

**Floyd County Board of Education Regular Meeting**

August 26, 2024 6:30 PM

In Person and Video Teleconference

Floyd County Board of Education

Drs. Chandra and Mahendra Varia Media Center

Eastern, KY

**Attendance Taken at : 6:30 PM**

**Present Board Members:**

Ms. Linda Gearheart

Mr. William Newsome

Dr. Chandra Varia

Mr. Steve Slone

Mr. Keith Smallwood

Larry Hammond, Board Secretary and Board Attorney was in attendance.

**1. Chair's Welcome/Call to Order**

**A. Roll Call/Welcome**

**B. Review Focus Areas-** Safety and Health of Students and Staff; Remain Fiscally Solvent; Attendance 94%; Postsecondary Readiness; ACT 19.5

**C. Reminder for a Request to Speak**

**D. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Amelia Gilbert from Prestonsburg High School.

**E. The Adoption of Agenda**

**Order #20528 - Motion Passed:** Motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of Item 6BB Athletic Handbook: Cost of admission to school athletic events and 6CC Discussion on Synovia-Here Comes the Bus; Tyler Tech. passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Dr. Chandra Varia.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**2. Special Reports and Spotlight**

**3. Community Comments to the Board of Education**

**A. Students**

**B. Parents, PTA/PTO**

**April Sword-**

I am one of the families that was affected by my child not being able to ride the bus home from school and this is all happened before the May Valley, Dace spit. I live 2.9 miles from both May Valley Elementary and DACE. I work full time, I do not get off till 5 o'clock. I moved my child from Allen to DACE in 2nd grade to were my child would not have to switch schools again because I could not transport her to Allen anymore because of my job. So when the May Valley split happened I called and talked to Dwayne Dawson that my

child was going to be stuck because she didn't have a way home in the evening. I transport her to school every morning with no issue, but picking her up in the evening is because I work in mental health and I never know when I am going to have an emergency or something is going to come up. I made one facebook post and had 18 families reach out to me in less than 12 hours to tell me their child had been affected in the same way. My issue is my child does not have to be specially picked up. They pick up from Maytown to Wilson Creek, which is less than a quarter mile from my home. They go to the high school and pick up high school kids, then they go to Maytown and drop kids off right in front of my house. No special treatment would be made at all in anyway. She has done this for 5 years, this year is the first year she cannot do that. I'm having to leave my job at 3 o'clock everyday if my child does not have ball practice to go get my child. This is going to be an issue for my job because I can't do that everyday. Luckily she has ball practice. May Valley is at capacity and I am told that if my child was to ride a bus home, I would have to switch her to an over crowded school and make her leave all her friends again and I already done that in 2nd grade and I don't want that for my child again. That can affect her mentally and I can actually say I am licensed to say that. My child's mental health will be at stake if she has to switch schools because this will affect her playing sports because there is to many kids at that school. This is not fair and not right especially if nothing is being changed. She has done this for 5 years and I don't understand why she can't continue especially when I know there are kids that ride a bus from Maytown to Betsy Layne everyday. She would ride Stacia Draughn's (#823) bus just like she had done all along, no changes.

Linda Gearheart asked if putting her on the bus would overcrowd the bus?

Nikki Gearheart said that the bus that her child would ride goes to May Valley and DACE, there will not have to be another run or route.

Mr. Hammond: Mr. Maynard and I will have to review all the issues including why we have kids riding bus from one area to another because their parent or grandparent drives a bus.

Mr. Maynard: If we open this up for buses to run to both schools, what will we do about the kids that have already transferred? Will we allow them to come back to the school they were at before if they want to?

Dr. Chandra: Board needs to sit down and discuss, we cannot make a decision right now.

### **Debbie Crum-**

Thank you all for letting me come here. First of all I want to thank you all for your time, I appreciate it. I want to thank Mr. Hammond for having a meeting with me and my husband prior to the decision that was made. Just like April said, you put out a facebook post and you have 18 families that have problem with the same issue but they don't show up. I want to say that this is probably the second time that I have been disappointed in Floyd County Schools.

First time was with my daughter Mallory, she was a disability child. She went to grade 8 and didn't go any further. In 2015 we had a 22 hour procedure that took her pancreas and made her diabetic. At that time Floyd Central was just starting, there was no RN on staff at that point. My daughter has to have pancreatic enzymes, her sugar checked and special care. So with no RN on staff at that time she got an 8th grade education. That is a totally different subject but like I said that was the first time I was disappointed as a parent, as a taxpayer.

