

# THE LC SUPERINTENDENTS DESK

## “WEATHER” OR NOT: THE DECISION ON SCHOOL CLOSURES

By **KATIE H. WEBB**  
*Lawrence County Superintendent*

Winter weather can be unpredictable, or downright nasty, like we have had for the past week. Deciding whether to cancel school or not is never easy. I want to share the steps we take when the forecast is uncertain. Our goal is always to ensure the safety of our students and staff while balancing the importance of instructional time.

When bad weather is in the forecast, we start watching conditions early. Our county is large geographically, with a mix of paved main roads, county roads, and many unpaved secondary roads. What might seem passable in one part of the county can be dangerous in another. To get the full

picture, district staff drive routes across the county before sunrise to check for icy or unsafe conditions. We also communicate with local road crews, the national weather service, neighboring districts, and emergency management officials to make the most informed decision possible.

Safety is our top priority, but we also understand the challenges to families that come with school schedule changes. I fully realize that not everyone will agree with every decision that's made, but I assure you these decisions are made with careful thought and the best intentions for everyone involved.

In the past decade, we've gained the ability to use Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI) days when bad weather strikes. These virtual learning days give us more options instead of relying solely on traditional snow days, which must be made up by lengthening the school calendar. NTI days do not need to be made up, but we are only allowed to use up to 10 in a school year. When we consider using NTI, we want to ensure that power or Internet outages in the county won't create barriers for students to complete their work from home.

When school is delayed or canceled, we notify families through phone calls, text messages, email,



social media, and local news outlets. If you haven't updated your contact information with your child's school, now is a great time to do so.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate tough weather-related calls. We always strive to make the best decision for our students, families, and staff.

Stay safe and warm this winter!



**BIG SANDY** *Briefs*

BRIEFS | From **A2**

Rebel Dr., (south of Fort Gay on Tolsia Highway). Early registration is \$20, at the door is \$25. Chick-Fil-A concessions will be sold. Door prizes during the event.

Contact any cheerleader or basketball player, Krystal Keene, Desiree Keene, Renee Blackburn or Shaunna Stroud. PayPal: Tolsiacheerboosters@yahoo.com or \$Cashapp: THSBoysbball, or check out flyer on Facebook.



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## “FILL YOUR SHOES” PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED IN LAWRENCE COUNTY SCHOOLS

By **SARAH GAUZE**  
*Lawrence County Schools*

Lawrence County Schools is implementing the “Fill Your Shoes” Program, a unique year-long initiative designed to build meaningful connections between our young kindergarteners and graduating seniors. Each kindergarten student will be paired with a high school senior, offering them mentorship opportunities and engaging fun activities and experiences. The program aims to cultivate a mutually beneficial, supportive, and encouraging relationship for both age groups. As positive role models, our high school students will guide our kindergarten students in exciting activities



and foster bonds, helping instill a sense of responsibility and leadership. Our goal for this program is to create unforgettable memories and build a stronger school community! Our first Fill Your Shoes engagement occurred on Dec. 3, 2024, following the Senior Breakfast, hosted at the Louisa Free Will

Baptist Church. The kindergarten students met Santa and partnered with a senior to complete a craft time project. There were smiles and laughter throughout the building. Both groups of students enjoyed the day's activities and are eagerly looking forward to the next scheduled event!

## LAWRENCE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD HOLDS MONTHLY DEC. MEETING

By **SARAH GAUZE**  
*Lawrence County Schools*

The Lawrence County Board of Education held its regular meeting at Lawrence County High School in the library on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. Board members Jim See (Chairman), Madglene Roberts (Vice-Chair), Barbara Robinson, Garnett Skaggs, and Susie Rice were all present in person. Mr. See called to order the meeting. The board approved the agenda.

The agenda was amended to allow Marshall University students to perform their externships within the LC School District.

