

# The Livingston LEDGER

in GOD WE TRUST

## Budget for Livingston Schools recommended for 2025-26

By Kristy Nelson,  
Livingston Schools

SMITHLAND- The Livingston County Board of Education met Monday night for its regularly scheduled meeting. David Kitchen, Board Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7pm to begin the meeting. He thanked everyone in attendance for attending the later than usual meeting.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. David Meinschein, superintendent, Randy Layne, principal of Livingston Central High School, and Leigh Choat, assistant principal of Livingston Central High School presented students with recognition awards. Brianna Fletcher was recognized for her acceptance into the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders at the University of Kentucky this summer. This leadership program exposes students to college life and explores different fields of study for careers in agriculture.

Alena Edwards was recognized for her acceptance into Craft Academy at Morehead University. The Craft Academy for Excellence in Science and Mathematics is a dual-credit academy for academically exceptional Kentucky students and allows accepted students to reside at Morehead University to complete their junior and senior high school years by enrolling in college courses. Also recognized for their acceptance into the Governor's Scholar Program, Josie Taylor and Joshua Turner will attend Murray State University this summer to further their leadership education in civics, economics, liberal arts, and sciences. Additionally, Avery Zaim was recognized for his acceptance into the Commonwealth Honors Academy at Murray State University.

During the Superintendent Report, Dr. David Meinschein discussed available funding by way of cost savings on completed projects that will be available for future construction or renovation projects. In a heartfelt moment,



Dr. Meinschein discussed a recent donation from the Holman family designated to help students in need. Dr. Meinschein reflected on how members this family impacted his life as a child and teen in Carrsville, noting how their influence created the leader and man he was today.

Moving on to business items, Dr. Meinschein recommended the adoption of the tentative budget for the 2025-2026 school year. He noted three items specifically in the budget: a 2% pay increase for all employees, budget allocations for a new bus and a new district board vehicle, and an increase in cafeteria manager pay.

Board member, Tammy Sayle, requested more information on the purchase of a new district board vehicle. District board vehicles are available for use by all employees of the school district and are often used for small student group transportation to educational and athletic events, employee transportation within and outside the district for professional learning and conferences, and district office employees transportation within and outside of the district when conducting school business. The budgeted amount would allow for the replacement of one of the vehicles that has reached depreciation and is in constant repair. Additionally Board member, Terry Watson, asked whether the budgeted new bus would have air conditioning and was assured that it would. Buses are purchased annually on a depreciation schedule allowing for the retirement of older buses.

Dr. Meinschein asked

Kristy Nelson, Child Nutrition Director and Instructional Supervisor, to speak on behalf of the significant raise for cafeteria managers. Ms. Nelson informed the Board that all raises for nutrition employees come directly from the Child Nutrition fund- which operates separately of the district budget. The proposed raise would place Livingston County cafeteria managers at one of the highest paid for the position in the region. Ms. Nelson also discussed an additional stipend to provide up to \$200 towards the cost of quality, supportive shoes for all nutrition employees beginning next year and occurring on an annual basis. She noted that this stipend would help increase overall staff wellness and morale. Board member, Tony Sanders, questioned whether all nutrition employees would get the substantial raise. Ms. Nelson stated that all nutrition employees would receive the district 2% raise as budgeted, however this year only the cafeteria managers would receive the additional raise. She added that Livingston County nutrition employees are among the highest paid in the region based on their student population and by raising the cafeteria manager pay, she is ensuring competitiveness and recruitment of high quality employees.

Upon the addressing board member concerns, the board voted unanimously to approve the tentative 2025-2026 school year budget. The Board also approved the renewal of the SRO contract and payments for LAVEC grant. At the end of the approved items, a motion was made to enter close session with the Superintendent Screening Committee to discuss Superintendent applicants. After approximately twenty minutes, the board returned to open session and adjourned.

Livingston County Board of Education's next meeting is scheduled for June 9th, 2025 at 5pm at the Livingston County Board of Education.

## Hole in One!



KPI Newspaper Group Publisher Greg LeNeave, had a Hole-in-One at Country Club of Paducah on hole #2. LeNeave used a XXIO 8-iron and a Titleist ProV1 ball. The hole was playing 127 yards. It happened on Wednesday night (Men's Night). This was his second Hole-in-One.

(photo courtesy of Country Club of Paducah)

## Smithland City Council takes on riverfront parking and ramp issues

By Scott Waggoner  
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SMITHLAND - At the May City of Smithland commissioners meeting, several items were discussed. It was decided that the city needed to elect a mayor pro tem in the event Mayor Bill Hesser was not able to attend.

Terry Cobb was elected and accepted as the city's mayor pro tem.

The next concern that has been reported was that damage has been reported to the riverfront parking lot due to extreme damage due to barges pulling up and loading and unloading workers. This has been witnessed by several

people. Letters will be sent to those responsible and ask them to repair the damage.

An ordinance posting that the ramp is not to be used for mooring or docking by barges for any reason. Smithland Riverfront is made for just this purpose. A sign may be posted near the damaged area prohibiting load and unloading workers.

The budget for 2025,2026 had its first reading and needs to be sent to USDA.

County Judge Williams, Attorney Frazer, Engineer Alan Robinson, Representative Randy Bridges and several employees of both the water ;and sewer department will meet to discuss the possibility of merger of sewer systems.

## LCHS Sanchez remains unbeaten in the 110 hurdles



Livingston Central's Talon Sanchez made it five for five in the 110-meter hurdles this season at Saturday's Area 1 Championships in Henderson. Sanchez edged Fort Campbell's Sam Atoubi and Hopkinsville's Keyshun Teal at the finish in this Max's Moment.

(photo courtesy of Scott Brown, yoursportsedge.com)

# 2025

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