The second time I was disappointed is when we came and approached Mr. Hammond about my daughter Molly. We actually live on Left Beaver and we transport our daughter to DACE, the DACE faculty has been very nice us about being able to keep her there because we did take a new job just like April. We had to go

were jobs were and we now both work in Pikeville. We did not get to the school until 15 after 5 and they accommodated her for that. This year DACE lost that position to were Molly would be able to stay with them until we got there. This was because of Ms. Marla Hall and kudos to her, I can't thank her enough for letting my child stay for as long as she has. This is what really gets me, Molly is a great student, great attendance and she is not a trouble maker. Pike County accommodated me in less than 2 hours, for transportation to my work at Pikeville Medical Center. With a 6th grade class of 94 kids, they made a spot for her. This was done without a face to face meeting, with one phone call, that's what really hurts. That is what's called disappointment to a parent whos trying to do what's best for her kid by going to this job that pays more to be able to give them what they want. That is really the frustrating part, DACE has been really accommodating but when I brought the subject to them it was all about where we live. It wasn't about a free and appropriate education and where I think Molly would get the best education, yes Molly is not a disabled child. She was in the 6th grade and should have got to stay at DACE. In the beginning it wasn't a transportation issue, we just needed someone to stay with her till we got there. Molly has good attendance and made good grades and to my knowledge that's is what brings in the money. And now after less than 2 hours, one phone call to a middle school that was busting at capacity to take her and be able to transport her to me without an issue. They said send her up here we will be happy. On that Friday I took her up there that guidance counselor was standing there and said, "Molly we expected you at open house." I told them I had tried 1 more time to go to Floyd County Board to see what I could do about trying to get transportation for my child. On that Friday, they were willing to let her start school on that Friday. She said, "On Monday when you come in I will show you were she went to class." All her teachers were introduced, I was showed the library, what the lunchroom looked like, where she needed to go and everything. The guidance counselor assured me that on that Monday when I got there she would be there standing and waiting on her and you know what? That Monday when I walked in that door that guidance counselor was standing there waiting. Now to me that makes a difference right there. That showed me that my child was wanted at that school. Like I said that's not the first time I've been disappointed in Floyd County Schools. I don't like bringing this up but like I said Mallory had a 2 hour procedure and missed 4 months of school. Don't you know that she got a perfect attendance certificate for Mallory that year? How's that happen? I know a child with a disability gets double the money than what another child does. Do you know what i was told? I was told by the person who was in charge of that, that she was assigned to a disability home room and then she was assigned to a grade home room and they did not communicate back and forth and that's how she got perfect attendance for that year. I wonder how many other times that's happened and they've not caught onto that? Like I said, I am not wanting any pity, I'm not wanting anything. I honestly think that Molly has already been satisfied within the 2 weeks she's been there she's made friends, she done all this. I just wanted to come speak my voice to the board to say what a disappointment it has been to have a child in a school for 6 years and not get any help at all.

Dr. Chandra Varia-Chairman, we should inquire about what happened, see what we can do in the future.

Debbie Crum-That is irrelevant but if this goes along with the story that I have two kids and I have had to fight and I've had to struggle from the time my oldest one, who is 21 now, has been in school to be able to get my child an education and stay in Floyd County.

Dr. Chandra Varia- It is a good thing that you came here and let us know. Now the chairman can inquire about what happened and what happened to you, don't happen to another child.

Keith Smallwood-It was my understanding that you were still going to drop Molly off every morning and all you asked for was transportation to get to your mothers house who lives at Price? All that needed to happen was for a bus that was leaving DACE to go up to FCHS and put them on the left beaver bus that would drop her off.

Debbie Crum-Right, it wasn't like I was asking for something that wasn't already happening. It wasn't something that was totally pulled out of the blue, and I'm not saying that Molly is the only child in Floyd County, that's not it. It was just a quest to be able to keep her just like April said with friend but now I have had to move her. Honestly these last 2 weeks she has settled in , she is happy, I have her there with me. I just wanted to come to you as a parent who's been struggling since our children has been in school just to get them the education that they need. It just seems like there is always something that comes up that keeps us from getting what we need. Thank you very much for your time.

