

Lawrence County Board of Education Special Meeting

*Every Child College and Career Ready;
A Community Involved and Informed*

September 28, 2017; 6:00 p.m.
Lawrence County High School
Louisa, Kentucky

Attendance Taken at 5:59 p.m.:

Present Board Members:

Ms. Garnett Skaggs, Vice-chair
Ms. Barbara Robinson
Mr. James See
Ms. Maddlene Roberts

Absent Board Members:

Mr. D. Heath Preston, Chairman

Present: Superintendent: Dr. Robbie Fletcher; Finance Officer: Ms. Brandi VanHoose; Director of Federal Programs/DAC: Mary Hall; Director of Special Education & Preschool, Rhonda Colvin; Chief Academic Officer: Dr. Cassandra Webb; Lawrence County High School Principal: Christy Moore; Blaine Elementary Principal: Shawn Jennings; Louisa East Elementary Guidance Counselor, Misty Burton; Fallsburg Elementary Principal: Sara Bowen; Louisa Middle School Principal: Joe Cecil; Chief Information Officer/District Technology Coordinator: Tommy Burns; Board Secretary: Betty Mullins

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-chair Garnett Skaggs called the meeting to order with a reminder that the mission of the Board and Lawrence County Schools is *Every Child College and Career Ready; A Community Involved and Informed* and she led *The Pledge to the United States Flag*.

2. COMMUNICATION

2.A. Superintendent's Update

2.A.1. Budget Cut Update: Commissioner's Webinar

Dr. Fletcher summarized the latest news on Commissioner Pruitt's response to Governor Bevin's request for all state agencies to cut their budgets by 17.4%. For education, that would be about \$69.4 million. The Commissioner's response to the Governor was a cut of \$22.4 million, which is less than a third of what the Governor requested. Three areas recommended for cuts by the Commissioner are a 50% cut to Professional Development, a 50% cut to Textbooks, and a 17.4% cut to Family Resource Youth Service Centers (FRYSC). Technology funds are frozen and "may also be on the chopping block"; in addition, a proposed doubling of the percentage the district must pay CERS in fringe benefits for classified employee retirement would cost the district another \$301,000. "It's tight, and it

may get a little tighter.” The earlier spending freeze that Dr. Fletcher implemented will lessen the impact on our district. The freeze includes not filling two positions, freezing Textbook funds and half of both ESS and Safe Schools funds, among other items. Discussing how proposals are changing daily, Dr. Fletcher concluded, “We won’t know until after the special legislative session is over and it may carry over into the next one.”

2.A.2. KVEC visit with Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg

As chair of KVEC, Dr. Fletcher was part of an invitation only meeting this past Sunday with Mark Zuckerberg, creator of Facebook. Mr. Zuckerberg has become very interested in some of the innovations in education happening in Eastern Kentucky. These include student projects made possible by grants obtained by KVEC in robotics, drones, computer science, and virtual reality. Dr. Fletcher noted that our schools and kids were not a part of the event because the grants were obtained before Lawrence County became a KVEC member, although currently three of our principals are taking advantage of a KVEC grant for instructional coaching.

Mr. Zuckerberg first met individually with groups of students. “It was impressive to see his genuine interest and interaction with the kids and their projects.” The second part of the evening was a fried chicken dinner at the request of Mr. Zuckerberg and his group. The event concluded with Mr. Zuckerberg meeting with KVEC staff for questions and answers.

3. STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

3.A. Approval of Claims and Orders of the Treasurer passed with a motion by Mr. James See and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent. *(Dr. Fletcher pointed out several items on the Claims and Orders including a property rental payment, phone bills, and a Honeywell payment.)*

3.B. CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of **Consent Agenda** items, as indicated, passed with a motion by Ms. Maddlene Roberts and a second by Ms. Barbara Robinson by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.

3.B.1. Per diem and expenses for members present

3.B.2. Contracts:

3.B.2.a. LCHS Agreement with Walsworth Yearbooks for 2019 yearbook, Kim Cecil: \$8,315.39

3.B.2.b. Credit application with SICO (Food Service)

3.B.2.c. Property lease agreement renewal

3.B.3. Fundraiser Requests:

3.B.3.a. Louisa Middle School

3.B.3.b. Louisa East Elementary

3.B.4. Request for Assistance by Blaine Elementary Academic Teams for buzzer system; cost estimate: \$485

3.B.5. Use of Facilities: LCHS football field by LMS FCA for Fields of Faith; Amie Chicko; October 11, 2017

3.B.6. Out-of-state trip request: LCHS FFA officers to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 25-29; Melissa Blackburn

3.C. STATE TESTING RESULTS RELEASED

3.C.1. School Report Card for 2016-2017

The Board viewed the KDE School Report Card (SRC) webpage as Dr. Fletcher explained the changes and reporting components. The site opens with a video of Commissioner Pruitt discussing what the reporting dashboard will look like next year. Dr. Fletcher expressed concerns over components of the new accountability system that may cause hardship to districts that have limited revenue, components such as Opportunity & Access and Transition Readiness. Since 16-17 school year is a transition period away from the previous Unbridled Learning Accountability Model, the SRC does not provide an overall index this year; but it does provide data that can be used by the district to calculate a projected index, which is what Dr. Fletcher has done. 2017-18 continues the transition period, and the new accountability system is expected to be in place for the 2018-19 school year.

