

RECORD OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS (MINUTES)

March 9, 2021 Lee County Board of Education Regular Meeting

The Lee County Board of Education met in Regular Session in the Central Office Professional Learning Lab at 6:00 PM, on March 09, 2021.

Attendance Taken at 5:53 PM:

Present Board Members:

Mr. Lamont Coldiron

Mr. Donald Napier

Mr. William Owens

Dr. Avis Thompson

Ms. Janie Thorpe

CALL TO ORDER

Discussion:

Board Chair William Owens called the meeting to order.

111-21 APPROVE AGENDA

Discussion:

It was ordered to approve the March 9, 2021 Lee County Board of Education Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

Motion Passed: Approval of the March 9, 2021 Lee County Board of Education Regular Meeting Agenda as presented passed with a motion by Mr. Donald Napier and a second by Mr. Lamont Coldiron.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron Yes

Mr. Donald Napier Yes

Mr. William Owens Yes

Dr. Avis Thompson Yes

Ms. Janie Thorpe Yes

CELEBRATIONS

Discussion:

During the Celebrations segment, Superintendent Wasson recognized Lee County School District staff for flood relief efforts following devastating flooding that affected the county the first week in March. Staff have been involved in collecting/donating supplies, unloading delivery trucks, checking on students' well-being, and other help wherever needed. They are to be commended for their efforts.

COMMUNICATION REPORT

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson shared the monthly Communication Report, including the following:

- The district is in great need of a focused district vision and mission. Mrs. Wasson would like to begin working on this with district members who would like to participate. Board members are welcome and encouraged to be involved in the process. The current plan is to meet during the day on Wednesday, March 24th, and possibly Wednesday, March 31. The time will be determined in the next couple days. Board goals will need to be updated after the vision and mission have been developed.
- Mrs. Wasson distributed updated 2020 versions of the *KSBA Leadership Guide* to all board members and herself. Review of the *Guide* will allow all to have the same information so the board and the superintendent can grow together for the benefit of the district.
- Board members should schedule a time to meet individually with Mrs. Wasson regarding proposed modifications to the certified pay scale which would allow expanded years of service credit.
- New legislation has passed allowing unlimited NTI days through March 29. After March 29, we can utilize up to five more days if we operate with in-person instruction at least 80% of the time and every student has the opportunity to come to school in person at least 40% of the time, equating to two days. Wednesdays are not considered NTI, but part of a hybrid plan. Next year, NTI days will revert back to ten days for the school year. The new legislation also dictates that three days of non-participation is considered truant.
- The new legislation also allows the 2018-19 funding to be used for the current year, but attendance will once again be used to establish funding for the 2021-22 school year.
- SB 128 would allow a supplemental year for students to repeat the school year if desired. This bill has not yet passed but if it does then students would apply to the board by May 1 to repeat the current grade, even if they have graduated. Boards of Education will then have until June 1 to determine if all the students who apply for the next year can/will be accommodated. The board must either approve all or none of the applications. This legislation recommendation could change before it gets passed or not pass at all.
- Buses were on stand-by in anticipation of providing assistance in moving nursing home residents as flood waters continued to rise. Wolfe and Powell County school districts were ready with additional buses to move wheelchairs, as Lee County has only four buses with wheelchair capacity.
- The city has inquired about the use of Beattyville Elementary as efforts are made in assisting downtown businesses to resume operations. There are many hurdles to cross; the board attorney, insurance company, and KDE have been contacted for assistance. School facilities cannot be used for commerce, but the district may be able to help city or county government. Once need is determined, a special board meeting may be necessary to approve use of facilities if the city or county would like to utilize space in either Beattyville Elementary or possibly the lower level of the board office. The district cannot expend funds for repairs to Beattyville Elementary. The board attorney would assist in working out agreements for cost of space. As more is learned, the board will be kept informed.
- Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner, Jason Glass, sent an email reaching out to the district to let us know he is aware of the flooding devastation and is willing to help in any way he can. His assistance has been requested to help determine what is permissible regarding use of Beattyville Elementary.

