

Caverna Board of Education

Student, Staff, and Community Recognized

BY HAILEY ENGLAND

The Caverna Board of Education met in regular session on November 18, 2025.

Board members Gina Lyon, Allison Dennison, Jennifer Briggs, Wayne Hatcher, Jenniffer Ballard, and Superintendent Amanda Abell were in attendance.

Jennifer Briggs opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reading the district's vision & mission statements and Superintendent Amanda Abell began the meeting by leading in prayer.

COMMUNICATION

Board Member Allison Dennison addressed those in attendance regarding the Munfordville Sports Complex, which has begun registration for spring soccer, softball, and baseball. She informed the community that registration is also open to Caverna students, as many were previously unaware of this.

"This registration includes jerseys and hats for baseball and softball, and for soccer, it includes jerseys and socks," said Dennison.

Registration forms are available at both the elementary and middle schools, as well as on the website: <https://www.caverna.kyschools.us/>.

RECOGNITIONS

The Board of Education recognized Students of the Month. They were as follows:

-Liam Ponce (Caverna Elementary School), whose nomination read, "Liam is an amazing example of what it means to be a Colonel! Each and every day Liam comes to school with not only a positive attitude but an eagerness to learn. He constantly puts forth his best effort in everything he does and never gives up even when things may get tough. Liam is a friend to all and a student I know I can count on when I need a helping hand! He displays kindness, responsibility, and positivity in every situation! Liam truly is a role model to those around him and is going to change the world with his kind spirit and his willingness to learn! Congratulations Liam!"

-Jadah Froedge (Caverna Middle School) whose nomination read, "Jadah has made an amazing transition from elementary school to middle school. She is a hard worker and takes pride in her work. Congratulations Jadah and keep up the good work."

-Jantin Wykoff (Caverna High School) whose nomination read, "Jantin made the A/B honor roll for the first nine weeks, and he has no unexcused absences this school year. He also participates in Baseball at Caverna High School. Congratulations Jantin!"

-Alyssa Barbour (Athlete of the Month). Her nomination explained, "Alyssa was a big part of the CHS Volleyball team and will be a huge contributor this year for the Lady Colonels Basketball program. She is not only a great athlete but also an excellent student with All A's the first nine weeks and no unexcused absences."

Core Value Award Winners were Amy Kilmon (October), Terry

Smith, and Genny VanMeter.

Kilmon, who received the award in October but was unable to attend the Board meeting, was recognized, as Abell read, "Ms. Amy Kilmon embodies the core value of Nurture through her compassionate and hands-on approach with students. Her love for teaching and dedication C to helping students grow into independent learners is evident in all she does. With grace and resilience, Amy supports wherever needed, making her an invaluable part of our district."

Regarding Terry Smith's nomination, Abell announced, "We proudly acknowledge Mr. Terry Smith as a Core Value Award winner for exemplifying both Nurture and Empower. He consistently fosters a caring, supportive environment that encourages growth, builds confidence, and promotes collaboration among students and colleagues. Through his commitment to empowering others with the tools and guidance they need to succeed, he inspires independence and ownership of learning. Mr. Smith works tirelessly to support the needs of families, making a meaningful and lasting impact on our community."

For Genny Vanmeter, Abell said, "We are proud to honor Ms. Genny VanMeter as a Core Value Award winner for exemplifying Inspire and Empower. She creates a caring, supportive environment where students are encouraged to grow and reach their full potential. With her contagious enthusiasm and love for books, Ms. VanMeter turns reading into an adventure, inspiring curiosity and confidence. Through creative activities, thoughtful book recommendations, and a welcoming library space, she empowers students to become lifelong readers."

For the first time ever, Caverna Board members recognized a community member as the Community Partner of the Month. The honor was presented to Rick Woodard.

"Rick is always volunteering to help us cook at football games and other activities whenever we need him," said Abell. "He has also volunteered to help grill for the upcoming basketball season. We really appreciate all the hard work he does for us—it's not easy standing at that grill all night cooking. We truly appreciate you and everything you do."

LE'BRAUN CARES INC.

Representatives from Le'Braun Cares Inc. spoke to the community to share information about their nonprofit organization. Le'Braun Cares Inc., a faith-driven nonprofit created in loving memory of Caverna graduate LCPL Le'Braun Hamilton, is a new initiative serving the community through awareness events, support initiatives, outreach, and acts of service.

Inspired by Le'Braun's compassion, the organization is dedicated to raising awareness for substance abuse, mental health, and suicide prevention. "Though his time was short, his impact will live on," said the president of the organization.

Le'Braun Cares Inc. hosts events



▲ Rick Woodard was given the honor of first-ever Community Partner of the Month.



▲ Athlete of the Month, Alyssa Barbour



▲ Caverna High School Student of the Month, Jantin Wykoff



▲ Caverna Elementary School Student of the Month, Liam Ponce



▲ Caverna Middle School Student of the Month, Jadah Froedge



▲ October's Core Value Award Winner, Amy Kilmon



▲ Core Value Award Winner, Genny Vanmeter



▲ Core Value Award Winner, Terry Smith

for the community and partners with professionals to assist those struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

Currently, the organization is running a canned food drive until December 15, with drop-off locations at Horse Cave IGA, Graves Gilbert's office in Cave City, and the Cave City Chamber of Commerce.

They are also hosting a community holiday meal on November 29 at 12:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and meals will also be available to go. Santa will make an appearance, and there will be door prizes for attendees. For more information about this Organization they have a page on facebook called- @Le'braun Cares Inc.

KDA Announces 2026 Poster, Essay Contest

Bluegrass Roots, Agriculture Strong, theme focuses on state's farming heritage

Kentucky students are invited to enter the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's (KDA) annual Poster and Essay Contest, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell has announced.

The theme of the 2026 contest is "Bluegrass Roots, Agriculture Strong" encouraging contestants to illustrate in words, original artwork or photographs how Kentucky's heritage is reflective in its agriculture.

"Kentucky's history is deeply rooted in agriculture. Residents

can be proud of the work farmers and producers do every day to honor that history and plan for the future," Commissioner Shell said. "By showcasing that love for our heritage in written words and beautiful art, Kentucky students can show their appreciation for what Kentucky farmers have built in our communities. This year's contest invites students to share how Kentucky's farming past has played a vital role for Kentucky's future."

Students in grades K-12 may submit a poster, an essay of 500 words or less, or a digital entry, which may be photos or original digital artwork. Each entry must include the actual written theme and be postmarked

by Friday, March 20, 2026.

Winners will be notified by Friday, Apr. 17, 2026. Winners in the poster and essay competitions will be selected in each grade. One statewide winner will be selected for digital artwork. Each winner will receive a \$100 award from Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and will be recognized at the 2026 Poster and Essay Contest Awards Ceremony next year. Winning entries will be displayed in Commissioner Shell's Frankfort office and at the 2026 Kentucky State Fair in August in Louisville.

For more information, including complete contest rules and an entry

form, go to kyagr.com/marketing/poster-essay-contest.html or contact Bethany Mattingly, director of KDA's Agriculture Education and Outreach Division, at Bethany.Mattingly@ky.gov or (502) 782-4125.

