

School board approves updated state policies

By **Burton Cole**

BUTLER — The Pendleton County Board of Education on June 15 approved policy updates which came out of the recently concluded Kentucky State Legislative Session.

Superintendent Joe Buerkley said most of the updates represent no changes to what the district already has been doing, but they must be adopted as written as they are state law.

Among the updates that all legal ads now must include both Eastern Standard Time and Cen-

tral Standard Time. About 60% of Kentucky, including Pendleton County, is on Eastern time, while western Kentucky is on Central time.

Another update is that the most recent Kentucky Summative Assessment scores must be posted on the landing page of the district's website. Apparently, at least on district was posting old scores, Buerkley guessed.

Another tweak is that instead of board chairperson and vice chairperson, the official designation now shall be board chair and

vice chair.

The Legislature also approved adding stop-arm cameras to school buses, and specified that schools must immediately enroll students that are considered homeless. Buerkley said Pendleton's policy was not to turn away students; now it's law.

The board approved the policy updates.

During its regular monthly meeting on June 15, the board:

- Introduced Blair Hicks, who will be new executive director of teaching learning beginning July 1.

She replaces Laura Pugh, who is retiring.

Hicks is coming from the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services, which supports 23 schools by "aligning curriculum with district goals, strengthening instructional systems, building leadership capacity and driving measurable student growth through strategic, data-informed improvement efforts."

- Agreed to renew the district property, casualty, liability, worker's compensation and cyber insurance coverage at a cost of

\$615,664.31. "That is unreal to me," Buerkley said. "During my first year, it was around \$250,000."

- Renewed the Votru-ba Young Scholars Academy with Northern Kentucky University. The dual-credit early college experience program allows high-achieving high school juniors and seniors to take college courses while still in high school. Buerkley noted that the memorandum of understanding is for one year only since the program will be revised the following year due to changes in the state budget.

- Appointed high school counselor Julie Wood to a two-year term as district representative to the Pendleton County Recreation Commission.

- Approved the contract with deaf and hard-of-hearing provider Llana Tyree at \$75 to meet the requirements of students whose education plan includes impairment services. The anticipated need is for two to four hours a month.

- Accepted a donation of \$2,000 from the Crittenden Early Learning Center to the high school Navy Junior ROTC program.

Falmouth City Council revises proposed budget

By **Jim Thaxton**

FALMOUTH — There were so many adjustments to the budget presented at the June 8 meeting that Falmouth City Council discarded that version at its June 18 meeting.

Council gave the first reading of the revised budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, and called a

special meeting for 7 p.m. Thursday for a final vote.

Mayor Sabrina Hazen said that the revised budget includes leaving Falmouth with a \$1 million surplus.

The previous budget projected \$2.07 million in available resources in the general fund against appropriations of \$1.53 million, according to a summary previously presented by

treasurer Paul Maddox. A city utilities budget showed a balance and expected revenues of \$4.93 million against appropriations of \$4.44 million.

The June 25 meeting also will include a presentation from Kincaid Regional Theater, a tax board appointment and the selection of a bid for this year's street paving project.

During the meeting:

- The mayor opened and read four sealed bids for street paving:

Mago's bid total was \$534,870, with multiple possible additions depending upon what is discovered during the work.

Independence's bid came to \$807,664. The list of what was included and what might be added or deducted warranted additional analysis.

Keaton Asphalt bid \$639,663, but the bid also contained conditions.

Reigler submitted the lowest bid at \$514,300, but again, it came with conditional additional costs.

Copies of the bids were distributed to each council member for review before

the next meeting, when a final decision will be made.

Streets included in the bid package included sections of East Shelby, West Shelby, Park, Beech, Barkley, South Liberty, Woodson, East Fourth and West Fourth streets. Council added Dickerson Street to the bid sheet and if money remains, will add other streets, with Wells Drive being one of the options for next.

- The second reading of the ordinance setting water and sewer rates passed. The new rates will go into effect in July and will be reflected in the August billing.

The rates do not include any increases for city residential rates. City commercial rates will go up \$2

for 1,000 gallons, non-city residential rates will go up \$5 for 1,000 gallons and non-city commercial will go up \$7 for 1,000 gallons. These increases are for both water and sewer, according to council.

- Set "last call" for alcohol sales at 2 a.m. across the board. Some establishments had 12:30 a.m. shut-down time, while other types were 2 a.m. The change makes it a uniform time across the board.

- Discussed various ways of collecting occupational license fees. No action was taken.

- Reviewed the proposed contract with Paul Maddox to continue as city treasurer. A vote will be taken at a later meeting.

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On or before July 1 of each year, the owner of any dog, six (6) months old or older kept in Pendleton County shall apply to the Animal Control Officer or his designee for a license for each dog or kennel owned, harbored, or operated by him, acquire the license and pay the fees as set out in County Ordinance 841.0 Section 9 (1-3).

Pendleton County Individual Dog Licenses are available at the Pendleton Animal Shelter and the County Judge Executives Office at regular business hours.

Individual Dog License (1-9 dogs) - \$8.00 each
Individual Dog Alteration License - \$5.00 each
Kennel License (10 or more dogs) - \$20.00 + \$1.00 for each dog housed
Restricted Breed (Dogs) - Contact Animal Shelter 859-472-5400

Dog owner must present rabies Vaccination Certificate in order to purchase dog license. Any owner of 10 or more dogs must purchase a kennel license and adhere to kennel requirements as set forth in County Ordinance 841.0 section 9 (F-3) and section 14.
Kennel License requires a kennel inspection before a license may be issued.

Please call the Pendleton County Animal Shelter to arrange for an appointment 859-472-5400.

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