Mr. Hammond-If I could add something to that at the request of and working with Mr. Maynard, I think a lot of issues that we have heard from the 2 parents that are here are tied together to the transportation process. Reference was made to call a special meeting to act upon this, but we may need to work on this issue along with other district staff and bring a lot of variables to the board for you to consider as we look at different options and come up with something, a plan that might better meet the needs of the future and based on the conversation we've had I think that's possible. But I don't think its possible without looking back at where you've been and probably establish some parameters that you would want to follow as a board.

Linda Gearheart-Nikki did you have afterschool child care? How did they stay after school?

Nikki Gearheart-My attendance clerk stayed after she had clocked out with this child so she could attend DACE.

Debbie Crum-I had contacted Ted George multiple times to ask him if that was a possibility for afterschool care at DACE like Prestonsburg has theirs. I never got hardly any response for any reasoning, it was all dollar amounts as the reason why it couldn't be done.

Nikki Gearheart-I think that PES does receive a grant for that. I had checked into that with our Family Resource director and with his funding and our enrollment decrease we couldn't.

Keith Smallwood-I hate it, cause I know Debbie. I coached her sister and i think we have let them down. I think that is was something and could have been rectified in some form or fashion. I don't understand why we can't put them on bus and go to another school to catch another bus.

Brandon Maynard-Because I was following the rules that were before me. If this board decides to do otherwise, I will gladly do that.

Keith Smallwood-I think in a case like that you've got to use a little wisdom. Sometimes you got to ask for a little leeway from the board and you know sometimes its easier to get forgiveness than it is to come to this. I'm saying that different departments do what ever they want to do, no matter what the board voted.

William Newsome-The Superintendent said he will get with the transportation director and see what they can come up with.

C. SBDM Councils

D. Classified Employees

E. Certified Employees/FCEA

**Greta Gilbert**

I don't have to much to say, there been a lot of comments and everything tonight. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

I want to thank the our PHS Cheerleaders, our KESPA/FCEA Board for all the things they did for opening day, breakfast and just being there with everyone.

With FCEA there is a couple things we'd like you to consider. As you said earlier about September and the budget being finalized and all those things and also on opening day when Board Chair Newsome was talking about if there was money for a raise. Something to consider is a progressive raise, which basically means that those that are getting the least could get something that could help them more, rather than a flat percentage raise. Pike County done 3.5% raise to certified and most people but if they were making less than \$20,000 they got a \$1 more raise so that really helped bring up the ones that really need extra help. So if there is money I wanted that to be considered.

Also we have had a lot of wonderful training days as we were getting ready for the school year. We've already completed 3 of our professional learning days. We haven't had any G days yet, and our teachers are concerned that they won't get the time to do the work as teacher as the would need to do such as planning for lessons and grading papers. We want to emphasis that teachers get as much time as possible to do those things they need to do and not spend those days in trainings as we have in the past. That is all I have to say, thank you very much.

#### **F. Principals' Association**

#### **G. Members of the Board of Education**

Dr. Chandra Varia-I have 2 things to explain.

1. Floyd County Central School fundraising. You can use fundraising for a lot of things. I called the Floyd Central Principal and asked her about fundraising. We are always talking about the safety of our children. Why can't we use general fund money for tinting of the windows. When window is clean and don't have tint or curtain you can see into the school. If someone wants to hurt and they can see into the school what are you going to do. Why can't we use fundraising to help tint/or put curtains on windows?
2. The high school girls. We are spending thousands and millions of dollars on the boys. We are not doing as good with the girls as we are with the boys. PHS Volleyball team complains that they don't have a room to change. They give them a room but there is no air condition or window inside. We need to start giving same importance as we give boys to the girls. Need to start doing a better job next year.

#### **H. Public Comment**

#### **4. Action or Special Reports - Student Learning**

#### **A. Receive Attendance & Plans/Enrollment and Health Services Report**

#### **5. Action or Special Reports - Student Support**

No action needed on item 5D, no bids were submitted.

#### **A. Receive Utility Report for Prestonsburg High School**

**Order #20529 - Motion Passed:** Receive Utility Report for Prestonsburg High School passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Mr. Steve Slone.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**B. Receive Report of Superintendent**

**Order #20530 - Motion Passed:** Receive Report of Superintendent passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Mr. Steve Slone.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**C. Accept Notification of Personnel Matters**

**Order #20531 - Motion Passed:** Accepted notification of Personnel Matters passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Mr. Steve Slone.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**1. Actions Taken**

