

# Spenneberg recognized at final board meeting

BY TAYLOR WILLIAMS  
THE NEWS DEMOCRAT

Carroll County Board of Education met for the final time of 2024 and held a farewell celebration for board member Rob Spenneberg in what was his last meeting for 2024 after a dozen years on the board.

Spenneberg, who opted not to run for re-election, was presented a certificate, an engraved hunting knife, and cake. His seat will be filled by Jeff Bates, who will begin his service on the board in January.

Superintendent Casey Jaynes noted that Spenneberg began serving in September 2012, when he was appointed to serve out an unexpired term and then decided to run for the seat and has served ever since.

During his time on the board, Spenneberg served as vice chair three years and board chair

two years during his 13 years in office.

Jaynes listed some of Spenneberg's strengths and accomplishments while serving on the board including being "instrumental in approving technological improvements throughout the district," helping install "the turf football field and soccer field at the high school and the renovation of that facility," helping develop "the iLead Academy" in Carroll County, working to provide "mental health initiatives for staff and students" and "training opportunities for staff members," and supporting the "K through 12 align curriculum throughout the district."

"His contributions to our school district have been impactful and will be felt for many years by our student body and our staff members," Jaynes said. "Rob, we thank you

Carroll County Board of Education member Rob Spenneberg with the engraved pocket knife he received at his final meeting as board members. Spenneberg is stepping down after more than 12 years service on the board of education.

Taylor Williams

for your dedication and what you've done to put Carroll County schools on the right track."

Spenneberg had several family members attend the meeting including wife Chizelle Spenneberg, youngest daughter, Johnica Spenneberg, eldest daughter Ashley Spenneberg-Perkins, and son-in-law Bobby Perkins. "Family, thank you for allowing him to help serve his community and his school district," Jaynes told the family members.

Jaynes then gifted Spenneberg an engraved hunting knife and a short celebration was held with cake and punch in the middle of the meeting before meeting business

resumed.

"We're definitely going to miss you, Rob," Chairperson Gwen Chapman said. "It's been great working with you, for sure."

"It's real easy to make decisions when you have wonderful people that give you good information to make decisions," Spenneberg said. "It takes an army, I tell you what ... and so it's a pleasure to be a part of you all, but the work and the accolades go to you all, not me."

In other business: • Carroll County High School student Geoffrey Hash was recognized during the Student Achievement portion of the meeting for his par-



The Board's first regular meeting in 2025 will be at 5 p.m. on Jan. 9, at the Carroll County Middle School Auditorium.



Handout

Several Christian Academy of Carrollton Parent Teacher Student Association board members take a picture with the school mascot — (from left) PTSA Member Jennifer Herrel, PTSA Secretary Meagan Pence, PTSA Member Kalyn Hudgins, Eagle Mascot, PTSA Vice President Kira Meadows, PTSA President Mollie Shirley, and PTSA Secretary Dawn Taylor — at one of the events the PTSA participated in this semester.

# Christian Academy PTSA wraps up first semester of operation

BY TAYLOR WILLIAMS  
THE NEWS DEMOCRAT

The Christian Academy of Carrollton's Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) recently wrapped up its first semester of operations with 39 members in two teams

The organization was formed to work to on fostering positive relationships and engage and motivate the academy's stakeholders to "get involved and really just to link up our skill sets," said PTSA President Mollie Shirley.

Shirley said the association wants to provide a better relationship between the parents and the academy's office and give the parents a voice in certain areas and give the students resources through dual credit courses and internships.

The 39 members are divided among members and executives with the member team meeting on a monthly basis, and executive team meeting weekly.

"At our executive meetings, we have subcommittees that are planning different activities and planning different projects," Shirley said. "Those subcommittees are led by our members, giving them a leadership role." Subcommittees tackle areas like events, recruitment, fundraising, maintenance, student and teacher appreciation, and spirit and morale.

Shirley noted the meetings are open to the public, whether or not you're a member but that "only members can vote on any budget items or any items that would need further discussion or ... committee appointments or new committees that have been created."

The association has recently received a national grant called "Build Up and Belong" from PTA Connected. Shirley said the \$2,000 grant will provide a third party platform called Discord that can be used to help have "meaningful discussions between parents and teenagers regarding technology usages."

