



CHRISTOPHER HARRIS | CJ

Pulaski County Schools Superintendent Patrick Richardson (right) says goodbye at his final school board meeting this past Tuesday as new board attorney Grant Chenoweth (left) looks on.

RICHARDSON

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“I would like to thank the board for their support through the last eight years, and through my tenure as superintendent,” he said. “I appreciate them and everything that they have done for me.”

Richardson also joked with the Commonwealth Journal that he wanted to give a “shout out” to Ron & Don’s Barber Shop for essentially styling him for all his many appearances in the newspaper’s board meeting photos over the years.

“Every time when (the reporter) gets a picture of me in the newspaper, and I go to get a haircut the next time, Don Adams says, ‘When are you ever going to thank me for the good haircut you get and you get credit for that?’” said Richardson to laughs around the room. “So I’d like .. to mention that my good-looking haircut, I owe it all to Ron & Don’s Barber Shop. They keep me looking good in the newspaper.”

A 1987 graduate of Pulaski County High School, Richardson started as a Shopville Elementary teacher in 1994, after graduating from Eastern Kentucky University,

where he earned Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees and a Superintendent Certificate. He was there for six years before moving to Southern Middle School, then taking an assistant principal position at Bell Elementary School in Wayne County. After one year there, he moved to Eubank Elementary as principal, where he served for eight years, then at Southwestern High School for two years, before becoming assistant superintendent in 2010.

Speaking after the meeting with the Commonwealth Journal, Richardson called the experience a bittersweet one, and also expressed appreciation for all the individuals he’s worked with each day after taking over as superintendent from Steve Butcher in 2018. Richardson will be followed by current assistant superintendent Kent Mayfield.

“We’ve got great employees in our district, and they do a great job every day, and they make my job easier,” he said, “... and all the community members and parents that have supported me throughout the years.

“It’s been a tough job, but it’s time to move on,”

he added, noting that he doesn’t intend to be a stranger to the district. “Everything’s been really great.”

This is only the next leaf to fall in what has been a season of great change for the Pulaski County School System. In addition from the transition from Richardson to Mayfield, fellow assistant superintendent Matt Cook left to take the superintendent job for Science Hill School, and longtime school district attorney Larry Bryson left that role, replaced in April by Grant Chenoweth.

Additionally, another longstanding fixture with the board, chairwoman Cindy Price, is not seeking re-election in November for the board’s District 3 — after Amber Vickery, who is running for District 2, was appointed in January to step in for the departed Patricia Edwards — and several principal jobs have already changed hands in the school system, with two more being mentioned at Tuesday’s meeting, these being perhaps the most notable of all: both Pulaski County and Southwestern High Schools.

Richardson said at the meeting Tuesday that Chris Myers, an assistant principal at Southwestern, would be taking over as principal at that school, replacing Mark Flynn, who is taking another position with the district that will be announced later. Julie Hoff, the departing principal at PCHS, is also staying with the district in a role to be announced later, and Richardson said at the meeting they are set to begin the hiring process for that job soon.

“That could possibly cause other dominoes to fall so we’ll see where we go from there,” said Richardson.

The meeting also saw

the board’s approval of the creation of positions labeled behavior technician and behavior coordinator. Richardson noted that those positions will work with students at Southern Middle School, essentially a renaming of existing positions after rearranging some duties at the school.

Also, the board approved a slight change to the amended 2025-26 budget, which was previously approved last month. Pulaski County Schools Finance Director Rebecca Wright said that the Kentucky Department of Education is directing the district’s to get board

approval for any variations on the budget, which in this gain was a net gain of \$1.58 million, thanks primarily to \$1.2 million in historical tax credits as well as about payments on storm damage to the district’s Area Technology Center from last year’s EF-4 tornado.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The second reading and adoption of the Pulaski County proposed budget ordinance for Fiscal Year 2027 is scheduled to be held at the courthouse on June 22, 2026, at 10 a.m.

BUDGET SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE Relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF PULASKI COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

WHEREAS, the proposed budget was tentatively approved by the Fiscal Court on the 27th day of May 2026 and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer on the 5th day of June, 2026.

SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 and the amounts stated are appropriate for the purposes indicated.

