

**RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(MINUTES)**

Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium Complex
(Meeting will be held in the Auditorium)

In accordance with current guidelines, guests attending this meeting will be asked to seat 6ft apart and wear a mask and attendance is limited to no more than 50.

5:00 PM on December 21, 2020 with the following members:

Attendance Taken at 5:01 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Gerald Murray
Ms. Joy Wilson
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham
Mr. Richard Kazsuk
Ms. Sheila Wicker

A sign in sheet was available for the public.

1. Pledge of Allegiance/Prayer

2. Call to Order

Rationale:

The Chair calls the Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

3. Roll Call

Rationale:

This action is taken by calling each board member's name, with the board member answering present.

4. Public Comment

5. Lake Cumberland Regional College and Workforce Center Construction Update

Rationale:

Representatives from Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects and Branscum Construction will provide the board with a construction update on the Lake Cumberland Regional College and Workforce Center.

6. Adoption of Agenda

Rationale:

Meeting agenda is provided for your review.

Order #8830 - Motion Passed: If there are no corrections or amendments, I recommend the agenda be approved as presented- passed with a motion by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham and a second by Mr. Richard Kazsuk.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

7. Recognition

7.A. Cross Country- Justin Stearns, Tyler Lulek, Mason Buras, Clayton Trosper, Lincoln Helm, Nathan Bartrug, Bryson Trosper

7.B. Boys Golf- Clay Anderson & Nick Blakey

7.C. Girls Golf- McKenzie Trautman

8. Russell County Education Association (RCEA) Certified Employee Recognition:

November- Shannon Taylor (SES)

December-Susan Walters (RSES)

9. Consent Agenda

Order #8831 - Motion Passed: If there are no changes or amendments I recommend approval of consent agenda items- passed with a motion by Mr. Richard Kazsuk and a second by Ms. Joy Wilson.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

9.A. Approval of Minutes

9.B. Payment of Bills

9.C. Construction Funds

9.D. School Activity Fund Reports

9.E. Financial Report

9.F. Treasurer's Monthly Report November 2020

10. Fiscal Year 2020 Audit Report

Rationale:

White & Company, P.S.C. completed Russell County Schools FY 2020 audit and it is presented for your review/approval. Joe Montgomery, CPA with White & Company, P.S.C., will be at the board meeting to present the FY 2020 audit report.

Order #8832 - Motion Passed: I recommend approval of Fiscal Year 2020 District Audit that was submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education- passed with a motion by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham and a second by Mr. Gerald Murray.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

11. FY-22 Draft Budget

Rationale:

According to the requirements set forth by the Kentucky Department of Education, local boards of education are mandated to review a Draft Budget by January 31 of each year.

Expenditures	\$21,500,000
Revenues	\$21,500,000

12. Board Resolution-Section 457(b) Eligible Deferred Compensation Plan

Rationale:

The attached board resolution will allow Russell County Schools employees to participate in a 457(b) Eligible Deferred Compensation Plan with American Fidelity* at no cost to the district. One of the main advantages of a 457(b) is that withdrawals from the retirement plan are contingent upon date of retirement and not the age of the employee at retirement.

*American Fidelity is Russell County Schools "cafeteria" plan provider. A cafeteria plan is a type of employee benefit plan offered in the United States pursuant to Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Order #8833 - Motion Passed: I recommend that the attached board resolution authorizing a 457(b) Eligible Deferred Compensation Plan with American Fidelity be approved as presented- passed with a motion by Ms. Joy Wilson and a second by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

13. Lake Cumberland Regional College & Workforce Center-Proposal Request No. 19 (Convert Space Under Stairs)

Rationale:

The attached proposal request for the Lake Cumberland Regional College & Workforce Center is proposed so that the area underneath the stairs, and extending a little out from the stairs, can be converted to storage area. This will allow additional space in the lower level area to store tables and chairs for community meetings, staff/student meetings, etc.