- A person on staff from Hal Rogers' office contacted Mrs. Wasson Wednesday evening to get sizes of clothing for children who lost everything in the flood. The resource centers have connected with her and are providing her with information.
- Montgomery County Superintendent Matt Thompson reached out acknowledging our flood damage and offered any assistance he may be able to provide from Montgomery County.
- Mrs. Wasson has been in communication with the mayor and the county judge executive to let them know the schools are here to support them. She attended a county emergency management team meeting at the fire station Wednesday to listen and let the community know we are willing to help.
- Students will be given permission forms to take home and have signed if they want to help with flood issues. This may include cleaning out buildings, off-loading supplies, assisting with building for construction students, or meeting a variety of other needs.
- The LCMHS Youth Services Center and the LCES Family Resource Center are central hubs for assistance to our school families. If anyone needs help please refer them to the centers.
- District staff are providing a meal for workers from 8 Days of Hope on Thursday.
- The kindergarten registration process is beginning. This will help determine how many students may be enrolling in the upcoming year.
- The district has received 150 new desks and chairs for 4th and 5th grades at the elementary school and a partial shipment of 200 desks for middle grade students. The remainder of the desks for middle grade and the chairs should be here tomorrow. Additional desks may be purchased if these work well for these groups of students. Transportation staff is helping assemble the furniture to make up some of their time.
- The boys and girls basketball district tournament is next week. The boys play Monday night at 8:00, and if they win they would play Wednesday at 7:00. The girls play Tuesday night at 5:30 and if they win they would play Thursday at 7:00.
- Blue/White Night is scheduled for Friday of this week. During that evening we will unveil the plaque that was created in honor of Mr. Heber Dunaway.

112-21 REVIEW/APPROVE MONTHLY BUDGET REPORT

Discussion:

Tina Lucas, District Finance Officer, presented the monthly Budget Report for review and approval. Mrs. Lucas reported general fund revenues of \$428,911.99 and general fund expenditures of \$499,336.93 for the month of February. Expenditures outpaced revenues due to a large KISTA payment of approximately \$70,000 that was expected and had been budgeted. Otherwise, revenues and expenses were ordinary and expected.

Motion Passed: Approval of the monthly Budget Report as presented by District Finance Officer Tina Lucas passed with a motion by Mr. Lamont Coldiron and a second by Mr. Donald Napier.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron	Yes
Mr. Donald Napier	Yes
Mr. William Owens	Yes
Dr. Avis Thompson	Yes
Ms. Janie Thorpe	Yes

INSTRUCTION REPORT

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson and Instructional Supervisor Karen Angel provided the monthly Instruction Report.

VIA. KENTUCKY STATE TESTING UPDATE

Discussion:

Instructional Supervisor Karen Angel provided an update on state assessment expectations and plans. Mrs. Angel said KDE has advised of an expectation to test. She felt if KDE had been offered a waiver, they would have taken it. Waivers have been offered for districts in the bottom 5%. Testing is needed to gauge where students are and to assess gaps, but districts will not be held accountable.

There is a 95% participation requirement, and this requirement has not been waived. This is also a requirement of some federal programs. There is some concern in getting virtual students on site to complete the testing within the required time frame. The window has been widened for testing, as districts are now being given 14 days.

More flexibility in testing is also being permitted. The assessment has been shortened in an effort to make the process easier. Some concerns were raised regarding the data generated from a shorter test, but KDE believes the shortened test will not affect the validity of the results.

113-21 VIB. RE-EVALUATION OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PLAN

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson recommended continuation of in-person instruction four days per week and remote learning one day per week for students who choose to attend in-person. Virtual instruction will continue for students who chose this option. The plan has been working well, but the recent ice storm and devastating flooding have reduced the opportunities for in-person instruction.

The governor has suggested districts try to get students in person and even recommended putting them in "pods" or groups. We may start having some classes with students less than six feet apart, but all safety measures will still be observed, such as facing forward, wearing masks, etc. Communication will go to families explaining students may be positioned closer and classrooms may be a bit tighter.