Shirley said the money will be used to stage an event with free food and tech giveaways for parents and their

preteen/teenage children in either February or March of 2025.

"We want to provide an event ... for parents to ask the right questions and then to seek any other guidance for their family if they need additional support," she said. in an effort to "have a healthier digital environment for their home ... especially for teenagers."

The association is also planning other events, fundraisers, and projects they will hold during the 2024-2025 school year. Previously, a Back to School Bash was held in August, Grandparents Day in September, "a College 101 session" in October, and the group helped with the Live Nativity scene during the Very Hallmark Christmas Carroll in early December.

Shirley said the association is separate from the academy's board of education and they hope to "be involved in a lot more of the day-to-day items, whereas our school board is going to be involved in more of the decision making." It also has an "entirely separate working budget and different events" with parent members who are involved in the board.

As an alumni of Christian Academy, Shirley said the school has never had anything like the association before. "It was basically just the same parents getting together and doing whatever needed to be done," she noted. "It wasn't an organized group where we had a budget" did fundraisers and had "very directed and very structured meeting times" and more.

This association began its work in February 2024, when Shirley proposed the idea to the academy's principal, Larry Pender as a way to create "a parent group that would basically link the needs of our school to our parents and support our teachers."

After speaking with Pender, Shirley went before the academy's board of education with that proposal in March 2024. "They were really excited for us," she said. "They did have some questions — just some of the financial parts of it."

# Mentorship program to host kick-off event

BY TAYLOR WILLIAMS  
THE NEWS DEMOCRAT

The Future 42 Mentorship Program will host its annual Kick-Off Event on Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) in Carrollton.

This event, which will take place from 12:30-2 p.m., will allow sophomore, junior, and senior students from the Carroll County Area Technology Center and the iLead Academy exposure "to advance manufacturing majors and careers in our region."

According to Heather Yocum, site director for JCTC, about 70 students are expected to attend the event. Students are required to register for the event through their school counselors.

"There will be a QR code and an application for students to complete that determines their interests ... which company they want to have their mentorship with and in what department," she said.

The students will be granted access to the JCTC's "lab spaces and to meet employers" from the program's partners including North American Stainless, NUCOR, Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company, and DOW to get an idea on what kind of areas are available and whether the companies might fit into their career future.

"It's kind of a meet and greet," Yocum said. "Then from there, they'll fill out applications and determine which group they want to be with — which company and which department."

According to Yocum, the program takes place in the spring semester when students will be meeting with industry partners monthly up until the end of the semester.

"We normally make it year long, but this year we decided to offer Future 42 tours in the fall, and then offer mentor programs in the

spring," she added.

The mentoring includes job shadowing once students have chosen an occupation and company to see "what is expected in the job and working for the company."

Students will likely have "multiple mentors" from the company of their choice working with them in their "pathway and answering questions about the job and company during" their time shadowing.

In addition students will work to develop a resume, practice interviewing with employees during "mock interviews that will prepare them

for future interviews."

Yocum said the Future 42 Program is currently in its third year. "We started as a pilot program just with ATC only, and we had probably around 20 students," she said. "And we did that just with Kentucky Utilities."

The program has grown since then with more students involved and more companies participating.

"We have seen an increase in our numbers for Future 42," she added.

## 2024-25 KENTUCKY BASKETBALL YEARBOOK

**ENERGIZE!**  
Mark Pope assembles contender in warp speed

Excitement has never been higher for a new Kentucky basketball season and The Cats' Pause is here to get the party started by bumping the size of our 2024-25 Basketball Yearbook from 312 to 336 pages!

Inside the 45th annual yearbook, you will find:

- Mark Pope's journey to UK coach
- In-depth with Pope on basketball
- Profiles on UK players and coaches
- Previewing new 16-team SEC race
- Previewing non-conference slate, including Duke, Gonzaga
- Marking the 50th anniversary of UK's 1975 season
- The next generation of Cats
- Previewing the State colleges and universities
- Boys High School region-by-region preview
- Girls High School region-by-region preview
- Kenny Brooks' journey to UK and player profiles

**VISIT US ONLINE**

www.mycarrollnews.com  
www.mytrimblenews.com

**\$17.95 + \$8** priority mail delivery

ORDER TODAY AT  
**SHOPCatsPause.com**  
or scan QR code