

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

**Regular Board Meeting
July 17, 2025 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

Absent Board Members:

Ms. Sharon Whitaker

Visitors: Jeremy Simpson, Todd Reece, Ethan Gibson, Steven Toby, and Wayne Roberts

Before the meeting started, there was a solemn moment of silence to honor the late. Desna Napier, a beloved educator, died after battling cancer.

I. Call To Order

A. Welcome/Pledge

Chairperson Ms. Donna Isfort called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Reminder to Sign In

II. Presentation

A. Required Annual Review of Data Security Best Practices (Jeremy Simpson)

Mr. Jeremy Simpson conducted the annual review of data security best practices, emphasizing the importance of cybersecurity measures in place, including training for phishing and possession of cybersecurity insurance

III. Facilities

A. Construction Update:

1. Estill County Middle School

1. Deco Update: A significant portion of the meeting focused on the ongoing design and development of the new Estill County Middle School. Representatives from the design firm Deco presented a 50% design development update, showcasing architectural renderings and a virtual walkthrough. The design team highlighted significant changes from previous iterations, including the relocation of the main entry and administrative offices to enhance functionality and aesthetics. They also discussed capacity goals and the gym's large seating capacity, emphasizing the flexibility of classroom spaces with removable walls for

collaborative learning. Safety features, such as bullet-resistant windows and a secure design, were also ensured.

IV. Action Items

A. Consideration/Approval of the 2025-2026 CEP Draft

Order #15279 - Motion Passed: Approval of the 2023-2026 CEP draft passed 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 the 2025-2026 Salary Schedule Revisions

Order #15280 - Motion Passed: Approval of the 2025-2026 Salary Schedule Revisions passed 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

C. Consideration/Approval of Federal District Funding Assurances

Order #15281 - Motion Passed: Approval of Federal District Funding Assurances passed 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

D. Consideration/Approval District Staffing Policy

Order #15282 - Motion Passed: Approval District Staffing Policy passed with a motion by Ms. Tammy Hardy and a second by Ms. Carrie Smallwood.

4 Yeas - 0 Nays

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

Ms. Sharon Whitaker

Absent

V. Consent**A.** Approve Minutes of June 20, 2025, Regular Board Meeting**B.** Approve Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills**C.** Approve Superintendents' Travel**D.** Approval of KSBA Policy Updates, Annual Policy Second Reading**E.** Approve Senate Bill 181 For Only Dual Credit Teachers & Students. The Following Communication Systems Are Currently Utilized by KCTCS: Blackboard (Anthology), Outlook (kctcs.edu domain), and Starfish (EAB)**Order #15283 - Motion Passed:** All Consent items passed 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

VI. Superintendent's Report**A.** Update

Superintendent Brock provided a detailed update on the middle school's funding and construction status. While \$5 million had been allocated and spent on design and site development, the full funding package of approximately \$16 million was pending official legislative approval, potentially in a special session this fall. The superintendent clarified misconceptions about the use of funds, emphasizing that \$5 million is insufficient to relocate students or begin site preparation, which costs over \$7 million. He reassured stakeholders of the current building's safety, with continuous structural monitoring and engineering assessments ensuring no immediate danger to students.

The board also discussed compliance with Senate Bill 181, which regulates electronic communication between school employees and students. Parents must complete in-person waivers for any communication exemptions to ensure legal compliance and protect student privacy. The district has approved specific communication apps for clubs and sports to maintain compliance.

B. Save the date for KSBA's next Annual Conference, to be held Feb. 20-22, 2026, at the Galt House in Louisville.**VII. Board Member Forum**

Ms. Donna Isfort spoke about the meetings she had been attending, upcoming events, ongoing summer programs, and staff acknowledgments, including Ethan Gibson, SRO, for completing the academy.

VIII. Public Comments

We received three comments, and one of them did not pertain to the board agenda and will be addressed in writing. A phone call will be made to address these concerns as well. The other two comments were discussed in the board meeting, and the board feels like they have been answered. Please see below the two questions that the board addressed in the meeting.

Peggy Baca

Q: There are many concerns for safety among the students, staff, and parents. Safety concerns were used to justify the request for \$38 million (which jumped to \$52 million) in funding from the state. Those safety concerns didn't disappear simply because the full funding wasn't approved. So what are you doing to address those safety issues directly? 2. What happened to the 5 million dollars that were earmarked for moving students to keep them safe, and why aren't they being moved?

Tim Rose

Q: This question will probably be answered before the public comments session. When will the excavation for the middle school begin, and what are the future plans for the current middle school lot?

IX. Adjourn

Order #15284 - Motion Passed: The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM passed 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

Charlie Brock, Secretary

Donna Isfort, Chairperson