**2. Requests for Leaves of Absences**

**D. Consider/Approve sealed bid(s) for the Prestonsburg High School Gym floor**

**E. Consider/Approve Revised BG-5 for the Betsy Layne High Renovation and Addition, pending KDE approval**

**Order #20532 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Revised BG-5 for the Betsy Layne High Renovation and Addition, pending KDE approval passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Mr. Steve Slone.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes

Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**F. Consider/Approve Change Order #1 for the Allen Elementary Roof/HVAC Project**

**Order #20533 - Motion Passed:** Consider/Approve Change Order #1 for the Allen Elementary Roof/HVAC Project passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Mr. Steve Slone.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**G. \*Consider/Approve Change Order#1 for the Adams Middle Roof/HVC Project**

**Order #20534 - Motion Passed:** Approval of Change Order#1 for the Adams Middle Roof/HVC Project passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Mr. Steve Slone.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**6. Action by Consent**

**Order #20535 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve Item 6BB, which was done earlier in the meeting setting Athletic Event Ticket Prices as: Floyd County School-Free Admission, Retired Employees of Floyd County Schools-Free Admission, Adults-\$5 Admission, Senior Citizens-\$3 Admission passed with a motion by Dr. Chandra Varia and a second by Mr. Keith Smallwood.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

**Order #20536 - Motion Passed:** Motion to approve all consent items as presented except 6BB which was passed earlier in the meeting and 6CC which was just a discussion passed with a motion by Dr. Chandra Varia and a second by Mr. Keith Smallwood.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
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Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

- A.** Consider Approval of Minutes
- B.** \*Consider Payment of Bills and Claims
- C.** Consider/Approve Superintendent Timesheet, Travel and Expenses
- D.** Consider/Approve Memorandum of Agreement between Floyd County Board of Education and Big Sandy Community and Technical College
- E.** Consider/Approve amended 2024-2025 School Calendar
- F.** Consider/Approve the Student Handbook Code of Conduct Second Reading for the 2024-2025 school year
- G.** Consider/Approve the Student Teacher and/or clinical partnership agreement between the Floyd County Board of Education and University of Pikeville
- H.** Consider/Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Floyd County Schools and Kentucky Counseling Center
- I.** Consider/Approve an Instructional Partnership Agreement by and between Narrative 4 and Floyd Central High School
- J.** Consider/Retroactive Approval for Prestonsburg High School to purchase HUDL a leading sports performance analysis platform
- K.** Consider/Approve out of state travel on September 21, 2024 for the Floyd Central High School Jaguar Band to King's Island in Mason, Ohio via school bus provided by the Floyd County Transportation Department.  
Please Note: In case the trip needs to be rescheduled due to inclement weather, that date will be September 28, 2024
- L.** Consider/Approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Floyd County Schools and Mountain Comprehensive Care Center for Behavioral Health Services
- M.** Consider/Approve the agreement with Teach for America to administer the Elevate survey to support continuous improvement
- N.** Consider/Approve 2nd reading of the Floyd County Early college Handbook
- O.** Consider/Approve abolishing the pay scale of the Prestonsburg Elementary Family Resource Center Project Clerk/After School Child Care Director position from \$16.50 to \$13.50, new pay scale retroactive as of August 12, 2024
- P.** Consider/Approve to increase the number of Mid-Day FCSI/ATC buses from 11-14 for the 2024-2025 Academic School Year
- Q.** Consider/Approve the use of the Floyd County Board of Education Central Office Parking Lot to be used by The David School as a parent drop-off and pick-up point for their students to board and be dropped off by The David School
- R.** Consider/Approve the creation of a full time Itinerate Health Assistant position to be based primarily at the Renaissance Learning Center and School of Innovation
- S.** Consider/Approve applying for an emergency certificate for two teachers
- T.** Consider/Approve the application for conditional certification for the district wide media specialist position
- U.** Consider/Approve school-wide fundraiser through Kona Ice for Floyd Central High School for the 2024-2025 school year
- V.** Consider/Approve the Kentucky Blood Center to host blood drives at Floyd Central High School during the 2024-2025 school year



**W.** Consider/Approve Prestonsburg High School boys' basketball team is requesting permission to travel out of state for games: December 20, 2024 to Mingo Central High School, WV afterschool; December 21, 2024 to Abington High School, WV; February 8, 2025 to Hatfield-McCoy Shootout in WV

**X.** Consider/Approve authorizing the surplus of damaged and end of life Food Service Equipment

**Y.** \*Consider/Approve memorandum of agreement between Floyd County Board of Education and Eastern Kentucky University