CATEGORY	PURPOSE	APPROPRIATION
5000	General Government	\$8,045,025.00
5100	Protection to Persons and Property	\$1,654,550.00
5200	General Health and Sanitation	\$2,075,912.00
5300	Social Services	\$0.00
5400	Recreation and Culture	\$829,650.00
6200	Airports	\$150,000.00
7000	Debt Service	\$1,083,808.00
8000	Capital Projects	\$0.00
9000	Administration	\$16,071,485.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		\$29,910,430.00
6000	Transportation Facilities & Services	\$0.00
6100	Roads	\$9,194,775.00
6400	Other Transportation Facilities & Services	
7000	Debt Service	\$358,860.00
8000	Capital Projects	\$1,194,700.00
9000	Administration	\$1,338,635.00
TOTAL ROAD FUND		\$12,086,970.00
5100	Protection to Persons and Property	\$4,360,160.00
7000	Debt Service	\$0.00
8000	Capital Projects	\$0.00
9000	Administration	\$1,814,470.00
TOTAL JAIL FUND		\$6,174,630.00
5000	General Government	\$10,000.00
5100	Protection to Persons and Property	\$61,960.00
5200	General Health & Sanitation	\$0.00
5300	Social Services	\$116,320.00
5400	Recreation and Culture	\$78,535.00
6000	Transportation Facilities and Services	\$0.00
6100	Roads	\$400,000.00
7000	Debt Services (Limited to Applicable Categories)	\$0.00
8000	Capital Projects (Limited to Applicable Categories)	\$0.00
9000	Administration (Limited to Applicable Categories)	\$466,855.00
5000	Economic Development	\$0.00
TOTAL LGEA FUND		\$1,133,670.00
EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND		
9000	Administration	\$819,000.00
TOTAL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND		\$819,000.00
GRANT FUND		
9000	Administration	\$1,032,355.00
TOTAL GRANT FUND		\$1,032,355.00
FIRE PROTECTION FUND		
5100	Protection to Persons and Property	\$2,256,355.00
6000	Transportation	\$521,940.00
7000	Debt Service	\$0.00
8000	Capital Projects	\$1,631,950.00
9000	Administration	\$1,902,175.00
TOTAL FIRE FUND		\$6,312,420.00
OPIOID ABATEMENT/SETTLEMENT FUND		
9000	Administration	\$1,450,880.00
TOTAL OPIOID ABTMNT/SETTLEMENT FUND		\$1,450,880.00
EMERGENCY DISPATCH		
5100	Protection to Persons and Property	\$1,617,890.00
7000	Debt Service	\$0.00
8000	Capital Projects	\$0.00
9000	Administration	\$1,036,515.00
TOTAL EMERGENCY DISPATCH		\$2,654,405.00
PERMANENT STORAGE FUND (CLERK)		
5000	General Government	\$117,625.00
7000	Debt Service	\$0.00
8000	Capital Projects	\$0.00
9000	Administration	\$181,315.00
TOTAL PERMANENT STORAGE FUND		\$358,940.00
Total General Fund		\$29,910,430.00
Total Road Fund		\$12,086,970.00
Total Jail Fund		\$6,174,630.00
Total LGEA Fund		\$1,133,670.00
Total Emergency Relief Fund		\$819,000.00
Total Grant Fund		\$1,032,355.00
Total Fire Protection Fund		\$6,312,420.00
Total Opioid Settlement Fund		\$1,450,880.00
Total Emergency Dispatch Fund		\$2,654,405.00
Total Clerk Permanent Storage Fund		\$358,940.00
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS		\$61,933,700.00

PUBLIC HEARING

BUDGET HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED USE OF COUNTY ROAD AID AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (LGEA) FUNDS

A public hearing will be held by Pulaski County at the courthouse on June 22, 2026 at 10:30 am for the purpose of obtaining citizens comments regarding the possible uses of the County Road Aid (CRA) and Local Government Economic Assistance (LGEA) Funds.

All interested person in Pulaski County are invited to the hearing to submit verbal or written comments on possible uses of the CRA and LGEA Funds. Any person(s) who cannot submit written comments or attend the public hearing but wishes to submit comments, should call the Office of the county judge/executive at 606-678-4853 by 9 am so arrangements can be made to secure their comments.

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FATAL

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a left-handed turn onto Wilson Rd., when Grider struck the front passenger side of Crawford’s vehicle.

As a result of this collision, Grider suffered injuries and was transported to Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital, where he later succumbed to those injuries. He was pronounced deceased by the Pulaski County Coroner’s Office. Crawford was also transported to Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital for her injuries, but was later released.

This case remains under investigation by Trooper Austin Cornett. Drugs and alcohol are not believed to be a factor in this collision, but toxicology is pending. Trooper Cornett was assisted by KSP personnel, the Pulaski County Sheriff’s Office, Somerset/Pulaski EMS, Somerset Fire Department, and the Pulaski County Coroner’s Office.