

EIS encourages the heart at KASA conference

BY CHUCK JONES
ELIZABETHTOWN
INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

The Kentucky Association of School Administrators conference, held annually in Louisville, offers educators from across the state the chance to attend sessions, exchange ideas and grow professionally.

This year, Elizabethtown Independent Schools seized the spotlight as district officials were invited to present on its district-wide implementation of The Leadership Challenge, a research-based framework aimed at building values-driven leadership.

Their session, titled The Leadership Challenge Culture in Action: Encouraging the Heart at Every Level, showcased how the district has created a culture of appreciation and encouragement among its staff.

“It was a tremendous honor to present at KASA,” EIS Superintendent Paul M. Mullins said. “Any time you have the opportunity to share your district’s story and the work your team is doing with educators and leaders from across the state, it’s both humbling and energizing. I’m grateful for the chance to represent Elizabethtown Independent Schools and to contribute to the ongoing conversations that move education forward in Kentucky.” The presentation was led by



Elizabethtown Independent Schools

EIS Director of Personnel Derisa Hindle discusses the presentation at the KASA convention in Louisville.

EIS Director of Personnel Derisa Hindle and featured principals from each of the district’s schools, Panther Academy, Helmwood Heights Elementary, Morningside Elementary, T.K. Stone Middle and Elizabethtown High schools. Together, they outlined how EIS has brought The Leadership Challenge to life, focusing especially on the principle of “Encouraging the Heart.” “It was an honor to represent

Elizabethtown Independent Schools at KASA in Louisville last week and to share how we bring The Leadership Challenge practices to life in our district,” Hindle said. “At EIS, we believe our employees are our greatest asset and the most significant influence on student achievement and success. One of the key practices we embrace from The Leadership Challenge is Encouraging the Heart, which focuses on intentionally creating positive, meaningful moments

by recognizing and appreciating the hard work of our staff.”

One example of how EIS recognizes staff contributions is the district’s Elevate awards program, which honors 70 employees throughout the school year. During the session, each principal shared specific initiatives used at their school to build a positive culture and uplift staff.

“Culture drives everything that happens in our building,” Morningside Elementary

Principal Heather Goodman said. “When our students and staff feel valued and appreciated, great things happen. I think it is so important that administrators share ideas with each other so that we can make sure everyone feels appreciated.”

That emphasis on culture was echoed by every building leader who took part.

“Presenting at KASA gave me a chance to share just a few of the things we do at Panther Academy to help build a positive culture,” Principal Carla Kuhn said. “I believe people should enjoy where they work and what they do. When we find ways to add a little fun into the day or the week, it makes a big difference. The staff experiences that joy firsthand.”

At Elizabethtown High School, Principal Josh Henderson emphasized the importance of recognizing the positive work happening within the building.

“As a principal, few things bring me more joy than encouraging the hearts of others by shining a light on the good happening at Elizabethtown High School,” Henderson said. “Whether it’s celebrating a teacher’s impact or highlighting a student’s growth, it’s a privilege to remind people of the strength, support, and purpose we have in place for our entire school

community.”

For the EIS leadership team, the KASA conference was not only a chance to share their efforts but also learn from other school districts across Kentucky.

“It was a pleasure to share the strategies our admin team uses to make our staff feel appreciated and supported so that they can best serve our students,” T.K. Stone Principal Hope Janes said.

For many, presenting at the conference was a new and meaningful experience.

“I’ve been going to KASA for 12 years and this is the first time I’ve presented,” Helmwood Heights Principal Aaron Howell. “It was truly an honor to share all the things culturally we are doing in our great district to improve staff morale and attract the best talent to EIS.”

According to Hindle, fostering a workplace culture that values and uplifts staff is essential, not just for morale, but for retaining talented educators.

“We’re proud to say we have the best team here in Elizabethtown,” Hindle said. “We strive to show our gratitude for their dedication, heart, and commitment to excellence—because they are the reason our schools continue to thrive.”