Order #8834 - Motion Passed: I recommend that the attached proposal request for the Lake Cumberland Regional College & Workforce Center in the amount of \$12,079.87 be approved as presented- passed with a motion by Mr. Richard Kazsuk and a second by Ms. Joy Wilson.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

14. Architect & Construction Management Contracts-Russell County Middle School Renovation/Addition

Rationale:

At the September 21, 2020 meeting of the Russell County Board of Education it was approved that Branscum Construction would serve as construction manager and Sherman Carter Barnhart for the Russell County Middle School Renovation/Addition. Attached are the owner/architect and owner/construction manager (with performance bond and payment bond documents) contracts for Russell County Board of Education with Sherman Carter Barnhart (architect) and Branscum Construction (construction manager) for the Russell County Middle School Renovation/Addition.

With board approval, the contracts will be sent to the Kentucky Department of Education for review and approval.

Order #8835 - Motion Passed: I recommend approval of the contracts with Sherman Carter Barnhart and Branscum Construction as presented and that they be forwarded to the Kentucky Department of Education for review and approval- passed with a motion by Mr. Gerald Murray and a second by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

15. January 2021-Return to In-Person Instruction

Rationale:

The COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education has been revised by the Kentucky Department of Public Health and Kentucky Department of Education (attached for your review). Under the new guidance, in-person classes can resume, even when a school district is "in the red" pending that the provisions in the metric and "Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12) are followed. I recommend that Russell County Schools resume the option of in-person classes on January 19, 2021, with a hybrid schedule for all grade levels.

In-person class option for students with last name A-L on Monday and Tuesday, In-person classes for students with last name M-Z on Thursday and Friday w/ all students virtual on Wednesdays for the schools to have extra cleaning/sanitation/disinfection. (NOTE: The oldest student in the household will determine the day the student attends if there are different children in the household with different last names that would put the students attending different days.)

A decision to cease in-person classes will be made based upon employee/student case rates and/or other factors related to COVID-19.

Resuming in-person school on January 19th provides additional time after Christmas/New Year's Eve gatherings to further reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Parents/Guardians will have the option of children staying virtual for the entire 2020-2021 school year. Athletic and Extra Curricular Events need to be approved/denied on a case by case basis.

Order #8836 - Motion Passed: I recommend that Russell County Schools operate on a hybrid schedule as noted, once in-person classes resume (January 19, 2021) under the guidelines of the "COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education" issued by the Kentucky Department of Public Health and Kentucky Department of Education regarding classes and authorize the Superintendent to approve or deny participation in athletic events/extra curricular activities on a case by case basis- passed with a motion by Mr. Richard Kazsuk and a second by Ms. Sheila Wicker.

Mr. Gerald Murray	No
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

16. 2021-2022 School Schedule/Calendar (Discussion Only)

Rationale:

The Russell County School District Calendar Committee has met to develop a draft 2021-2022 School Year Calendar/Schedule.

KRS 158.070 reads in part: "Prior to adopting a school calendar, the local board of education shall hear for discussion the school district calendar committee's recommendations and the recommendation of the superintendent at a meeting of the local board of education.

During a subsequent meeting of the local board of education, the local board shall adopt a school calendar for the upcoming school year that establishes the opening and closing dates of the school term, beginning and ending dates of each school month, student attendance days, and days on which schools shall be dismissed. The local board may schedule days for breaks in the school calendar that shall not be counted as a part of the minimum school term."

The draft 2021-2022 School Year Calendar/Schedule is attached for your review along with a copy of the input from students, parents/guardians, community members and employees of Russell County Schools regarding the draft.

17. Revision to Policy 08.2323- Social Media *SECOND READING

Rationale:

Russell County Board of Education Policy 08.2323 is more restrictive than Kentucky School Board's recommended policy. For example, our current policy prohibits the use of social networking sites. The recommended policy allows the use for educational purposes. Our current policy and the KSBA policy are attached for your review.

Order #8837 - Motion Passed: I recommend approval of the Revision to 08.2323- Social Media Policy- passed with a motion by Ms. Joy Wilson and a second by Mr. Gerald Murray.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

18. Mental Health Specialist-Job Description

Rationale:

Russell County Schools has been allocated funds "to provide school mental health services and allowable activities stated in the School Safety & Resiliency Act (SB 1, 2019; SB 8, 2020)" The attached job description and salary schedule for the position are presented for your review and approval. The continuation of this position will be dependent upon state funding*.