Motion Passed: Approval to continue an instructional format of four days per week in-person and one day per week remote learning until re-evaluation at the April meeting passed with a motion by Mr. Donald Napier and a second by Dr. Avis Thompson.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron	Yes
Mr. Donald Napier	Yes
Mr. William Owens	Yes
Dr. Avis Thompson	Yes
Ms. Janie Thorpe	Yes

114-21 VIC. CONSIDER ACCREDITATION RENEWAL

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson requested board input and action concerning accreditation renewal through Cognia, formerly known as AdvancEd.

Cognia reached out to the district to gauge interest in continuing accreditation, which is set to expire this year. According to the company, Lee County High School has been an accredited institution for 99 years. To retain accreditation as a system, the district would be responsible for paying \$3,600 annual dues and \$3,000 for a four-day review for a total of \$6,600. For Lee County Middle High School to retain accreditation, annual dues of \$1,200 and an additional \$2,200 for a four-day review or \$1,650 for a three-day review for a total of \$2,850 - \$3,400 would be required.

According to finance records, \$38,129.32 has been paid to AdvancEd since 2009.

Accreditation has not provided an obvious benefit to the district or its students, nor is it a requirement by the Kentucky Department of Education. The review can bring focus to areas requiring improvement, and it can be a factor when families move into the area and are looking specifically for an accredited institution in which to enroll school age children. However, district staff have indicated that once past reviews have been completed they were not looked at until time for the next review.

The expense of \$6,600 to retain district accreditation is not in the current budget, so Mrs. Wasson asked the board to decide whether this money, or the \$2,850 - \$3,400 to maintain the high school's accreditation, is a necessary expense.

Discussion followed on the usefulness of the service. Mr. Lyons found the number of accredited school districts in the state to be 111 out of 538, or approximately 21%. LCMHS Principal Danny Wright and DPP Phillip Angel agreed the services the company formerly provided are now being provided through relationships with colleges, the Gear Up program, and KDE. Neither Mr. Wright nor Mr. Angel noted an advantage for students due to the school's accreditation status. Board members agreed if the service is not being utilized or is not needed the money should be spent where it could be more beneficial to the district and students.

Motion Passed: Make a motion to discontinue accreditation services passed with a motion by Ms. Janie Thorpe and a second by Dr. Avis Thompson.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron	Yes
Mr. Donald Napier	Yes
Mr. William Owens	Yes
Dr. Avis Thompson	Yes
Ms. Janie Thorpe	Yes

115-21 APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion:

It was ordered to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and recommended by Superintendent Wasson.

Motion Passed: Approval of the Consent Agenda as presented passed with a motion by Mr. Lamont Coldiron and a second by Mr. Donald Napier.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron	Yes
Mr. Donald Napier	Yes
Mr. William Owens	Yes
Dr. Avis Thompson	Yes
Ms. Janie Thorpe	Yes

VIIA. APPROVE MINUTES

Discussion:

It was ordered to approve the February 9, 2021 Lee County Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes as presented and recommended by Superintendent Wasson.

VIIIB. APPROVE BUS/TRIP APPLICATIONS

Discussion:

It was ordered to approve the following bus/trip requests as presented and recommended by Superintendent Wasson:

DATE SUBMITTED	SCHOOL	DEPARTURE DATE	RETURN DATE	LOCATION & DESCRIPTION	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	OVER NIGHT?	TRIP # IN TRAVEL TRACKER	COMMENTS
							2315	Trip Canceled
2/15/2021	LCMHS	3/4/2021	3/4/2021	Powell Co. High School / Girls Basketball	Matt Watterson	N	2316	
2/15/2021	LCMHS	2/20/2021	2/20/2021	Corbin Primary School / Archery	Sherry Frye	N	2317	
							2318	Trip Canceled
2/18/2021	LCMHS	2/20/2021	2/20/2021	Williamsburg High School / Archery	David Lyons	N	2319	
2/23/2021	LCMHS	3/12/2021	3/12/2021	Kentucky Exposition Center / Archery	Sherry Frye	N	2320	
2/26/2021	LCMHS	3/13/2021	3/13/2021	Kentucky State Fairgrounds / Archery	Jeff Perdue	N	2321	
3/2/2021	LCMHS	3/4/2021	3/4/2021	Powell Co. High School / Boys Basketball	Josh Broadwell	N	2322	
3/2/2021	LCMHS	3/18/2021	3/18/2021	Danville Bowlerama / Bowling	Joseph Bryant	N	2323	