Vine Grove discuss possibly buying, repairing city's backhoe

BY KODEE BRINEGAR
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Vine Grove city council has tabled discussion pending quotes in regards to possibly buying a new backhoe for the city to fix the current heavy machinery.

During Monday’s work session for the council, Chris Mayhew, Vine Grove Public Works director, told council members that when he started as director, he found out that the 21-year-old backhoe had not been serviced in over 1,000 hours.

“The backhoe had 3,300 hours on it then and it now has just a hair short of 5,000 hours,” Mayhew said. “We knew there was a problem with the transmission, we couldn’t put a finger on it, and it went into the shop for a hydraulic plate.”

Mayhew said the valve body that controls the hoe of the machine is leaking badly.

“It’s so bad that when you operate it, it’s washing the greases out of the bearings where the cylinders are mounted that swivel the backhoe,” Mayhew said. “That’s like metal on metal.”

That is the No. 1 problem, Mayhew said.

“One of the quotes we got was to rebuild the valve body and, to do that, they have to take the cab off the machine, that’s what makes it real labor intensive,” Mayhew said. “The other part of the quote was to do a new valve body or a remanufactured valve body.”

Mayhew said that every time he takes it to get serviced there is a new problem that arises with the backhoe.

“I complain almost every time that it goes into service. It has been serviced annually, ever since I’ve been on the job,” Mayhew said. “I talked to the service writer and I said, ‘Look, we got a problem, and I don’t understand what’s going on.’”

Mayhew said the city uses the machine to transport gravel around town and other heavy objects, such as concrete blocks. “Looking at what we have to do to fix everything, the quotes are upward of \$35,000 or more,” Mayhew said. “We have a quote from Wilson Equipment for a new backhoe for \$127,000 and a quote from Boyd Equipment for \$133,000.”

According to Mayhew, despite the budget already being set, both places gave the option of a 36-month lease.

“We’re in between a rock and a hard place,” Mayhew said. “I’ve talked with a number of contractors and people that work in this industry, and they say that roughly between 6,000

to 8,500 hours is the life of the machine.”

Councilman Lonnie Dennis said to Mayhew that he discussed the issues of the backhoe with a family member, who has been working with backhoes for more than 50 years.

“I told him we had 5,000 hours on the machine and he said that’s zero miles,” Dennis said. “He said we could fix that backhoe.”

Dennis said he doesn’t see a reason to buy a new backhoe.

“This backhoe is over 20-years-old and that’s very old for a piece of equipment. It doesn’t have very many hours on it,” Dennis said. “It needs to be fixed, and I think we need to get it fixed.”

Dennis suggested going to other mechanics who could potentially fix some of the issues on the backhoe; naming Little Man’s in Cecilia as the place to go to fix the valve issues.

“He does everyone’s work. When I had trouble with my backhoe, he was the one that was recommended,” Dennis said.

Councilwoman Donna Spagenberger said she also talked with someone who has been in the backhoe business for many years about the issues with the city’s machine.

“He said, ‘Donna, let’s shoot it high ball \$10,000 to fix it,’” Spagenberger said. “He also takes his stuff to Little Man’s.”

Spagenberger agrees with Dennis in wanting to fix the backhoe rather than buy a new machine.

“It doesn’t seem feasible to spend that much money if we’re certainly going to use it,” Councilwoman Kathy Sisco said.

Council members, minus Councilwoman Selena Hudson and Councilman Kristofer King who were absent, agreed to table the discussion until they could get more quotes from other entities that could possibly fix the backhoe.

“If I feel like it’s a reasonable amount, I’ll contact you guys and if it’s going to be a high amount I’ll probably call another meeting,” Vine Grove Mayor Pam Ogden said. “Right now, we’re almost at \$27,000 on that repair for the backhoe, according to a quote.”

Following the work session was the council’s regular meeting. During the meeting, the council heard first reading for three ordinances.