**Z.** \*Consider/Approve Allen Elementary PTA Facility use agreement for the 2024-2025 school year

**AA.** \*Consider/Approve authorizing the addition of a stipend to deliver meals to the students that attend Early College

**BB.** \*Athletic Handbook: Cost of admission to school athletic events discussion

**Brook Moore-**

I just compiled a special report for you about one of the concerns that we have seen about the price of tickets for kids to get into ballgames. Last year when we did the athletic handbook it was \$5 for adults to get in and \$1 for students. Prior to that it was free for kids to get in. This past year when the athletic committee got together and we were looking at the pricing and things like that, one of the suggestions was to raise the price to \$3 for students. If you turn this over on the back I did some numbers for you and this is what they took in at gates vs. pay out for referee's. This does not count uniforms or anything like that. You only have basketball, football and things like that bring in a lot of revenue and they have to cover your fall sports and things like that. A lot of our teams like baseball and softball use public parks and they are not allowed to charge admission there, but you still have to pay all those extra's.

I did a last years comparison to a this year comparison, what we've done so far.

Last year one of the middle schools took up at the gate \$9,972 and paid out to referee's \$4,940.

Last year one of the high schools took up at the gate \$38,185 and paid out to referee's \$19,882.

This year one of the middle schools Girls Basketball team took up \$403 at the gate and paid out to referee's \$260. Their Football Gate took up \$847 and paid out to referee's \$330.

This year one of our high schools Girls Soccer Gate took up \$151 and paid out \$95 to referees. Next they took up \$105 and paid out \$95. Next they took up \$231 and paid out \$95.; Their girls volleyball gate took up \$260 and paid out to referees \$200. Next they took up \$235 and paid out \$200. Next they took up \$243 and paid out \$200.; Their Football Gate took up \$2,383 and paid out \$460.

I called around to all the schools and most of them have teachers work the gates and their clubs work the concessions so all the money they work out for the clubs or teams that money usually goes into their account for their things that they need. The money that comes in from the gate is the money that they use to operate on. Like paying for basketballs if they need, referees, and things like that. I just wanted to come talk to you all and explain to you all and the community that's here the reason why that we did raise that. I understand that every thing is super expensive. I received a phone call from a parent right after I release this and was asking why raised the prices. I explained to her about the operating cost. Like she said she has children that come to ballgames that she has to bring because she has older children playing and they don't even know what's going on a the ballgames. I want to do whatever is best for kids, and whatever is best for our schools.

Linda Gearheart-Did we say there is an age limit thought?

Keith Smallwood-5 years old

Brook Moore-Yes \$5 and under.

Keith Smallwood-I am probably one of the reasons that this is coming up. 3 years ago me and Steve sit on the athletic committee and at that time Joe Marson was head of transportation and county athletic director and the reason we decided to got with 5-0 is during COVID we did not charge at all. We were going to charge \$5 for anyone that came through the gate except for Floyd County students. He said that can be done very easily because they were going to receive a badge from the transportation department for "Here Comes the Bus". So if a student came through they could just flash the badge and they would get in free. If it was someone from another county coming to a Floyd County came they would have to pay \$5. This would eliminate the lose of money. I looked at it as a parent, when my daughter Phyliss played, if I hadn't been coaching it would have been me, my wife, and my 2 boys. That's \$30 a night. If we played 3 home games that week that's \$90 out of my household and I'm on a fixed income couldn't afford it. That was the reason behind what we were doing. Steve Slone was there and he remembers it very will. Mr. Marson said he had the answer and that will be "Here Comes the Bus" because every child would have one of these badges, and it was gong to be their responsibility to keep up with it. That was discussed as well, and that should be easy. The first time they come to a ballgame without it and mom and dad has to pay for it because they don't have their badge and this gives them a little bit of responsibility as well. If there is anyway that we can retroactive and see that transportation gets those badges out and once they do we can put it back into affect that we don't charge 5-0 to get in and we can charge visitors the flat \$5. This would help our fans, the economy is horrible right now and inflation is out of control, but if we can give them a break at the gate you might actually see more people come to the games.

Linda Gearheart-Have you talked to any of the principals about how they felt about it?

Brook Moore-Yea, and they have talked about some other operating cost too. They talked about transportation and when they run out of Section 7 monies they have to pull it from their athletics or teams. I know as a former principal I've had to do that as well. We didn't take buses a lot of the times.