3.C.2. Differences in reporting 15-16 vs 16-17

Using PowerPoint slides, Dr. Fletcher led the Board through the differences in reporting of 2016-17 and the previous year, 2015-16 stating that his calculations for 16-17 are as close as you can get to “an apples to apples” comparison of the two years of data. An index is not provided in 16-17 for areas such as math and reading nor is an overall index provided. Component scores (Learners and Program Review individually) are not reported in the School Report Card, neither are there classifications or labels as in 2015-16. Other areas where there are differences include science assessment, on-demand writing, growth at the high school level, language mechanics, and Program Review reporting.

3.C.3. Comparison of 15-16 and 16-17

Dr. Fletcher stated that districts have repeatedly been told in meetings, “Tell your own story.” He cautioned that as you hear districts or schools refer to themselves as Proficient or Distinguished to remember that they are applying that label and not the State. “Such labels need an asterisk beside them with a lot of explanation,” Dr. Fletcher stated. “The State did not give a single summative score.” Dr. Fletcher shared his comparison of 2016-17 scores to the previous year for each school and for the district pointing out the numerous increases and a few decreases. In conclusion, Dr. Fletcher listed positive summative findings: Blaine Elementary grades, Proficient in 2015-16; Blaine Middle grades, Projected School of Distinction in 2016-17; Fallsburg Elementary grades, Projected Proficient in 2016-17; Louisa East, Proficient/ High Progressing in 2014-15 and Projected Proficient in 2016-17; Lawrence County High School, Distinguished in 2014-15 and Exited PLA Status in 2014-15 and Projected Proficient in 2016-17; Lawrence County District, Proficient in 2014-15, Projected Proficient in 2016-17.

If the State had provided summative data as in the past, the district’s overall designation would have been Proficient just falling short of the goal of Distinguished. Dr. Fletcher praised the progress made by the entire district since identification in 2010 as Persistently Low Achieving. Becoming a Proficient District has been seven years in the making. “I applaud the work of the teachers and the performance of the students and everyone from central office to pre-school. Foundations were laid six to seven years ago. We’ve tweaked and added other efforts and strategies, but this has been at least seven years in the making.” Vice-chair Skaggs stated, “On behalf of the Board, we appreciate all the work that went into this.”

3.D. Approval of Achievement Gap Targets for closing the achievement gap in all schools (BES, FES, LCHS, LEES, LMS, LWES) passed with a motion by Mr. James See and a second by Ms. Barbara Robinson by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.

3.E. Approval of the **First Reading** of revision to *Policy 08.221 Grading* passed with a motion by Ms. Maddlene Roberts and a second by Ms. Barbara Robinson by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.

3.F. Approval of the use of the *Digital Driver's License Citizenship Test* to fulfill Senate Bill 1 (2017) Civics Test requirements for seniors passed with a motion by Ms. Barbara Robinson and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.

3.G. Drug Prevention Curriculum Stakeholder Meeting Update (Dr. Webb, CAO)

Dr. Webb provided a written report of the September 22nd meeting stating that much was accomplished. The charge from the Board was reviewed by the committee, as follows: "Design a K-12 supplementary component to our health curriculum focused on drug education/prevention, addressing issues that may be specific to Lawrence County." Completed by Dr. Webb, CAO, and Ms. Mullins, DRT, prior to the meeting for committee review: (1) reviewed Botvin Life Skills and Too Good For Drugs to locate curriculum scope and sequences and correlation to Kentucky Health Education Curriculum and (2) contacted school districts who were reported to be currently using these two curriculum programs. During the meeting, the committee reviewed and compared, with a focus on the Board's charge, the scope and sequences of the two nationally recognized drug education curriculums brought by community health professionals, Botvin Life Skills and Too Good For Drugs, and an additional curriculum located by Dr. Webb, ETR HealthSmart. The committee then presented their final findings for curriculum recommendation. Next steps include completing the same review and comparison of curriculums with principals. Following principal review, findings from the stakeholder committee and the principals will be compared to determine final findings to present to the Board of Education in October. Dr. Webb shared other positive developments from interaction with the committee including activities being added to the District Improvement Plan: additional counseling, teacher training, and parent involvement. In addition, Pharmacist Amanda Ward will be receiving national training as part of a speakers bureau initiative that will hopefully be made available to our schools. Other good news is that two additional partners, associated with a grant through Morehead State University regarding retired volunteers, attended the meeting and may be offering funds for curricular materials. Dr. Fletcher recognized the work of Dr. Fletcher and Ms. Mullins in this effort.

