

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS (MINUTES)

Jackson, Ky., November 18, 2025

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

I. Call to Order.

The regular meeting of the Breathitt County Board of Education was called to order by Chairperson Ruschelle Hamilton at Sebastian Elementary School.

I.A. Roll Call

I.B. Pledge of Allegiance/Mission and Vision

I.C. Adopt Agenda

Order #88 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of adopting the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

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

II. Presentations/Reports

II.A. Student/Staff Recognitions

II.A.1. Elder Abuse Awareness Poster Contest

II.A.1.a. Jesselin Eversole-Parks-1st Place 5-6th grade

II.A.1.b. Tristan Davis-2nd Place-5-6th grade

II.A.1.c. Chelsea Johnson-3rd Place-5-6th grade

II.A.1.d. Laken Combs-1st Place-3-4th grade

II.A.1.e. Maci Little-2nd Place-3-4th grade

II.A.1.f. Amirah Howard-3rd Place-3-4th grade

II.A.2. BHS Cross Country-qualified for state competition

Tucker Neace and Isabella Smith became the first members of the Breathitt Cross Country team to qualify for state in several years. Both qualified for state competition as individuals through strong performances at the Region 6 Class A regional meet in Morgan County.

In regional competition, Tucker set his personal best time for the season at 19:25 and finished 17th overall out of 84 boys. Isabella ran a time of 26:58 and finished 34th out of 52 girls.

They both went on to compete at the 2025 KHSAA State Cross Country Championships at the Kentucky Horse park. Tucker placed 175th/ 266 in the boys 5K with a time of 20:42. Isabella Smith finished 187/218 in the girls 5K with a time of 27:28.

II.A.2.a. Tucker Neace

II.A.2.b. Isabella Smith

II.B. Reports

II.B.1. Sebastian Elementary School SBDM Council Update

SBDM Council Meeting Summary Attendees: Vicie Pelfrey, Jeremy Hall, Julie Hollan, Brandy Rice, Crystal McKnight, and Sharon Hall

- **Tutoring Support:** Tutoring during specials has been very beneficial for students. The Hindman Settlement and retired teachers have also provided valuable assistance.
- **Leader in Me:** Strategies, team discussions, and guided questions are being implemented successfully.
- **Accelerated Reader (AR):** Sixth graders are excelling in AR. They are earning tokens weekly, with some reaching up to 250 points before Christmas.
- **Student Leadership:** Art and Leader activities at the end of October highlighted how students are taking ownership of their learning, while teachers provide encouragement and moral support. Students are enthusiastic, often expressing their enjoyment. Even those who are usually less involved are now participating and speaking up.
- **AR Participation:** Mrs. Anna inquired about student participation in AR points. Mr. Hall explained the process in detail.
- **Writing Progress:** Writing skills are improving. Though challenging, students are motivated. Third and fourth graders are beginning to work on on-demand writing tasks.
- **Breakfast and Lunch Participation:** More students are attending breakfast and lunch, with numbers in the 90s. Hallways are quieter and more orderly.
- **Academics and Athletics:** Students understand that academic performance is essential to participate in sports. They are aware of the standards and expectations.
- **Reading at Home:** Vicie noted that students can read online at home and then take their AR tests from home.
- **Extracurriculars:** Vicie is promoting the idea of starting a volleyball team.
- **Safety:** Safety remains a top priority. Staff take it very seriously, and parents find comfort in the strong safety measures in place.
- **Portrait of a Learner:** Albert discussed building student confidence and helping them reach higher levels of achievement.

II.B.2. Superintendent Report

Phillip Watts, Superintendent, discussed the overall district updates, and encouraged everyone on attendance. Encouraged everyone to spend time with family and friends.

II.B.3. Attendance Report

Month 4 we are at 93.3 percent and discussed the individual school's attendance.

II.B.4. 2025 Destiny Award

Two years in a role reflects staff being safe and taking care of what they're doing. The award was presented at the work session in November.

III. Student Learning and Support Items Recommended for Approval

III.A. CONSENT ITEMS

Order #89 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the consent items listed below passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Mrs. Tiffany Combs.

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

III.A.1. Consider approval of (1) Sebastian Elementary boys' basketball coaching salary to be reallocated to the SES Elementary basketball team to use for equipment, uniforms, and supplies.

III.A.2. Consider approval of the 2025-2026 District Wellness Policy.

III.A.3. Breathitt Elementary Fundraiser(s)

III.A.3.a. Coin War-January-March 2026.

III.A.3.b. Popcorn Sales-December 2025-March 2026.

III.A.3.c. Basket Auction-December 2025-February 2026.

III.A.3.d. Principal for the Day-December 2025-February 2026.

III.A.4. Consider approval of the MOU with New Horizons Academy/KEDC and Breathitt County School District.

III.B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

III.B.1. Consider approval of October 28, 2025, regular meeting minutes.