VIIC. APPROVE FUNDRAISER APPLICATIONS

Discussion:

It was ordered to approve the following fundraiser requests as presented and recommended by Superintendent Wasson:

Requesting Group	Name of Fundraiser	Items to Be Sold	Dates of Fundraiser
LCMHS Archery (HS)	Shoot for the Gold	N/A: Donations for Score Shot at State Tournament	3/13/21
LCMHS Archery (HS)	Krispy Kreme Donuts**	Donuts	03/09/21 – 03/23/21
LCMHS Archery (HS)	Texas Roadhouse Peanuts**	Peanuts/Appetizer Cards	04/01/21 – 04/15/21
LCMHS Tennis	Online Silent Auction	Misc. Donated Items	03/10/21 – 06/30/21
LCMHS Tennis	Rada	Rada (Cutlery, Spices, Etc.)	03/10/21 – 06/30/21
LCMHS Tennis	Hillbilly Popcorn**	Kettlecorn	03/10/21 – 06/30/21
LCMHS Tennis	Bucket Shake*	N/A	04/03/21
LCMHS Tennis	Fan Cloth	Team Apparel	03/10/21 – 06/30/21
LCMHS Softball	Bucket Shake*	N/A	03/20/21
LCMHS Softball	10 for \$10	N/A: Sponsorships	03/09/21 – 05/31/21

*Bucket shake approvals will depend on approvals from the city.

**Any/all food sales on school campuses must comply with food service guidelines.

VIIID. APPROVE FACILITY USE REQUESTS

Discussion:

It was ordered to approve the following facility use request as presented and recommended by Superintendent Wasson:

From: Beattyville Christian Church, Mr. Jamie Sticker; Facility Requested: Sedley Stewart Auditorium; Purpose: Church services since the church was flooded; Dates and Times Requested: March 7, 2021, March 14, 2021 and possibly March 21, 2021 from 10:00am - 12:00pm

VIIIE. APPROVE PROPANE BID RENEWAL WITH FERRELLGAS FOR 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

Discussion:

It was ordered to accept the renewal proposal as submitted by Ferrellgas for propane services for the 2021-2022 school year. The original bid from 2020-2021 allowed two years of renewal at the district's discretion. Superintendent Wasson recommended acceptance of the following renewal terms:

- fixed price for propane of \$1.439 per gallon
- hazmat delivery fee of \$15.99 and fuel surcharges of \$6.99
- no charge for repairs to Ferrellgas-owned equipment; \$89.99/hour charge for repairs to district-owned equipment

VIIIF. APPROVE FY2021 SFCC KETS SECOND OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,529

Discussion:

It was ordered to accept the FY-2021 SFCC KETS Second Offer of Assistance in the amount of \$5,529 as recommended by Superintendent Wasson.

VIIG. DECLARE STUDENT DESKS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZE DISPOSAL

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson recommended declaring up to 350 student desks surplus due to new desk and chair purchases by the district. She further recommended disposal of the desks using an approved method identified by statute, preferably KRS 45A.425:

Surplus or excess personal property as described in this section may be transferred, with or without compensation, to another governmental agency; or it may be sold at public auction or by sealed bids in accordance with KRS 45A.365.

Preference is to identify another district impacted by recent flooding who may find the student desks useful to its educational program and transfer ownership or sell the desks to that entity. In the event the desks are not needed by another governmental entity, sealed bids will be accepted.

VIII. AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR BANKING SERVICES FOR FY2022

Discussion:

It was ordered to approve authorization for Superintendent Wasson to solicit proposals for banking services for FY2022.

ATTENDANCE/ENROLLMENT REPORT

Discussion:

Director of Pupil Personnel Phillip Angel presented the monthly Enrollment/Attendance Report. Enrollment as of March 3 was 901 students, five students less than the start of the school year. LCES has 428 students and has LCMHS 473 students.

The flooding experienced by the community will have an impact on enrollment and it is unknown what those numbers may be at this time.

