

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

**Regular Board Meeting
August 20, 2026 6:00 PM ET (5:00 CT)
Estill County Board of Education
Boardroom
253 Main Street
Irvine, Kentucky 40336**

Attendance Taken at: 6:15 PM

Present Board Members:

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

Visitors: Todd Reece, Josh Yost, Tonya Miller, Sarah Beard, Donal Norton, Toni-Garrett Hall, Trent Singleton, Amanda Bryant, Andrea Williams, Shayla Carroll, and Jeremy Simpson

I. Call To Order

Board Chair Ms. Donna Isfort called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M.

A. Welcome/Pledge

Board Chair Ms. Donna Isfort asked Ms. Charlee Beth Bryant to lead the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Reminder to Sign In

C. Revisions: No revisions at this time

II. Facilities/Construction

A. Consideration/Approval: Selection of Architect for KFICS & DFP Process

Order #15432 - Motion Passed: The board approved Deco Architect for the KFICS & DFP process 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

B. Consideration/Approval of the Contract for KFICS & DFP Process

Order #15433 - Motion Passed: The board approved the contract with DECO Architect for the KFICS & DFP process, passed with a motion by Ms. Tammy Hardy 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

C. Consideration/Approval Proposal Amendment Contract to A/E Services Agreement of the Student Relocation Modular Installation/New Middle School with Deco Architects

Order #15434 - Motion Passed: Estill County Schools hereby authorizes the Architect to provide Additional Services under the executed AIA Document B101- 2007 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Architect. The scope of the Additional Services is defined in a letter from Deco Architects to Superintendent Brock, dated August 18, 2026. Passed with a motion by Ms. Carrie Smallwood 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

III. Action

A. Consideration/Approval of Change in Bank Signatures

Order #15435 - Motion Passed: The board approved adding Melinda Barnett to the High School account and removing Brenda Puckett, passed with a motion by Ms. Sharon Whitaker 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

B. Consideration/Approval of The Second Reading of Policy 09.214

Order #15436 - Motion Passed: Approval of the second reading of Policy 09.214: Toilet Training 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

C. Consideration/Approval of the Following Handbooks

1. Substitute Teacher Handbook
2. Employee Handbook
3. Coaches' Handbook

Order #15437 - Motion Passed: Approval of the Employee, Sub-Teacher, and Coaches' handbooks 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

D. Proposed 2026 Tax Rates

1. Real and Personal
2. Vehicle and Watercraft

Order #15438 - Motion Passed: The board approved the 2026 proposed tax rates as a general fund tax levy of 49.1 cents on real property and 50.1 cents on personal property, with 0.2 cents for exonerations and 54.8 cents for motor, 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

E. Consideration/Approval of the Following Out-of-State School Trip

1. Tennessee Titans Learning Lab in Nashville, Tennessee
2. Estill County High School Softball Team to Travel to Fort Walton Beach/Destin, Florida During Spring Break in April 2027.

Order #15439 - Motion Passed: The board approved the following out-of-state trips: the Tennessee Titans Learning Lab in Nashville, TN, and the Softball team to Fort Walton Beach, Florida, during Spring Break, passed with a motion by Ms. Tammy Hardy 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

F. Consideration/Approval of the 2026–2027 Head Start Certificate of Full Utilization and MOA

Order #15440 - Motion Passed: Approval of the 2026-2027 Head Start Certificate of Full Utilization and MOA passed with a motion by Ms. Tammy Hardy 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

G. Consideration/Approval of the 2026-2027 Salary Schedule Update

Order #15441 - Motion Passed: Approval of the 2026-2027 Salary Schedule Update 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

IV. Consent

- A. Approve Minutes of July 27, 2026 Special Called Board Meeting
- B. Approve Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills
- C. Approve Superintendent's Travel

Order #15442 - Motion Passed: All consent items 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

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Update:

The school year started smoothly overall. Initial bus route delays were caused by morning storm debris rather than garage or driver issues. A new GPS monitoring system is being rolled out on buses to provide parents with live location and drop-off tracking while improving route efficiency.

Mr. Brock reported that preparation for the temporary middle school campus is expected to begin soon, with dirt work anticipated to begin the following week. He discussed coordination among the district, Kentucky Emergency Management, and the architects. He plans to release a video to keep the community informed and to demonstrate what the temporary campus will actually look like.

Mr. Brock emphasized that the modular campus will not resemble the older temporary classroom buildings many people may remember. The facility will include: school-style hallways, full-sized classrooms, restrooms, technology closets, and custodial closets. He also addressed concerns about severe-weather safety. A permanent brick-and-mortar storm shelter will be constructed on the site and will be available to all students. The district plans to have buses available to transport students to a safe location until the permanent shelter is completed and will conduct severe-weather drills before severe weather becomes a concern.

Enrollment is down by 50 students, primarily driven by graduating a large senior class (167) relative to incoming kindergarten numbers (114), and by statewide increases in homeschooling, with around 200 local students. The drop matches prior projections, ensuring appropriate staffing levels.

B. Notification of Personnel Action (See Insert)

VI. Principal's Report

Each school Principal/representative was given time to report to the board about what has been happening at their schools. Each of these school representatives distributed a flyer to the board members; please see the insert.

VII. Board Member Forum

No additional board member comments.

VIII. Public Comments

No public comments that pertain to the agenda.

IX. Adjourn

Order #15443 - Motion Passed: The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:45 P.M., 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