One ordinance was about changing the city’s ethics ordinance for city officials and employees.

“The city of Vine Grove is adopting a revised code of ethics for city officials and employees

pursuant to KRS 65.003. The ordinance defines terms and standards of conduct regarding conflicts of interest, receipt of gifts, use of government resources, confidential information, political solicitation, patronage, meeting attendance and other related issues,” City Attorney Mike Pike read to the council during the reading.

Another ordinance the council heard Monday was about amending the city’s Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

“Any construction, rehabilitation or other improvement of the structure taking place during a five-year period in which the cumulative percentage of improvements equals or proceeds 50% of the market value of the structure at the start of construction,” Pike said.

Council members also heard the first reading of amending the zoning map for lots 9 and 11 of Paragon Orchards.

“The property in question is actually adjacent to lots 9 and 11,” Pike said. “The commission held a meeting on July 21 to consider a zone map amendment for the property. The request is for an amendment of a two single-family to a four multi-family.”

IN OTHER BUSINESS

City Engineer Bob Woosley said emergency repairs on Creek Bell Bridge will be starting shortly.

“The quotes we got from Dirt Works and Phillips Brothers were low, below quote at \$24,650,” Woosley said. “Very soon we’re going to coordinate with Chris (Mayhew), because we have to close the road temporarily to do the work.”

Woosley said that they will keep everyone posted in regards to construction on the bridge.

“Once we get that done, we will open the road back up, but we’ll keep the weight posting on it,” Woosley said. “The weight limit restrictions will remain until we replace the bridge.”

Woosley also reports they received a quote for road paving. The lowest quote was from Scotty’s Paving.

“Their quote for all work ranges from \$173,684 to a high of \$286,000. We got a really good number,” Woosley said.

Council members also voted 50, with Selena Hudson absent, to adopt the budget amendment for fiscal year 2023-24.

Vine Grove council will meet again at 6 p.m. Sept. 8.

Kodee Brinegar can be reached at 270-505-1413 or kbrinegar@thenewsenterprise.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

MASTER COMMISSIONER SALES
To comply with the orders of the Hardin circuit court, the Commissioner will sell the property described in the following actions on **Wednesday, August 13, 2025**, at the hour of **2:00 p.m.** at the Hardin County Justice Center, 120 East Dixie Ave., Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Said property shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and upon the following terms and conditions.
At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay cash or check, if paying in full, or make a deposit of 10% with the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days. In the event the successful bidder desires or elects to credit the balance, he or she will be required to produce one of the following:
1. An irrevocable letter of credit (MUST HAVE THE ORIGINAL, NO COPIES) from lending institute at the time of the sale. Please note that a loan commitment or bank statement will not be sufficient.
2. Post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon. If a purchaser chooses to use a surety for the remaining balance of property purchased, **THE SURETY MUST PROVIDE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TO THE MASTER COMMISSIONER BY 2 PM THE MONDAY PRIOR TO THE SALE AND BE PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE SALE** (If a married individual intends to act as surety, their spouse must also sign.):
(i) A COPY OF A DEED WHICH IS UNENCUMBERED AND A COPY OF THE STATEMENT OF VALUE FROM THE PROPERTY VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR (PVA OFFICE), TO WHICH THIS BOND WILL ATTACH.
(ii) A COPY OF THE CURRENT ACCOUNT STATEMENT, A SWORN FINANCIAL STATEMENT WHICH SHOWS A NET WORTH OF AT LEAST 2 1/2 TIMES THE SALE PRICE.
3. AN IRREVOABLE LETTER OF CREDIT (MUST HAVE THE ORIGINAL, NO COPIES) FROM THE LENDING INSTITUTE TO THE SURETY.
The down payment, in addition to either an irrevocable letter of credit (MUST HAVE THE ORIGINAL, NO COPIES) or acceptable surety (see requirements above), must be produced at the time of the sale. Said bond and/or irrevocable letter of credit shall be for the unpaid purchase price and bear interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum from the date of sale until paid. (Unless otherwise court ordered)
(a) The purchaser shall be required to assume and pay all taxes or assessments upon the property for the current tax year and thereafter.
(b) All properties are sold subject to the judgment and order of sale in each case which should be reviewed carefully prior to purchase. The Judgment and Order of Sale can be reviewed at the Hardin Circuit Clerk’s office, 120 E. Dixie, Elizabethtown, Ky.
(c) The Master Commissioner does not obtain a title search or investigate for further liens on the properties listed below nor conduct or authorize a survey of the property. ****the purchaser is responsible for title searches and/or any additional liens not named in the judgment and order of sale and for the results of any good and accurate survey of the property.**
(d) The Master Commissioner does not have access to the properties listed below and therefore makes no representation or warranty of any kind as to the conditions of these properties.
(e) Bidding is in increments of \$500.00 up to \$75,000.00 and \$1,000.00 for over \$75,000.00. If Plaintiff provided a one-time opening bid, a first-bid increment of \$100.00 may be made.
(f) If the property sells for less than 2/3 of the Master Commissioner’s appraisal amount, there is a 6 month right of redemption period.
(g) If purchasing as a Corporation, LLC, or Trusts please provide the Master Commissioner’s Office by the Monday prior to the sale date with the following:
1.) An updated certificate of good standing for the entity for which they are purchasing.
2.) Entity must provide its EIN Number
3.) Resolution- Proof that the person bidding is authorized to bid on behalf of the entity.
4.) Identification: Current Driver’s License and SSN

