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Owsley Co. Board of Education News for August

By Lisa Robinson; Booneville Sentinel

The Owsley County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, August 11, 2026. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Joyce Campbell. Roll was taken by Betty Jo Neeley, Board Secretary. A motion was made and carried to Review/Approve the Agenda as presented.

Superintendent Gary Cornett recognized Tanya Tirey (Attendance Specialist at OCHS) for her 25 years of service to the Owsley County Schools. She was recognized at school right before they ended the year. She was given a plaque at the Board meeting. “She got a good opportunity and will be right over the hill with the Soil Conservation District. You did a good job up there for 25 years,” said Sup. Cornett. Tanya said, “thank you all very much. It has been a pleasure working with you. I have loved you all and I am going to miss you all.”

A motion was made and carried to Review/Approve the Board Meeting Minutes from the July 14, 2026 Regular Board Meeting. The KSBA Regional Fall Conference is going to be held at the Breathitt County Area Technical Center on September 14, 2026. Board members Deron Mays and Kim Campbell along with Superintendent Gary Cornett will be attending. Board member Joyce Campbell was in attendance for the Learn & Earn KSBA Webinar on July 21st. Board members Joyce Campbell and Fannie Couch will be attending a Learn & Earn KSBA Webinar on August 20, 2026. The September Board Meeting needed to be rescheduled due to conflicting schedules. The Board members agreed to hold the next meeting on September 1, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Finance Director/Treasurer Autumn Herald gave the Financial Report which includes the AFR (Annual Financial Report), Payrolls, Claims, Monthly Financial Report, Head Start/Early Head Start Financial Report and the Food Service Financial Report. A motion was made and carried to approve the Financial Report. A motion was made and carried to approve the Superintendent’s Travel for July and August, 2026 (none at this time). Charlie Davidson gave a review of the Attendance/Enrollment Report. “I will give you some good news this time. Our attendance right now is a little over 98% for the first four days. Our enrollment right now is at 593. We have 303 kids at the elementary and 290 at the high school. We will hopefully pick up a few more soon and make it to 600.” He continued, “the second part is that I want to propose asking the community and individuals to help with Attendance Incentives, Student Recognition & Programs that promote a positive school culture. This is something the community or individuals can help sponsor each month or an event.” A motion was made and carried to approve asking for sponsorships.

A motion was made and carried to approve the following Consent Items: Review SBDM Reports (OCES & OCHS); Approve Donations (Backroads of Appalachia - \$1,250.00 to the Class of 2029); Approve/Award Bids for the destruction & removal of 2 mobile units (tabled until next meeting); Approve ARC Chairperson by Title – 2026-2027 SY (Principal, Assistant Principal, Special Education Director, Counselor); Review Annual Security Updates (Brett Burns – needs approved every year); Review Working Budget and Approve at the September Board Meeting; Review Proposed 2026-2027 Tax Rates & Approve at the September Board Meeting (taking Compensating – same as last year); Approve/Amend Draft Procedure (09.36 AP.2 – to include KDE Updates 702 KAR 5:130 Section(6) and 702 KAR 5:080, Section 4(2) Use of Nine or less Passenger Vehicles (the state decided to let you use vans and suburbans to transport students and now it is almost impossible to use vans and suburbans to transport students. Basically, the only people that can drive them are bus drivers. They have to be labeled with Railroad Crossings, Transporting Students and they have to have fire extinguishers, first aid kits, vomit bags. Everyone that drives one has to have a driving course, pass the D.O.T. physical and background checks.); Approve the 2026-2027 Addendum to MOA HCTC (Dual Credits); Approve Legal Shield Proposal 2026 Employee Legal & Identity Theft Protection Plans; Approve Submittal of all Required RFP’s, MOA’s for Existing Grants/Programs including but not limited to (Community Education, Save the Children); Approve Family Medical Leave (Franny Stall – extended FML 2026 – 2027 School Year; Rachel Hisel - August 11 – 21, 2026); Approve 2026 – 2027 FFVP Grant Award \$32,412.00; Approve the Request for Proposal (Baseball Field Lighting – FEMA gave us the money to replace two light bulbs at the field); Approve the Request for Proposal – Different Website (it has not been updated since 2021 – we have not changed anything on it – still has Tim Bobrowski as superintendent) and the reports from each department (included in the packets that each Board member has). Congratulations to the cooks for serving over 35,000 meals in 7 weeks during the summer feeding program.

Brad Mullins was present to introduce himself to the Board. “As an outsider coming into Owsley County, what you all have in place is outstanding. I love the close-knit community that we have from food service to custodial staff to bussing. It is amazing what is in place. I am really looking forward to seeing what great things we can achieve.”

The Board acknowledged the Personnel Action Report by the Superintendent which includes: employed: Melissa Ward (FMD Teacher OCES); Kennedy Gay (Elementary School Secretary); Jacob McCoy (LBD Teacher OCHS); Kathryn Jagers (Certified Substitute); Donnie Johnson (Substitute Bus Driver); Craig Herald (Certified Substitute) and Jennifer Smith (Family Service Worker Head Start). They accepted the Resignation of Serita McCoy (ESS Coordinator OCHS – effective 07/20/2026) and Elizabeth Woodard (Instructional Assistant/Cheer Coach OCES – effective 07/22/2026).



Owsley County Fair Dates Announced

The City of Booneville has announced that the dates for this year’s Owsley County Fair will be September 2nd through 6th at the Owsley County River Park Show Grounds located 135 KY 28, Booneville. Thanks to Bill and Sue Murrell for their continued use of the property.



Congratulations to Piper Taylor, the winner of the TV giveaway at the Partners for Rural Impact (PRI) table during the OC Back-to-School Event!