Dr. Chandra Varia-I know everything is getting expensive and i personally think that we should not increase the prices for the kids. We should not even charge even \$1.

What I have learned before the game is that kids are hungry sometimes. Poor kids don't have money to go and get outside food or something. I discussed with our superintendent before and they explained to me that they can do 15 minutes teaching so they can have free food before the game. So kids that are playing don't have money to buy the food, how can they charge \$3 for kids to get in the game. They will not come, the poor kids can't, but we can afford to spend 1 million dollars on football field, but we can not afford free meals to kids before the game.

CC. \*Synovia-Here Comes the Bus; Tyler Tech discussion

**Brandon Maynard-**

As far as printing the badges for students it is definitely possible, that's not something that can't be done. The badges can be printed. I have the machine in my office so that is not an issue. It would just be a matter of getting the supplies that are required to print them. With working with the program that we all refer to as "Here

Comes the Bus", Synovia I believe is the name of the platform that is used, that is doable but Synovia "Here Comes the Bus" itself presents an issue.

Currently with recent events that occurred, I have had a lot of questions about how do we ensure that a child or an individual does not board a bus that is not supposed to be there? The ideal situation with the current platform that we have would be to use those scan cards. My next question was what happens when a child loses the scan card? What happens when a 5 year old does not have their scan card? Do we not permit them to get on the bus? Do we tell them no scan, card no ride? That would be my question and concern with that.

Some of the issues that we are having with this organization, and a speaker from the Kentucky Department of Education indicated that some of the equipment was not installed properly and that he could in fact shut down a majority of our fleet. Our mechanics are not permitted to cut any wire that is on a school bus. It has to be as is from the manufacturer and if anything is done or added to the bus it has to have the approval from the Kentucky Department of Education. Simply these devices were not installed correctly. Again the inspector from the department of education said that he could indeed shut a lot of our fleet down. Currently 50% of our buses are not equipped with "Here Comes the Bus". When we made contact with the company to have those installed, they said have your mechanics do it. Again our mechanics cannot because of the guidelines they have to follow.

With "Here Comes the Bus" the only functionality that we have with that is the scan cards being able to scan and knowing if the kid got on the bus or not. The "Here Comes the Bus" App will notify the parent when the bus is a mile or five miles from my house, you can set the radius. It does not include navigation in the package that we currently have. It does not include pre-trip inspections, walk-arounds and those sorts of things that drivers are required to do. In combination with "School Dude" that we currently use to book trips and that is where we do our parts and inventory. The district in combination with those platforms we are currently paying approximately \$44,000 annually.

I didn't like the thought of solely having to rely on a key card. Simply, what if another child got another child's key card? There is no identification that comes up on the screen, all it's going to do is scan that, that child has loaded the bus. Again that does not prevent a child that may be older or younger from loading the bus if they have someone's card.

One of the platforms that I have looked at syncs with Infinite Campus. When a child has a designated stop their picture and their name displays on the screen, whether it be pick up or drop off. It's on a tablet and the driver can hit a check or an X to say that, that kid loaded or unloaded the bus. This platform also comes with the navigation, it gives step by step directions to drivers. It goes as far as saying in 300 feet turn between the brown and blue house. It is that detailed. It does have the key cards also as an option, just like "Here Comes the Bus", however it is not required to be used. Since it syncs with Infinite Campus and a child is loading a bus and you do not see them on your screen, you can type in that student's name and if that student is enrolled anywhere in Floyd County Schools, their name and picture will appear on the screen. Then you can permit them if they were to have a bus pass or decline and not allow them on your bus. Within this new platform it also has pre-post and walk-around trip. The screen detaches and they walk around as they do their inspection that is required. Everything that they check is ok, great! Anything that they put an X on that they see is an issue or problematic, it automatically generates a work order and sends it to our mechanics. It also has the option for them to take a picture which immediately goes to the mechanics as well so they can see what is taking place with that bus. The inventory is also included in that platform. Unlike "Here Comes the Bus" the whole navigation thing. We talk about how those run on cellular service. I asked the question, if my route starts in an

area that does not have cell service, will my device work? The embedded route will continue to work and any child that you entered and has loaded your bus, as soon as signal comes to that device it uploads immediately. It's my understanding that it syncs with Infinite Campus every night. Some of those things that I have mentioned such as the pre-trip, post-trip, walk-around, and the work orders going in. That is available with the platform that we currently have at an additional cost and we are already spending \$44,000. So anything additional would be an additional cost on top of that. With this new platform that I was discussing, all of those things are included. Replacing "School Dude", and actually it could even replace time clock. This will be at a lower annual cost than what we are currently paying. At the time I feel like what we currently have was the best option and the best that was available during that time. It is my understanding that this was purchased in 2022. At this point in time it is not the most efficient, it is not the most effective and there are safer platforms out there that are available.

