

## RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS (MINUTES)

Jackson, Ky., July 22, 2025

The Breathitt County Board of Education met in the Breathitt High School Library/Via Teleconference at 5:00 PM, with the following members present:

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM:

Present Board Members:

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Via teleconference her home

Mr. John Hollan

Mr. Albert Little

Ms. Anna Morris

Absent Board Members:

Mrs. Tiffany Combs

I. Call to Order.

The regular meeting of the Breathitt County Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Ruschelle Hamilton at 5:00p.m.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Pledge of Allegiance/Mission and Vision

I.C. Adopt Agenda: Addendum Add: IV.A.2 Consider approval of DC elevator pay app in the amount of \$33,970.00. Delete VII. Consider approval of going into closed session in compliance with KRS 61.810 (1)(k) and KRS 156.557(6)(c), for discussion regarding the superintendent's evaluation.

Order #3 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendations of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval to adopt the agenda with the following amendments, deletion of VII. Superintendent evaluation and reschedule to discuss goals. Addition IV.a. Consider approval of the DC elevator Pay Application 1 in the amount of \$33,970.00 passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton    Yes

Mr. John Hollan          Yes

Mr. Albert Little        Yes

Ms. Anna Morris        Yes

II. Presentations/Reports

II.A. Recognitions

II.A.1. 2024-2025 Staff Perfect Attendance

II.A.1.a. Renee Davidson

II.A.1.b. Paul Halsey

II.A.1.c. Denise Neace

II.A.1.d. Jervis Neace

II.A.1.e. Christa Smith

II.A.1.f. Phillip Watts

II.A.2. Lisa Montgomery-2025 CEDAR Teacher of the Year Award

II.B. Reports

## II.B.1. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Phillip Watts discussed updates and the start of school. Provided facility updates and encouraged good attendance for the upcoming 25-26 school year.

## III. Student Learning and Support Items Recommended for Approval

### III.A. CONSENT ITEMS

Order #4 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the consent items listed below, A.1-19 passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. John Hollan.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Yes

Mr. John Hollan Yes

Mr. Albert Little Yes

Ms. Anna Morris Yes

III.A.1. Consider approval of the 2025-2026 ARC Chairperson Designee (s).

III.A.2. Consider approval of renewing KSBA Custom Policy/Procedure Services and eMeeting Maintenance for the 2025-2026 school year.

III.A.3. Consider approval of renewing membership with KSBA for the 2025-2026 school year.

III.A.4. Consider approval of the KVEC Membership Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.

III.A.5. Consider approval of the MOA with HCTC for Dual Credit for the 2025-2026 school year.

III.A.6. Consider approval of the MOA with Hazard Community College for the IEC and Education program.

III.A.7. Consider approval of the Local Head Start MOA with Middle Kentucky Head Start for the 2025-2026 school year.

III.A.8. Consider approval of the modified MOA with KDE and employee #3530 professional leave.

III.A.9. Consider approval of Breathitt County Imagination Library Participation Contract.

III.A.10. Consider approval of the agreement with Dollywood Foundation.

III.A.11. Consider approval of the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

III.A.12. Consider approval of financial assistance to pay for additional student dual credit classes that are not covered by the Work Ready scholarship at the ATC.

III.A.13. Consider approval of board members attending the KSBA Fall 2025 Regional Meeting.

III.A.14. Consider approval of allocating \$20,000 to BHS extracurricular expenses (same as last year's allocation) and \$4,000 to each elementary school for extracurricular expenses.

III.A.15. Consider approval of the Interagency Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Department of Juvenile Justice for the Breathitt Regional School and Breathitt Learning Academy.

III.A.16. Consider approval of the 25-26 Calendar for Breathitt Learning Academy and Breathitt Regional School.

III.A.17. Consider approval of proposed student fees for the 2025-2026 school year for BHS, at \$10.00 parking pass per driver and FFA \$20.00 per student.

III.A.18. Consider approval of facility usage agreement for Appalachian Mountain Wrestling to utilize the BHS PE GYM contingent upon providing insurance, on September 5(set-up) and September 6, 2025(Event).

III.A.19. Consider approval of the Breathitt County Schools/Trane GESC amendment(s).

### III.B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

III.B.1. Consider approval of minutes of June 17, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

Order #5 - Motion Passed: Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the minutes of June 17, 2025, regular meeting minutes passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent  
 Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton   Yes  
 Mr. John Hollan           Yes  
 Mr. Albert Little          Yes  
 Ms. Anna Morris          Yes

III.B.2. Consider approval of July 17, 2025, Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes.

Order #6 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of July 17, 2025, Regular Work Session Meeting Minutes passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. John Hollan.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent  
 Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton   Abstain  
 Mr. John Hollan           Yes  
 Mr. Albert Little          Yes  
 Ms. Anna Morris          Yes

III.B.3. Consider approval of the June 2025 Treasurer's Report. Christa Smith, Finance Officer, discussed bills and provided an update on the current cash flow.