In-person attendance ranges from a low of 53% for the junior class to a high of 80% for the first grade class. A district-wide average of 64% of students are attending school in person as opposed to virtually. As of March 3, both schools had at least 300 students attending in-person instruction. This marks the first time in the school year that both schools have reached this number simultaneously.

116-21 DISCUSS/APPROVE TENTATIVE GRADUATION DATE

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson recommended setting a tentative graduation date of Sunday, May 30, 2021, which follows the current last day of school for students on Thursday, May 27. Mrs. Wasson said she believes we will be able to host a traditional ceremony with smaller groups, spacing and masks.

Mrs. Wasson also shared the idea of hosting prom the Friday before graduation. The narrow window of the events will reduce the opportunity for exposure. Board members expressed agreement.

Motion Passed: Approval to set the tentative date for graduation on Sunday, May 30, 2021 passed with a motion by Mr. Donald Napier and a second by Mr. Lamont Coldiron.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron	Yes
Mr. Donald Napier	Yes
Mr. William Owens	Yes
Dr. Avis Thompson	Yes
Ms. Janie Thorpe	Yes

SECURITY/FACILITY REPORT

Discussion:

Facilities Director David Lyons shared the monthly Security/Facility Report including the following:

- SRO John Marshall has been maintaining a presence on school grounds due to a number of people trespassing on school property and causing vandalism. Many of the issues are occurring between 10:00pm and 6:00am.
- Work at the ATC is closer to being finished. The welding shop, welding classroom and automotive classroom had the most damage and those areas are being finished. Local staff have replaced ceiling tile. Work that ServePro was going to charge \$118,000 to do can be done locally for approximately \$50,000. The plan is for the ATC to be back to normal by the end of the month.
- Two new buses have arrived.
- Drivers will come in tomorrow to assemble desks to make up time missed.
- There is an issue at Beattyville Elementary with sewer water coming up in the bathroom floor. The gym and hallways were affected. During the flooding the first week in March, the basement was 9' deep in water. The water did not reach the main level.

PERSONNEL REPORT

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson gave the monthly Personnel Report, including the following:

Resignations:

Brianna Traylor (Russell), LCMHS Assistant Softball Coach

New Hires: None

Current Postings:

Bus Drivers/Substitute Bus Drivers

Bus Monitors

Instructional Assistants/Monitors

Assistant Custodians

Speech Therapist

LCES School Counselor

LCMHS Assistant Softball Coach

FMLA Requests: None

Letters of Intent are being collected for all employees, including substitutes. Substitute Letters of Intent will be mailed by the end of the week.

All 66 full-time classified staff have indicated intentions to return to the district for the 2021-2022 year. Out of 68 full-time certified staff, three have indicated they are unsure of a return for 2021-22, and one full-time certified staff indicated s/he will not return for 2021-22 (retirement). Letters of Intent are not legally binding and staff may change their minds.

117-21 APPROVE PAYMENT OF INVOICES AND CLAIMS

Discussion:

Superintendent Wasson recommended payment of bills and claims as submitted by Accounts Payable Clerk Michelle Angel.

Motion Passed: Approval of invoices and claims as submitted by Accounts Payable Clerk Michelle Angel passed with a motion by Mr. Lamont Coldiron and a second by Mr. Donald Napier.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron	Yes
Mr. Donald Napier	Yes
Mr. William Owens	Yes
Dr. Avis Thompson	Yes
Ms. Janie Thorpe	Yes

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion:

Board Chair William Owens opened the floor to any other business but none was brought forward.

118-21 ADJOURNMENT

Discussion:

It was ordered to adjourn the March 9, 2021 Lee County Board of Education Regular Meeting.

Motion Passed: Approval to adjourn the March 9, 2021 Lee County Board of Education Regular Meeting passed with a motion by Mr. Donald Napier and a second by Mr. Lamont Coldiron.

Mr. Lamont Coldiron	Yes
Mr. Donald Napier	Yes
Mr. William Owens	Yes
Dr. Avis Thompson	Yes
Ms. Janie Thorpe	Yes

Chairperson

Superintendent