Keith Smallwood-What about our 5 year contract with "Here Comes the Bus"?

Brandon Maynard-Well I had a discussion with them actually and they said they would be back in communication with me. I expressed the concerns that some of the things were not installed properly and they did not honor their side as far as when we needed technical assistance. I also inquired about, well just to be blunt, I asked them what are we looking at if we come out of this lease agreement? We did not actually purchase the devices we are leasing them.

Keith Smallwood-But we signed a contract for 5 years or 60 months. I understand what the state inspector said but how many districts are using "Here Comes the Bus" in the state of Kentucky? When we go to KSBA they normally have a display of how it works and they normally explain how many counties its being used in. I wonder how many districts have had their mechanics install that stuff and they are going to shut their fleets down as well? Because I think there was like 50 districts the last time that I spoke to them, in the state. Now I could be wrong.

Brandon Maynard-I may be speculating but we may have had poor luck of the draw as to who installed ours and it was not every single bus, it was not the entire fleet. There were multiple in the fleet where they were not installed properly. One of the examples I can give you is where when they connect two wires and you know when you apply heat and you shrink the size, some of those were left exposed and not shrunk.

Keith Smallwood-That will cause a short and it can cause a fire, in a garage.

Brandon Maynard-That is part of the issue and concern that I expressed to them today is that we still have busses that have not been addressed and fixed by their company.

Steve Slone- So do we have any legal ramifications to get out of the contract Jonathan?

Jonathan Shaw-I'd have to look at the contract and see.

Junior Newsome-I understand that the initial cost to that would be \$170,000.

Brandon Maynard-If you went full on with everything. I overshot everything because I would rather come in with a larger number than a smaller number. I included in that, that our fleet would increase by 5 buses this year, because we've been getting 4-5 buses over the last few years. So I went ahead and assumed that would happen. Again those key readers are not required with this platform the students name and picture comes up, it syncs with Infinite Campus and the driver can actually click on the tablet. The key cards is an option, I guess it

just speeds up the pick-up process. If you take the key cards off of this platform it will reduce that cost approximately \$17,000.

Keith Smallwood-Did you say \$17,000? Personally I'd rather pay the additional \$17,000 and have everyone with an ID. We can have the principals pound it into a kid and a parent that is their responsibility to keep up with it. That's just me personally, it will be what ever the board wants to do.

Brandon Maynard-Well then again just like "Here Comes the Bus" if you had someone else's key card, you scan and it turns green so you know they are a student.

Keith Smallwood-Is there a way to put that kids picture on their key card?

Brandon Maynard-I have never printed those, I don't know if that is an option. If it is I am sure I can figure it out. But I can't answer that off the top of my head.

Keith Smallwood-Here is what I am saying, if i get a haircut I won't look like I did 6 months ago. I shaved this morning, a lot of people have never seen me this clean shaved. My hair is the same so you would probably know who I was but if you looked at my ID from my drivers license and I get pulled over by a cop, I am not going to look like the same person that is on that ID is what I am saying. Now if it's your typical driver that is there everyday they will know. If it is a sub or whatever your not. Back when I was a kid, my dad was a bus driver. One day we got home and there was a kid asleep on the bus, a first grader. My dad asked me what his name was and I told him Ronald. Do you know his last name? No. He walk him up and he said what's your daddy's name was? He said daddy. What's your mommy's name? Mommy. Where do you live? Home. He didn't have a clue because you know we were first graders. We had to go back to Osborne and track down that parent and I ended up graduating with that kid later and I'd rev him about it and I'd say, what's your mommy's name? He'd say mommy.

Linda Gearheart-Giving a scenario that an older student that did not belong in our school system got on the bus, how would that system have stopped that?

Brandon Maynard-With the current system you couldn't. What I had sent out to the drivers now is if it is not a regular student, to radio base and we would pull up Infinite Campus, ask the student initials, have them verify their birthdate and then every students password on their devices includes the last 4 of their student ID number. So even if you were to try to assume someone else's identity those last 4 numbers are specific and unique so not everyone would just know that.