Order #7 - Motion Passed: Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the Treasurer's Report for June 2025 passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent  
 Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton   Yes  
 Mr. John Hollan           Yes  
 Mr. Albert Little          Yes  
 Ms. Anna Morris          Yes

III.B.4. Consider approval of the July 2025 bills for payment.

Order #8 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the July 2025 bills for payment passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent  
 Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton   Yes  
 Mr. John Hollan           Yes  
 Mr. Albert Little          Yes  
 Ms. Anna Morris          Yes

III.B.5. Consider approval of the Trauma plan in compliance with KRS 158.4416 (School Safety and Resiliency Act).

Order #9 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the Trauma plan in compliance with KRS 158.4416 (School Safety and Resiliency Act) passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent  
 Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton   Yes  
 Mr. John Hollan           Yes  
 Mr. Albert Little          Yes  
 Ms. Anna Morris          Yes

III.B.6. Consider approval of the second and final reading of the 2025-2026 Employee Handbook and Substitute Teacher Handbook.

Order #10 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the first reading of the 2025-2026 Employee Handbook and Substitute Teacher Handbook passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton    Yes

Mr. John Hollan          Yes

Mr. Albert Little        Yes

Ms. Anna Morris        Yes

### **III.B.7. Consider approval of the second and final reading of the 2025-2026 Coaches Handbook.**

Order #11 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the second and final reading of the 2025-2026 Coaches Handbook passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton    Yes

Mr. John Hollan          Yes

Mr. Albert Little        Yes

Ms. Anna Morris        Yes

### **III.B.8. Consider approval of the second and final reading of the 2025-2026 Discipline Code Book.**

Order #12 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the first reading of the 2025-2026 Discipline Code Book passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton    Yes

Mr. John Hollan          Yes

Mr. Albert Little        Yes

Ms. Anna Morris        Yes

### **III.B.9. Consider approval of the second and final reading of KSBA Policy update #48 and procedure update #29.**

Discussion: Policy update was discussed in the work session in June, modifications (by the board attorney) were accepted and approved.

Order #13 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the second and final reading of KSBA Policy update #48 and procedure update #29 passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton    Yes

Mr. John Hollan          Yes

Mr. Albert Little        Yes

Ms. Anna Morris        Yes

### **III.B.10. Consider approval of the snow plan for 2025-2026.**

Order #14 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of updating the Snow Plan passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton    Yes

Mr. John Hollan          Yes

Mr. Albert Little        Yes

Ms. Anna Morris        Yes

III.B.11. Consider approval of the following traceable communication systems for students enrolled in dual credit courses through KCTCS, and authorize the Superintendent to approve additional platforms if needed for students to take advantage of other dual credit opportunities through other institutions.

Order #15 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the follow additional traceable communications for students enrolled in dual credit courses through KCTCS, and authorize the Superintendent to approve additional platforms if needed for students to take advantage of other dual credit opportunities through other institutions passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs	Absent
Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton	Yes
Mr. John Hollan	Yes
Mr. Albert Little	Yes
Ms. Anna Morris	Yes

III.B.11.a. KCTCS Blackboard

III.B.11.b. Outlook

III.B.11.c. Starfish

III.B.12. Consider emergency approval (one reading required) of the following policies:

Discussion:

If a student comes from an alternative placement, then you start in an alternate placement when you enroll. Request came from High School SBDM.

Order #16 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of emergency approval of the following policies: passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs	Absent
Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton	Yes
Mr. John Hollan	Yes
Mr. Albert Little	Yes
Ms. Anna Morris	Yes

III.B.12.a. Alternative Education Revised 09.4341

III.B.12.b. Admissions and Attendance-Revised 09.12

III.B.13. Consider approval of the Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology contract.

Order #17 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology contract passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs	Absent
Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton	Yes
Mr. John Hollan	Yes
Mr. Albert Little	Yes
Ms. Anna Morris	Yes

#### IV. BUILDING/FACILITIES/GROUNDS

##### IV.A. Breathitt High School elevator.

IV.A.1. Consider approval of initial BG1 (BG 26-034) to modernize existing Breathitt High School elevator.

Order #18 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of initial BG1 (BG 26-034) to modernize existing Breathitt High School elevator passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Yes

Mr. John Hollan Yes

Mr. Albert Little Yes

Ms. Anna Morris Yes

IV.A.2. Consider approval of DC elevator pay app in the amount of \$33,970.00.

Order #19 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of DC elevator pay app in the amount of \$33,970.00 passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Yes

Mr. John Hollan Yes

Mr. Albert Little Yes

Ms. Anna Morris Yes

IV.B. Consider approval of the BG-4 for the Coliseum HVAC replacement project BG 22-151.

Order #20 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of approval the BG-4 for the Coliseum HVAC replacement project BG 22-151 passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Yes

Mr. John Hollan Yes

Mr. Albert Little Yes

Ms. Anna Morris Yes

IV.C. Consider approval of accepting a letter of interest to hire Tate Hill Jacobs Architect for the purpose of construction of the following projects:

Order #21 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval to accept a letter of interest to hire Tate Hill Jacobs Architect for purpose of the following projects: passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Yes

Mr. John Hollan Yes

Mr. Albert Little Yes

Ms. Anna Morris Yes

IV.C.1. Track at Sebastian Elementary School.

IV.C.2. New roof at Highland-Turner Elementary School.

IV.C.3. New roof at Breathitt High School.

**IV.D. ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.**

Order #22 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189, IVD. 1-5 passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. John Hollan.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs Absent

Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Yes

Mr. John Hollan Yes

Mr. Albert Little Yes

Ms. Anna Morris Yes

IV.D.1. Consider approval of Contractor Pay Application 15 from Standafer builders in the amount of \$1,088,764.42 for work to-date on the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.

IV.D.2. Consider approval of change order #010 from Standafer Builders in the amount of \$91,194.03 dust collector + lower sprinkler heads at the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.

IV.D.3. Consider approval of the Owner Direct Purchase Orders accompanying Pay Application 15 from Standafer builders in the amount of \$175,961.64 for materials installed at the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.

IV.D.4. Consider approval of the invoice from Tate Hill Jacobs in the amount of \$35,867.84 for 20% completion of contract administration by the architects and engineers. This amount includes \$292.84 paid to the state of Kentucky for plan review of the bus wash, paid by THJ on behalf of Breathitt County Schools.

IV.D.5. Consider approval of the invoice from SDG (for special inspections) with all invoices totaling \$2,992.50.

**V. Personnel Notifications**

**Resignations/Retirements/Terminations/Non-renewals/Suspension/Reductions**

Julia Arnett, Resignation as Speech Therapist, Effective August 1, 2025, Jessenia Driskill, Resignation as Instructional Assistant at SES and Middle School Volleyball Coach, Effective July 1, 2025

Stacy McKnight, Resignation due to retirement as Director of Financial Services, Effective June 30, 2025

**Employment/Transfers**

Olivia Costello, Cook/Baker at SES, Effective July 1, 2025

William Dieringer, Day Shift Custodian at BHS, Effective July 1, 2025

Dustin Frazier, Assistant Middle School Football Coach, Effective July 1, 2025

Jessica Fugate, Sub at BES, Effective August 1, 2025

Jaina Gilbert, Student Worker – Dataseam, Effective July 1, 2025

Jeremy J. Hall, Transfer from Guidance Counselor to Principal at HTS, Effective July 7, 2025

Alexis Brooke Halsey, Assistant Volleyball Coach, Effective July 15, 2025

Shanna Herald, Lead Food Service Asst. at HTS, Effective July 1, 2025

Darren Iacono, Archery Coach at BHS, Effective July 1, 2025

Kayli Malone, Middle/High School English Instructor at BHS, Effective July 1, 2025

Heather Mayberry, Elementary Classroom Instructor at BES, Effective July 8, 2025

Ace Magee, Sub Custodian – District, Effective July 1, 2025

Amanda Miller, FRYSC at BES, Effective July 21, 2025

Sierra Mitchell, Instructional Assistant at BES, Effective July 1, 2025

David Napier, Assistant Band Director at BHS, Effective July 1, 2025

Melissa Smith, Elementary Classroom Instructor at HTS, Effective July 1, 2025

Debbie Spencer, Head Volleyball Coach, Effective July 1, 2025

Jayden Strong, Student Worker – Dataseam, Effective July 1, 2025

Sonya Thorpe, Instructional Assistant at BES, Effective July 1, 2025

Jamie Tilford, Elementary Classroom Instructor at BES, Effective July 3, 2025

Katelyn Trent, Elementary Classroom Instructor at SES, Effective July 1, 2025

Martha Watts, Cook/Baker at SES, Effective July 1, 2025

FMLA

N/A

VI. Informational Items

VI.A. Communication/Sharing (All Present)

VI.B. School Financial Reports

VI.C. School SBDM Reports

VII. Consider approval of going into closed session in compliance with KRS 61.810 (1)(k) and KRS 156.557(6)(c), for discussion regarding the superintendent's evaluation.

Discussion:

This item was removed due to the chair wanting all board members present when discussing the superintendents' goals. Mrs. Combs was absent due to being out of state.

VII.A. Consider approval of returning to open session.

VII.B. Consider approval of Superintendent's goals.

VIII. Adjournment

Order #23 - Motion Passed: There being no further business of the Board, adjournment at 5:34pm passed with a motion by Mr. John Hollan and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

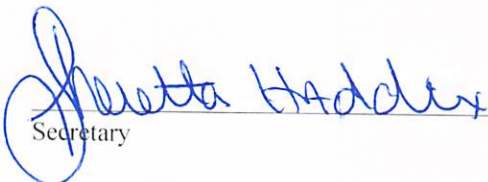
Mrs. Tiffany Combs      Absent

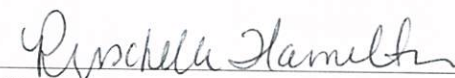
Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton    Yes

Mr. John Hollan          Yes

Mr. Albert Little        Yes

Ms. Anna Morris        Yes

  
Secretary

  
Board Chairperson