

Superintendent addresses daily moment of silence

BY THE HERALD-NEWS

Breckinridge County Schools Superintendent Dr. Nick Carter issued a statement Monday afternoon notifying the public of a new state law requiring schools to start each day with a moment of silence.

Carter's message regarding Senate Bill 19 reads as follows: "Dear Breckinridge County

Learning Community, "The Kentucky General Assembly passed new legislation during the 2025 Legislative Session requiring all public schools in the Commonwealth to observe a moment of silence or reflection at the beginning of each school day. This law is designed to give students an opportunity for quiet

contemplation, reflection, prayer, or meditation, according to their personal beliefs.

"Effective with the start of the 2025-26 school year, each school in the Breckinridge County School District will begin the day with a brief period of silence, lasting no more than one minute. During this time, students will be

expected to remain silent and not engage in any distracting behavior. No student will be directed or encouraged to pray or reflect in a specific way; this moment is intended to be student-directed and respectful of individual beliefs.

"We encourage parents and guardians to take a moment to talk with your child about how this time might be used

in a way that is meaningful. Whether for quiet thought, personal reflection, or silent prayer, this daily practice is an opportunity for each student to start the day with focus and intention.

"If you have any questions about this new policy or how

it will be implemented in your child's school, please feel free to contact your building principal or our district office.

"Thank you for your continued support of Breckinridge County Schools."

St. Romuald Interparochial School

We would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year at St. Romuald. We are looking forward to this new school year and seeing all of the students again. We can't wait to get started teaching and growing in Christ and

in our education. We are continuously growing and looking for ways for our students to have opportunities and experiences they will remember forever.

We have an open house set for Aug. 7 at 5 p.m. in the

gym. We will have a short introduction then we will release students and their families to meet with their teachers in their classrooms. We will also have a uniform swap in the gym for students to donate uniforms for other

students to utilize.

Our school year will begin on Aug. 11. We look forward to this new school year and hope all students are excited for the start and successful this year!

Clint Board, Principal

POLICIES

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regulation. Just last year alone, a \$51 million investment supported 2,400 new housing units across Indiana, and the beauty of this fund is the money already being repaid and reused," Hughes said.

Senate Majority Caucus Chair Robby Mills, R-Henderson, who is also co-chair of the task force, asked Hughes if he considers the housing issue in Kentucky to be a challenge or a crisis.

"I would probably say it's a crisis," Hughes said.

Tim Schenk, general counsel of the Kentucky Bankers Association, and John Cooper, governmental affairs consultant for KBA, also offered testimony.

Schenk said several challenges surround housing in Kentucky, including low-income

and workforce housing needs, interest rates, limited federal tax credit availability, and proposed elimination of federal funds and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development cuts. He said inflation has recently eased some of the challenges, however.

"Again, banks can address the interest rate challenge. And what we have is a \$20 million commitment from banks to go towards a revolving fund, which would essentially address a lot of this housing crisis," he said.

He said HOPE of the Midwest has administered more than \$784 million in tax credit construction at a zero percent default rate. The group, which is a KBA subsidiary, has worked in various types of housing, including historical, manufactured, and new. The new funding could be used where it's needed throughout the state, he said.

Rep. Joshua Watkins, D-Louisville, said when there are partnerships using public-private funds, it's responsible to talk about parameters.

"You talked about state average income, but I know state average income and area median income to be vastly different, particularly where state average income can be skewed by a very wealthy person," he said. "I am concerned about eligibility requirements when we're talking about the poorest of the poor Kentuckians."

Rep. Jennifer Decker, R-Waddy, said she has concerns that Kentucky lacks enough skilled construction workers to spur development.

Billie Wade, executive director of HOPE of the Midwest, testified that this is certainly the case.

Rep. Shawn McPherson, R-Scottsville, asked testifier Charles Gardner, research fellow with

Mercatus Center at George Mason University, if he has seen interest in auxiliary buildings being placed in large developments with larger, upscale homes and homeowners' associations.

"I'll tell you most of these laws that I reference, particularly ones that are enacted, contain explicit carveouts for any sort of private covenant, including HOAs. So, it doesn't override the private covenant. I think, politically speaking, that would tend to be a bit more controversial. I'm not saying it couldn't be done," he said.

Gardner said another idea that's been broached is putting some type of time limit on HOAs so they must be renewed and won't be perpetual.

Lawmakers can't act on legislation until the general assembly meets in January 2026 or they are called into special session.

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