SALE NO. 1
US Bank National Association, but not in its individual capacity but Solely as Owner Trustee for REO Trust 2017-RPL1 vs. Vicky Lehman, et al (24-CI-02228)
Amount of Judgment: \$69,407.46 plus interest and costs
412 HIGHLAND AVENUE, VINE GROVE, KY
MAP ID# 140-20-04-002
Recorded in Deed Book 1189 Page 583 in the Hardin County Clerk’s Office

SALE NO. 2
Village Capital & Investment, LLC vs. James L. Ashley, et al (25-CI-00485)
Amount of Judgment: \$ 362,253.64 plus interest and costs
20 S. HARCOURT ROAD, GLENDALE, Y
MAP ID# 102-00-00-044
Recorded in Deed Book 1480 Page 553 in the Hardin County Clerk’s Office

SALE NO. 3
PennyMac Loan Services, LLC vs. Nancy E. Lamonda, et al (25-CI-00263)
Amount of Judgment: \$188,522.00 plus interest and costs
609 PIKE STREET, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY
MAP ID# 220-10-09-026
Recorded in Deed Book 1565 Page 1024 in the Hardin County Clerk’s Office

SALE NO. 4
Nationstar Mortgage, LLC vs. Kristina Moreno, et al (13-CI-01493)
Judgment Amount: \$107,368.97 plus interest and costs
702 ANDRA DRIVE, RADCLIFF, KY
MAP ID# 140-30-07-001
Recorded in Deed Book 1261 Page 658 in the Hardin County Clerk’s Office

SALE NO. 5
Freedom Mortgage Corporation vs. John S. Wollaston, et al (23-CI-01169)
Amount of Judgment: \$193,838.38 plus interest and costs
1714 NIGHTINGALE DRIVE, ELIZABETHTOWN, KY
MAP ID# 201-30-01-122
Recorded in Deed Book 1453 Page 1142 in the Hardin County Clerk’s Office

SALE NO. 6
Nationstar Mortgage, LLC vs. James W. Sallee, et al (25-CI-00690)
Amount of Judgment: \$142,642.64 plus interest and costs
400 BERKLEY COURT, RADCLIFF, KY
MAP ID# 160-20-05-033
Recorded in Deed Book 1467 Page 333 in the Hardin County Clerk’s Office

BARRY BIRDWHISTELL
MASTER COMMISSIONER
HARDIN CIRCUIT COURT
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