3.H. Approval of the *KETS FY17 Technology Activity Report (TAR)* and its submission to KDE passed with a motion by Mr. James See and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.

3.I. Approval of the *Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Working Budget*, as recommended by Superintendent Fletcher, passed with a motion by Ms. Maddlene Roberts and a second by Ms. Barbara Robinson by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.

The following is information on the Working Budget was presented and discussed with the Board by Finance Officer Brandi VanHoose and Dr. Fletcher.

Working Budget

- Reflects prior two years of receipts and expenditures and current year budget appropriation for projected receipts and expenditures
- All funds are reflected in the working budget.
 - Fund 1 – General Fund
 - Fund 2 – Special Revenue Fund (state and federal grants)
 - Fund 21 – District Activity Funds
 - Fund 310 – Capital Outlay
 - Fund 320 – Building Fund
 - Fund 360 – Construction
 - Fund 400 – Debt Service
 - Fund 51 – Food Service
 - Fund 7000 – Scholarships
 - Funds 8 & 81 – Fixed Assets
- Working Budget must be Board approved and is due to KDE by September 30.

NOTE:

- One to one is the only special project for now. All other projects are on hold at this time.
- This does not take into account any cuts in budget but some funds have been frozen. At this time, holding off on hiring a security guard and another homebound teacher but have moved forward on the nurses. Also, have frozen some flex fund accounts. For example, Textbooks, Professional Development, and part of ESS. In addition, KDE has frozen KETS (technology) funds at this time.

REVENUE

- 16% of the revenue reflected in the budget is from local revenue
- 36% is from SEEK
- 11% is from the carry forward/beginning balance, and Medicaid reimbursements
- 11% is from State On-Behalf Payments
- 12% of the budget is from state and federal grants
- 4% is restricted in Capital Outlay, Building Fund, and Construction Fund
- Remaining 9% is Food Service

EXPENDITURES

- 55% is budgeted on Instruction, Student Support Services and Instructional Staff Support
- 2% is budgeted for District Administrative Support
- 3% is budgeted for School Administrative Support
- 1% is budgeted for Business Support
- 12% is budgeted for Plant Operations and Maintenance
- 9% is budgeted for Student Transportation
- 4% is budgeted for Debt Service
- 9% is for Food Service operation
- 3.9% is reserved for the Contingency

- It is evident from the first three categories listed in expenditures that students and instruction are a priority in Lawrence County Schools. Those three categories are driving the budget at 60%. Next closest category is Plant Operations and Maintenance at 12%.
- Two leased vehicles for maintenance have been included in budget - \$450 per month per vehicle for 5 years with option to buy (\$10,800 per year)
- CERS could increase from 19.2% to 28.86%, which would be approximately \$301,000. This has not been included in the budget. The KRS Board believes this will immediately decrease some of the unfunded liability.
- Blacktop for Blaine Elementary School has been included in budget for General Fund. This will be considered in the spring and needs to come from construction fund.
- District Health Coordinator \$42,000 in budget – may need to be restructured

The 2017-2018 working budget for Lawrence County Schools totals **\$29,048,162**.

In concluding the Working Budget presentation, Ms. VanHoose stated, “We need to be very pro-active in the decisions we make.” Dr. Fletcher thanked Ms. VanHoose for her work. “As a new Finance Officer and for her first year to come into this situation as it is now, it’s no small feat. She’s on the phone daily with people across the state. I appreciate her efforts.” Vice-chair Skaggs also expressed appreciation from the Board.

4. PERSONNEL

4.A. Approval to acknowledge receipt of **Superintendent’s Personnel Action/Update** passed with a motion by Mr. James See and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.

Hiring

Peggy Fisher	- FMD Teacher at Lawrence County High School
Bobbie Sue Rice	- School Health Nurse / Special Needs Nurse at Blaine Elementary School
Nicole Rickman	- School Health Nurse / Special Needs Nurse at Fallsburg Elementary School
Luanna Kehler	- School Health Nurse / Special Needs Nurse at Louisa West Elementary School

Change of Position

Kristy Sammons	- From Teacher at Louisa West Elementary School to Assistant Principal at Louisa Middle School
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5. ADJOURNMENT

Approval to adjourn passed with a motion by Ms. Barbara Robinson and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts by a vote of 4 to 0 with Mr. D. Heath Preston absent.


 Vice-chairwoman – Garnett Skaggs


 Secretary to the Board – Betty Mullins