Order #90 - Motion Passed: Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of October 28, 2025, regular meeting minutes passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

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

III.B.2. Consider approval of November 13, 2025, regular work session meeting minutes.

Order #91 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of October November 13, 2025, regular work session meeting minutes passed with a motion by Mrs. Tiffany Combs and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

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

III.B.3. Consider approval of the October 2025 Treasurer's Report.

Christa Smith, Finance Officer, discussed the ending balance and bond payments. Paid universities for MAT scholarships. Discussed the curriculum and expenses. We received property tax payment, motor vehicle taxes and unmined coal.

Order #92 - Motion Passed: Based on the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the Treasurer's Report for October 2025 passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

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

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

Order #93 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the November 2025 bills for payment passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

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

III.B.5. Consider approval of the 2025 Kawasaki User Relations Loan Agreement Form and Maintenance Agreement Form.

Order #94 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Phillip Watts, approval of the 2025 Kawasaki User Relations Loan Agreement Form and maintenance agreement form passed with a motion by Mrs. Tiffany Combs and a second by Ms. Anna Morris.

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

III.B.6. Consider approval of adding an additional \$10,000 for the Teacher Scholarship(s) if needed.

Order #95 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent Philip Watts, approval of adding an additional \$10,000 for the Teacher Scholarships if needed passed with a motion by Ms. Anna Morris and a second by Mr. Albert Little.

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

IV. BUILDING GROUNDS/FACILITIES

IV.A. ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.

Order #96 - Motion Passed: Based upon the recommendation of Superintendent, Phillip Watts, approval of IV.A. ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189, items A 1-5 passed with a motion by Mr. Albert Little and a second by Mrs. Tiffany Combs.

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

IV.A.1. Consider approval of Contractor Pay Application 19 in the amount of \$85,031.68 for work to-date on the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.

IV.A.2. Consider approval of the Owner Direct Purchase Orders accompanying Pay Application 19 from Standafer Builders in the amount of \$33,000.48 for materials installed at the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.

IV.A.3. Consider approval of the SDG, LLC structural engineering, to complete the code that required special structural inspections for Bus Wash at the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189.

IV.A.4. Consider approval of the DPO change order #003 totaling \$64,875.20 to liquidate DPOs where vendors could not provide materials in time to meet the schedule for the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-1890. Affected DPOs are as follows:

IV.A.4.a. DPO #5 to Core and Main = \$33,375.20

IV.A.4.b. DPO #10 to High Tech = \$16,000.00

IV.A.4.c. DPO #12 to L&W Supply = \$15,500.00

IV.A.5. Consider approval of change order #14 to Standafer Builders in the amount of \$64,875.20 to add the funds from DPO Change Order #003 into the construction contract for the ATC + Bus Garage BG# 24-189. This will allow the contractor to find materials to meet the schedule for the ATC.

V. Personnel Notifications

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

Lawson Noble, Resignation as Elementary Boys Basketball Coach at SES,
Effective October 28, 2025

Employment/Transfers

Mary K. Caudill, Substitute Teacher - District, Effective October 23, 2025,

Micah Couch, Student Worker at BES, Effective November 1, 2025

Laura Gabbard, Instructional Assistant at BES, Effective November 1, 2025,

Lawson Noble, Middle School Boys Basketball Coach at BHS, Effective October 29, 2025

Emily Pelfrey, Instructional Assistant at BES, Effective November 4, 2025,

Veronica Southwood, Substitute Teacher - District, Effective November 10, 2025

Nathaniel Tomlian, Substitute Bus Driver, Effective November 10, 2025

Beverly Ward, LBD Exceptional Classroom Instructor at SES, Effective November 1, 2025

FMLA/Leave

#4509 October 28, 2025 - November 11, 2025 - Extended Medical Leave - FMLA

#3557 October 27, 2025 - December 1, 2025 - Medical Leave - Workers' Comp

#4990 October 28, 2025 - December 31, 2025 - Medical Leave - FMLA

#4223 October 24, 2025 - November 14, 2025 - Medical Leave - FMLA

#4641 November 12, 2025 - December 12, 2025 - Extended Medical Leave - FMLA

VI. Informational Items

VI.A. Communication/Sharing (All Present)

VI.B. School Financial Reports

VI.C. School SBDM Reports

VI.D. Houchen's Insurance Check

VI.E. EPA's ENERGY STAR for Breathitt Elementary School

VII. Adjournment

Order #97 - Motion Passed: There being no further business by the Board, adjournment at 5:54p.m. passed with a motion by Mr. John Hollan and a second by Mrs. Tiffany Combs.

Mrs. Tiffany Combs Yes


Ms. Ruschelle Hamilton Yes

Mr. John Hollan Yes

Mr. Albert Little Yes

Ms. Anna Morris Yes


Secretary


Board Chairperson