In students and staff presentations and recognitions:

Mr. See, Ms. Robinson, and Mrs. Rice were sworn in as elected LC Board members for a 4-year term. Mr. See has served on the board for 19 years. Ms. Robinson has served on the board for 28 years. And Mrs. Rice has served on the board for 3 years. We appreciate our board members' service to our schools.

Schools will resume their spotlights in January of 2025; LEES- January; LWES- February; BES- March and LMS- April.

In communications, Mrs. Webb gave the Superintendent update: The LCHS held the Senior Breakfast, which the Louisa Free Will Church hosted. We thank our board members, Mrs. Barbara Robinson and Mrs. Susie Rice, for attending the event. After breakfast, the new program Fill Their Shoes held its first event for kindergarten and LCHS seniors. This is a yearlong program that pairs kindergarten students with high school seniors. This program will propel opportunities for mentorship, shared experiences, and fun activities.

All students enjoyed the morning with Santa! Next, high school students worked on an ornament craft project with the younger students.

The sixth-grade academic team showcase had a great turnout. BES hosted the showcase, with FES becoming the overall champion and BES placing in second place.

The LCS Security Committee recently held its first meeting. The committee is comprised of district administrators, staff representatives, SRO's, local law enforcement, and parents. The first item of business was to analyze the current safety procedures in place throughout the district. Next, the group discussed future avenues of safety within the district.

Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Rice attended the KSBA Winer Symposium. Mrs. Webb also participated in the KASS conference in Louisville. She had the opportunity to meet with other superintendents across the state and with other legislative members. They discussed what is happening within education in the state of KY.

A KASA mid-year review for new superintendents was held, and Mr. See presides as the local contact on the committee. The group met online with Mr. Fred Carter, Mrs. Webb's executive coach, and her mentor, Greenup County Superintendent, Mrs. Traysea Moresea. Mrs. Webb's mid-year review was completed, and she asked for the board's feedback.

KEDC is holding two town hall meetings for KDE. The first will be held on Dec. 19, 2024, from 10 a.m to 1 p.m. in Ashland. This meeting will discuss school fundraising through SEEK. The

second meeting will be held on Jan. 22, 2025, to discuss information and input on the new accountability system. Mrs. Skaggs asked if there would be significant changes in the accountability process. Mrs. Webb explained she suspects there may be significant changes for 2026-2027.

Christmas break begins this week. The last day for students is Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024. Students will return to school on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025. We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

There were no public comments.

In Student Learning & Support Services:

The board approved the Minutes of the November 18, 2024, Regular Meeting.

Approved the Claims and Orders of the Treasurer.

Mrs. Webb explained some changes to the General Fund warrant. The name of the fire alarm monitoring company, ADT, was changed to Evron. Three fuel purchases were made from the bulk plant. The first purchase was for the gas tank at the bus garage, the second was for a smaller gas tank located at BES, and the third was for a fuel tank for the new buses, which require an additive fuel mixture.

An annual purchase for Google Education. This used to be a free subscription but now requires payment.

Mrs. Brandi Peters presented the Monthly Financial Report: Beginning Balance: \$7,330,906; Total Revenue for Aug: \$4,490,319; Expenditures for Aug: \$3,215,493; Fund 1 Cash Balance for Aug: \$2,601,191; Ending Balance for Nov: \$8,563,644.

Balance sheets reflect the balance of each fund as of Nov 30th, 2024.

In the Consent Agenda:

There are scheduled out-of-state trip requests within the tri-state area.

Several teachers requested permission to apply for various grants to help them receive new equipment.

The LEES Safety Patrol requests assistance for the annual safety patrol Washington D.C. trip. They requested \$100 per student, totaling \$4,000.

In Construction/Building & Grounds Projects/Updates,

Approved a \$10,719.63 invoice for Phase 1 of the New Carpentry Building and Greenhouse from RossTarrant Architects.

Approved a \$515,821.38 invoice for work performed on the LCHS Vocational Building and Greenhouse from Codell Construction. The building will be completed very soon.

The opening ceremony date was discussed. February was proposed as a possible time span.

