty Six (36) to Alliance Corporation and Individual Contractors for the New Christian County High School Project (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Pepper, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#40 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL INVOICES TO HAFER ARCHITECTS FOR THE NEW CHRISTIAN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Westerfield, to approve the Invoices to Hafer Architects for the New Christian County High School Project (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#41 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL TO PURCHASE LOCKERS FOR THE STADIUM OF CHAMPIONS FROM TOADVINE WITH INSTALLATION BY VINE & BRANCH

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Pepper, to Approve to Purchase Lockers for the Stadium of Champions from Toadvine with Installation by Vine & Branch (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Pepper, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#42 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL WORK-BASED LEARNING COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Westerfield, to Approve the Work-Based Learning Coordinator Job Description (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#43 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL STUDENT TEACHER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVES

Motion by Ms. Pepper, second by Ms. Westerfield, to Approve Student Teacher Recruitment Incentives (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Pepper, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#44 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL TO SET THE FY2026-27 REAL PROPERTY TAX RATE; FY 2026-27 PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RATE; FY2026-27 MOTOR VEHICLE TAX RATE; 2026-27 PERMISSIVE UTILITY TAX; AND EXEMPT TAX ON AIRCRAFT AND WATERCRAFT

Motion by Ms. Westerfield, second by Ms. Watkins, to Approve to Set the FY2026-2027 Real Property Tax Rate at 40.0 Cents per $100 of Assessed Property Value; Set the FY2026-2027 Personal Property Tax Rate at 41.9 Cents per $100 of Assessed Property Value; Set the FY 2026-2027 Motor Vehicle Tax Rate at 56.6 Cents per $100 of Assessed Property Value; Set the FY2026-2027 Permissive Utility Tax at 3% and Exempt Tax on Aircraft and Watercraft (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Watkins, Ms. Pepper

Voting No: Mr. Clark

#45 DISCUSSION/APPROVAL REVISION #2 OF THE 26-27 SALARY SCHEDULE, WHICH INCLUDES A RETROACTIVE 1% RAISE FOR ALL STAFF

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Westerfield, to Approve the Revision #2 of the 26-27 Salary Schedule, which includes a Retroactive 1% Raise for All Staff (a copy of which is attached and the terms of which are incorporated by reference.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#46 CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Pepper, to approve to the following Consent Agenda:

A) Financial Matters:

1. Approval of Monthly Financial Reports and Authorize Payment of Bills
2. Other

B) Approval of Minutes Board Retreat held on July 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting held July 16, 2026, Special Called Meeting held on July 23, 2026, and Regular Board Meeting/Workshop held on August 6, 2026

C) Approval School Related Trip Request

D) Approval School Related Fund Raiser Requests

E) Approval Adult Meal Price Increase

F) Approval Memorandum of Agreement between Christian County School District and KECSAC

G) Approval Revised 2026-2027 Code of Acceptable Behavior

H) Approval 2026-2027 Trauma Informed Care Plan

I) Approval 2026-2027 Employee Handbook

J) Approval 2026-2027 Substitute Teacher Handbook

K) Approval Christian County Middle School Volleyball Club Booster Organization

L) Approval Memorandum of Agreement between Christian County Public Schools and Christian Care Communities

M) Approval KASA Effectiveness Standards for Kentucky School Superintendents

N) Approval Superintendent Contracted Day Calendar

O) Approval Shortened School Day Request

P) Approval Shortened School Day Request

Q) Approval Shortened School Day Request

R) Acknowledgement Receipt of Personnel Matters/Reports

S) Establish Next Regular Board Meeting/Workshop for September 3, 2026, 6:00 P.M. CT and Regular Board Meeting for September 17, 2026, 6:00 P.M. CT in the Board Room at the Central Office

T) Other

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Pepper, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBER AND SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Clark, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Pepper, Ms. Watkins, and Mr. Bentzel all provided individual comments and/or concerns.

#47 CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE DISTRICT 5 VACANT BOARD SEAT KRS 61.810(1)(F)

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Westerfield, to approve to Enter Closed Session for the Purpose of Preliminary Discussions Which Might Lead to the Appointment of an Individual to Fill the District 5 Vacant Board Seat KRS 61.810(1)(f) (Time 7:17 P.M.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

Mr. Bentzel exited the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

#48 EXIT CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Pepper, to Exit Closed Session (7:46 P.M.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Pepper, Ms. Westerfield, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

#49 ADJOURN

Motion by Ms. Watkins, second by Ms. Westerfield, to adjourn (7:46 P.M.)

Voting Yes: Ms. Watkins, Ms. Westerfield, Ms. Pepper, Mr. Clark

Voting No: NONE

APPROVED CHAIRPERSON ______________________________________

APPROVED SECRETARY ____