*We received \$43,095 for the position; salary will be prorated for the remainder of the school year.

Order #8838 - Motion Passed: I recommend approval of the mental health specialist job description and salary schedule- passed with a motion by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham and a second by Ms. Joy Wilson.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes

Ms. Sheila Wicker Yes

19. Regular Local School Board Meetings

Rationale:

KRS 61.820 calls for each board of education to hold at least one (1) regular meeting each month, at a time and place fixed by the board and KRS 61.820 requires that the schedule of regular meetings be made available to the public.

Order #8839 - Motion Passed: I recommend the adoption of the 2021-2022 schedule of regular meeting dates for each month, beginning in February 2021, and concluding January 2022. That each monthly board meeting be scheduled in advance and announced to the public. All other meetings would be considered special called meetings. A copy of the scheduled meetings dates for the noted time period are attached and become part of the minutes- passed with a motion by Mr. Gerald Murray and a second by Ms. Joy Wilson.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

**2021-2022
Board Meeting Schedule**

February 22, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
March 15, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
April 19, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
May 17, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
June 21, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
June 30, 2021 (@12:00 p.m.)	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
July 19, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
August 16, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
September 20, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
October 18, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
November 15, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
December 20, 2021	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium
January 24, 2022	Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium

All meetings being held at the Russell County Auditorium/Natatorium.

* All meeting times are **5:00 PM Central** (unless changed by the board).

** January and February meeting moved forward one week due to federal holidays.

20. Educational Leave of Absence

Rationale:

Kristina Bunch is requesting an Educational Leave of Absence, without pay, effective January 5, 2021 and will continue for 70 days to allow her to complete her student teaching during the Spring 2021 semester. Barring no weather closures, or other unforeseen school closings, her time will conclude the first week of April 20, 2021

Order #8840 - Motion Passed: I recommend that the Russell County Board of Education grant Kristina Bunch an Educational Leave of Absence, without pay, effective January 5, 2021 for 70 days to conclude first week of April 20, 2021- passed with a motion by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham and a second by Ms. Joy Wilson.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

21. Contracts/Memorandums of Agreement

Rationale:

The following contracts/memorandums of agreement are attached for your review.

- A. Necco
- B. Surrogate Parent Services
- C. Hudl Return to Play Agreement

Order #8841 - Motion Passed: I recommend approval of the contracts/memorandum of agreements that has been approved by the board attorney- passed with a motion by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham and a second by Mr. Richard Kazsuk.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

22. Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Rationale:

The Local Education Agency annually reviews and approves the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan. The 2020-2021 Russell County School Comprehensive District Improvement Plan states overall goals and provides improvement strategies and activities that addresses identified needs for the district.

Order #8842 - Motion Passed: I recommend that the Russell County Board of Education approve the 2020-2021 Comprehensive District Plan revisions and that the District is in compliance with all the assurances listed in Appendix of the KDE "District Improvement Planning-Roles and Responsibilities." - passed with a motion by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham and a second by Mr. Richard Kazsuk.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

23. Personnel Reports

Rationale:

Victor Rexroat	Retiring- Bus Driver (December 31, 2020)
Alexis Polston	Resigning- RCMS Teacher Assistant (November 30, 2020)
Greg Hammond	Resigning- RCMS Baseball Coach (December 7, 2020)

Dalton Robertson Hired-RCMS Science/Social Studies Teacher 2020-2021 SY

24. Adjournment

Order #8843 - Motion Passed: Adjournment of the meeting passed with a motion by Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham and a second by Mrs. Sheila Wicker.

Mr. Gerald Murray	Yes
Ms. Joy Wilson	Yes
Mrs. Brenda Higginbotham	Yes
Mr. Richard Kazsuk	Yes
Ms. Sheila Wicker	Yes

Sheila Wicker-Chairperson

Michael Ford-Superintendent