

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

**Regular Board Meeting
April 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
Ms. Sharon Whitaker

Visitors: Jeremy Simpson, Charlotte O'Bryan, Tonya Miller, Donald Norton, Todd Reece, Josh Yost, Jessica Mullins, Toni-Garrett Hall, Amanda Bryant and Angie Howell

I. Call To Order

Chairperson Ms. Donna Isfort called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

A. Welcome/Pledge

Mr. Bash Miller and Ms. Tonya Miller led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Reminder to Sign In

C. Revisions

II. Facilities/Construction Updates

A. New Estill County Middle School

1. Deco Update:

Mr. Brock gave an update on the progress of the New Middle School.

- Bid Process: Site preparation bids went out earlier this week, focused on moving materials and prepping the site. Building design/construction bids will follow.
- Design Meeting: Discussions included:
 - Adjustments to the main entrance and gymnasium entrance for better visual impact.
 - Cafeteria and kitchen design—consultant visit scheduled for Tuesday at 10 a.m.
 - Exterior options: Reviewed materials and layout.
 - Grading: Deliberation on mowable areas vs. permanent solutions (e.g., riprap).

April 17, 2025

- Outdoor eating space: Concerns about grass growth—suggested turf and fencing for safety.
- Train car classrooms: Plan changed from pit-style to ramp access.

DECO will return with updated designs and another presentation at the next Board meeting.

III. Action

A. Consideration/Approval of the following Out-of-State Trips

Order #15258 - Motion Passed: The Estill County Middle School Student Council, HOSA, and TSA National Conferences' out-of-state trips were approved 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

1. Estill County Middle School Student Council
2. HOSA National Competition
3. TSA National Conference

B. Consideration/Approval of the Following Service Agreement

1. MindPsi

Order #15259 - Motion Passed: The service agreement with MindPsi passed with Ms. Shiela Samples's motion and Ms. Tammy Hardy's second.

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 Estill County School District Police Department - Policy Number 2021-016 Vehicle Pursuit Policy

Order #15260 - Motion Passed: Approval of Estill County School District Police Department - Policy Number 2021-016 Vehicle Pursuit Policy 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 Items:

Order #15261 - Motion Passed: All consent items passed with a motion by Ms. Carrie Smallwood 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

A. Superintendent Travels

B. Approve Minute Reports for March 20, 2025, and Special Called Meeting April 1, 2025

C. Approve the Treasurer's Report and Payment of Bills

V. Superintendent's Report

A. Update:

- Academic Push: Despite weather-related closures (20+ missed days), end-of-year academic progress continues. Diagnostic testing via i-Ready shows growth, especially from August to December.
- Calendar:
 - Last student day: May 22.
 - Closing day for staff: May 23.
 - Certified and classified staff will work additional days to fulfill contracts.

- Middle School Funding:
 - Ongoing efforts with legislators to secure remaining funds.
 - Upcoming meeting with House ANR Committee Chair regarding budget allocation.
- Summer School:
 - Begin the week after graduation.
 - Two-week programs in STEM and the Arts to offer enrichment and creative opportunities.
- First Musical Production: *Alice in Wonderland Jr.*, happening in late April, is highlighted as a milestone for the district.

B. Notification of Personnel Action (See Insert)

C. The 2025 Summer Leadership Institute will be held from Friday, July 11, to Saturday, July 12, at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington.

VI. Principal's Report

Each of the School Principals was allowed to speak before the board and report on what has been happening and is currently happening in their schools. See the inserted handouts from the Principal.

VII. Board Member Forum

VIII. Public Comments

Melinda Johnson:

Q: How do I change my child's school back to Estill Springs Elementary for next year?

A: This question was an individual question that was forwarded to Mr Norton regarding moving a child. So that was not board-related

Dayna Midolo

Q: In 2009, the National Institute of Health raised significant concerns about the health effects of people living or working near landfills. The radius of concern is 1.8 miles. How can we be sure that there will be no health issues with groundwater runoff and air quality control issues at the high school and Middle school? The permit should not have been signed in the first place. Now that it is, how do we continue, knowing that illegal dumping of radioactive waste happened in 2019 and could have potentially catastrophic issues with the students' health in the future?

A: Various monitoring measures have been implemented, and we now have a monitoring system on site that is constantly monitoring, 24/7.

Danny Rawlins

Q: Are there any plans to address the traffic congestion on Rice Street during afternoon pickup at Estill Springs? Does the board not see it as a problem?

A: We are aware of the liberties we can and cannot take, but we are working on solving the problem. However, this issue extends beyond the school system.

Because these questions are not board-related, Mr. Brock has given a brief answer; however, Mr. Brock is happy to answer questions in more depth. Just call the Central Office and ask to speak to Mr. Brock.

IX. Adjourn

Order #15262 - Motion Passed: The board adjourned the meeting at 6:42 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

April 17, 2025