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BCEA vice chairman Doug Osborne

Board approves teachers' pact; some voice displeasure in pay

By Thomas J. Barr THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE - The Bullitt County Public School Board unanimously accepted a contract with the district's teachers' organization.

But that doesn't mean that all of the members of the Bullitt County Education Association agreed with some of the language contained in the contract, which will be in effect through 2025-2030.

Several educators spoke to the board on Monday night with a majority of the issue centering around language which would extend the school day by several minutes but would not include any added pay.

While there was some grumbling from those in attendance, superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon said he had been told that the BCEA membership ratified the contract by a 60-40

Before the board voted on the contract proposal, which had been negotiated last month with members of the school district and the BCEA, several teachers spoke in opposition. A consensus among the speakers

was that the 2.5 percent increase proposed by the district was not adequate. Most were seeking at least a 5 percent increase. Another point of concern of most

who spoke was a lack of respect they were being shown by the school sys-Doug Osborne, a 17-year teacher

in BCPS and vice president of the BCEA, said many teachers are done with the district after seeing the language of the contract. He said they are done sacrificing

their time and energy to the district

and that the actions have damaged the trust with the teachers. "We care about our students,"

He said teachers have gotten mandates from legislators and now there are more demands from the

local officials. We're teacher tired," Osborne said of the feelings of many educa-

The teachers are already giving of the their time and energy long after the work day has ended. During the negotiations, Osborne said the BCEA brought forth many ideas on how to improve morale but most were rejected by the school system.

Dr. Eden Gabbard, another teacher in BCPS, said the past raises have not kept up with inflation. Not only does it hurt the teachers financially but it also hurts the district in being able to retain and to attract new educators.

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Man faces indictment for sexual charges with minor

indicted on multiple charges relating to actions involving a minor in a sexual perfor-

The Bullitt County Grand Jury has indicted Anthony Johnson on nine counts.

According to the indictment, Johnson was charged with five counts of distribution of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor and four counts of possession of matter portraying a minor in a sexual performance. The indictment alleged that on Oct. 2 and

Oct. 21, 2024, Johnson was distributing materials with the minor under the age of 12 in a sexual performance.

On those same dates, he was also in possession of those materials.

The most serious offense is a Class B

felony, which is punishable by 10-20 years in The case was investigated by the state

Attorney General's office. In other indictments:

*Eugene Gendron – charged with complic-

ity to trafficking in a controlled substance. The indictment alleges that on Feb. 4, 2025,

Gendron had methamphetamine in his pos-This is a Class B felony, which is punish-

able by 10-20 years in prison. Det. Tyler Reed of the Greater Hardin

County Narcotics Task Force investigated.

*Darla D. Burbank – charged with robbery and wanton endangerment. The indictment alleges that on March 14,

2025, Burbank used force on a victim while she was committing a theft.

And she attempted to injure the individual when she struck him with her car.

The most serious offense is a Class B felony, punishable by 10-20 years in prison.

Deputy Chad Simpson of the Bullitt County

Sheriff's Office investigated. *Michael Raley – charged with possession

of a controlled substance. The indictment alleges that on Jan. 23, See INDICT/page A-4

Resilence at Bowman's Valley School



Bullitt Central choir students brought music to the special celebration at Bowman's Valley School

School system offers talents to make Bowman's Valley educational facility



Bowman's Valley student Darlene Ayers spoke on school

By Thomas J. Barr

THE PIONEER NEWS SHEPHERDSVILLE - It was a celebration of the resiliency of Bowman's Valley School.

And it was a day to unveil the story of the one-room schoolhouse that will live on forever thanks to students in the Bullitt County Public School System.

On a bright Thursday morning, members of the committee to preserve the African-American school gave a little history and then students from throughout the school district gathered at Bullitt Central High to show off their work to

keep that story alive. Gwinn Thompson and Darlene Ayers thanked superintendent Dr. Jesse Bacon and the teachers and students for truly making the schoolhouse an important educational treasure.

They both focused appreciation to Tammy Ott, who saw that the schoolhouse was deteriorating and being vandalized and could soon be

Over the next 15 years, a committee worked to find a way to fund a relocation to property next to the school system's central office.

By the dark of the night, the school moved

see SCHOOL/Page A-6

r project completed wit Kinetic gets maj

By THOMAS J. BARR THE PIONEER NEWS

SHEPHERDSVILLE – Federal dollars were made available to expand the opportunity for

residents to be served by highspeed internet.

And, in Bullitt County, the first phase of those dollars have reached fruition.

vice Stephanie Bell, president with Kinetic by

Windstream, reported the news that the first phase of fiber optic internet expansion had been completed.

The project, which had a \$2 million donation by Bullitt Fiscal Court, cost \$6.8 million.

It expanded service to areas such as Cedar Grove, Solitude and Brownington Road.

Since the project in that area started in September 2023, 1,700 new customers have taken advantage of the service.

Plus. Bell said a number of existing customers upgraded their service.

Over 170 miles of fiber has been installed in the first phase, said Bell.

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