On this other system where it is aligned with Infinite Campus, when you search students name, the driver can type in the name and you are a student in Floyd County your picture and where you go to school will show up. If you are not found, then obviously you are not enrolled in Floyd County Schools.

Linda Gearheart-So if a student got on that belonged at another school that would work the same?

Brandon Maynard-Yes, and with the ID card and a student is assigned to your route, and everyone knows that this is common that Little Sally or Little Johnny got on the wrong bus. If you scan the card and you do not belong on that bus it flashes up read and alerts that driver that you are not assigned to that route.

Linda Gearheart-Will this let still let students that are going home/spending the night with another student or something like that, how does that work?

Brandon Maynard-Well now as an administrator, I just took over this job August 1st. As an administrator at a school I never signed a bus pass letting people stay all night with each other. It was only for childcare and things like that. But with that even being considered. If a child gets on your bus with a bus pass that is normally not on your bus, using the same principle, their name is typed in and you can add them for the day. They will not be added permanently to your bus but they will be logged as being on your bus that day.

Linda Gearheart-You were saying that 50% of our buses do not have this on there buses?

Brandon Maynard-Approximately, we have a box with, I am not saying that we don't have equipment to equip a majority of our buses. I know for the 23 and 24 models we do not. We do have devices that are there at the garage to equip the other buses, but they are not supposed to be installed by our mechanics. Our mechanics are not allowed to cut wires. So that is what I was in contact with.

Linda Gearheart-So we don't know what that situation is until Mr. Shaw checks it, right?

Brandon Maynard-And I am waiting on feedback from them. Again looking at it, the upfront cost is quite substantial and anybody would say that, that is quite substantial. Even if we added the functionality to what we currently have, we are looking at already paying the annual cost of \$44,000 we are looking at \$50,000 a year. To add that all this other program offers. To add that to all the other program offers the annual cost will be \$35,000 and some change and that is a one year agreement. If you go into the second year there is a 5% cap that they cannot increase the cost by 5%. If we enter into a 3 year agreement, that number is locked in for 3 years.

Linda Gearheart-We can't act on this tonight until we know about the lease, is that correct?

Brandon Maynard-Well my purpose for tonight is that I have had a lot of concerns with it and that had been brought to me. So I wanted to let you know where we stand with "Here Comes the Bus" and how it can address some of the issue we have been having and how it does not address all the issues we have been having. And here is an alternative that addresses every issue that has been brought to me thus far. That doesn't mean that something new can come up tomorrow that this wouldn't address. But everything that has been brought up to this point it would address. Again at the time it was the best that was available, it was highly effective but you are looking at in a few years, you know how technology changes.

Keith Smallwood-How is this installed on a bus?

Brandon Maynard-That company has gone through Jessamine County and they are aware that approval has to be given before you modify any bus from factory and that has to be approved by the Kentucky Department of Education. They're familiar with that process and their crew comes in. Actually that quote included them removing all the remaining devices and installing all the new ones. Which are aging the portable devices with pre-trip inspections and bus drivers do those on paper and then turn into us when they can. That isn't a selling point, with this it can upload automatically take a picture automatically, and auto generates the work order that comes directly to the mechanics and they can provide direct feedback in that moment. It also includes the parts inventory aspect which is something we are paying separately for with "School Dude". With this Tyler Tech it is the same company that owns the MUNIS program that we use. So Tyler Tech is not new to this district. It's just this aspect of Tyler Tech is not something that we have discussed before tonight.

Larry Hammond-If I might, what I had asked Mr. Maynard to share tonight what information he had for you to think about and digest and give him a little input or think about it and give input later. We had actually talked about the contract, and Mr. Shaw can look at that and then make future plans based on the outcome of that. It

appears to be above and beyond what you have but it is also more expensive up front. All that is worthy of consideration and of course finance would need to digest that as you looking toward the main events her in a view days or a few weeks. I say that jokingly but setting the tax rate and thinking about the budget and finalizing the budget and all that fits into that piece for consideration.

7. Executive Session to Discuss (Litigation, Property, Personnel, and Expulsions), KRS 61.810

8. Adjournment

**Order #20537 - Motion Passed:** Motion to adjourn passed with a motion by Mr. Keith Smallwood and a second by Mr. Steve Slone.

**5 Yeas - 0 Nays**

Ms. Linda Gearheart	Yes
Mr. William Newsome	Yes
Dr. Chandra Varia	Yes
Mr. Steve Slone	Yes
Mr. Keith Smallwood	Yes

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY