

Williamstown Board of Education passes 2026-27 salary schedule

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

At the April 14 regular meeting, the Williamstown Board of Education passed the salary schedules for next school year.

After much discussion about funds, a motion to increase salaries 1½ percent was made and subsequently rescinded and a second motion was made to raise them two percent. The motion passed unanimously. Other business

- A discussion arose about the usefulness of non-traditional instructional, or NTI, days arose following Deputy Superintendent Karen Grubb's update of the professional development plan, continuation of learning (NTI) plan and the Lau plan for the 2026-2027 school year. She announced no change to the structure of next year's NTI plan. This winter, the district used all 10 of its allotted NTI days.

At the conclusion of Grubb's report, Boardmember Chris Lawrence stated, "I am not a fan of NTI days, but I understand that's the world we live in."

He expressed doubts as to how effective NTI days are from an educational standpoint and wondered how much students are getting out of it.

Superintendent John Slone noted that attendance on NTI days has been an issue. "You would think you'd have 100% attendance," he said, but that was not the case. The lowest NTI-day attendance was 91%, less than attendance on

normal in-person instructional days.

It is possible for a school district to opt out of using NTI days, but lost time must be made up. Boardmembers expressed lack of faith in the usefulness of making up time by tacking on a few minutes to the school day, based on past experience. "They're not getting anything out of those 10 minutes," commented Boardmember Roy Osborne.

Getting the required 170 instructional days has been more challenging since more/longer breaks have been added, including a week of fall break and an extra day at Thanksgiving. Grubb said NTI days can be applied for, but they do not have to be used.

"What's interesting is that the premise behind NTI was to reduce the gap [for socio-economically disadvantaged students] ... If you have a gap, then when you when you come back to school, then that gap increases because you have kids not in that group that when their parents might be working with them or they have resources and means and the kids who don't, just don't have don't have those resources," said Grubb.

"It is a journey," she acknowledged, and schools are still trying to get it right. "We can't tell you that we've arrived."

- Director of Technology Ryan Kochert updated the Board on the district technology plan. He reported once all of the phone lines in the system

are replaced with internet-based SIP connection the district will save a little money and increase capacity for calls. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) backup has been put out for bid and replacement should be done over the summer, he said.

The main topic of discussion centered on electronic devices.

"We have about 750-ish students; every one of those have a device, and then we have devices in various other departments ... At one point we had about 11 or 1,200 devices. But going through it this year, a lot of those were incredibly old, broken." He said there are currently about 900 in use.

"So, this coming year, we're looking at a purchasing about 130 [new devices]." He noted accidental damage protection will be purchased. "A lot of the ones that we have can't actually be fixed in any type of cheap way ... so a little bit up front will be well worth it."

Osborne asked if there was one grade level responsible for more damage than another.

"The most damage seems to be in the sixth and seventh, because, you know, they're still really young, but they're taking these things home; they're sticking them in their backpack, [they] step on them, whatever. They stick their pen in it and shut the thing, screen pops out, or gets busted. They're bored, they take the keys and pick the keys off."

Boardmember Kristie

Willoby asked if students had to pay for damages.

Slone noted the fee schedule had changed a little this school year, but he said "It's hard to prove that they intentionally did it."

- The Board approved extending the banking contract with Forcht Bank for the two-year allowable period. Director of District Wide Operations Dean Faulkner said the terms

would remain the same; it did not have to be put out to bid.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, at 6 p.m. at the Board Office, 300 Helton Street.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-CI-00222

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

LIGHTSTORM PROPERTIES, LLC CROSS-PLAINTIFF

VS. NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

MARKEETA FAYE CRUPPER, ET AL DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Grant Circuit Court on March 26, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the **Judicial Center Lobby**, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Grant County, Kentucky, on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, at the hour of **1:30 p.m.**, prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:
Being the same property conveyed to Markeeta Faye Crupper, a single person, the 28th day of April, 1990 and recorded in Deed Book 179, Page 656 in the Office of the County Clerk of Grant County, Kentucky.
Property Address: 7 Lapine Avenue, Williamstown, KY 41097
PIDN: 058-07-00-052.00
There is not a mobile home, doublewide and/or manufactured home included in the sale.
Announcements made on the day of sale take precedence over printed material.
The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of \$2,963.24 adjudged due to plaintiff on its first lien on the property, together with interest thereon at the rate of 12% per annum from August 5, 2019, until date of judgment then 6% per annum thereafter from date of judgment until paid, plus other attorney fees, costs, and expenses.
The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum for the date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid in the amount of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the amount of the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, at minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Grant Circuit Court and the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchasers to obtain such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to obtain said insurance and furnish the policy or premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.
The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:
a. All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
b. Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
c. Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
d. Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.
For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Grant County.

/s/ Edward M. Bourne
MASTER COMMISSIONER
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT

Smith inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Marjorie Smith of Crittenden, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Georgetown College.

Smith is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and

requires nomination and approval by a chapter.

Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded

in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

Grant County graduation, last day of school changed

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

In anticipation of a large crowd, the April 16 Grant County Board of Education was moved from the Board Office to the high school auditorium. On the short agenda was approval of a calendar change.

The meeting opened with recognition of student athletes, including the Mason-Corinth Elementary, Dry Ridge Elementary, middle school and high school archery teams, the wrestling team and the cheer squad.

Business

- Due to an additional snow day that occurred after end-of-school dates were set, the calendar had to be changed. The last day of school will now be Tuesday, May 26. Graduation will be Friday, May 29.

- The Board approved pay application #1 for the high school turf field in the amount of \$185,767.20.

- Artie White of White and Associates presented the findings of the district's financial audit.

He explained the audit report was late because of

a federal issue; the state auditor did not take audits until January as opposed to the normal November date. Saying this is the first time in his 30 year career this has happened, he expects the upcoming audit season to return to normal.

White said the district did a good job of compliance and protecting assets. Overall, he said the district made good progress in the last year.

The next meeting of the Grant County School Board will be Thursday, April 16, at 6 p.m., 820 Arnie Risen Boulevard.

Take softwood cuttings to propagate plants

BY JENEEN WICHE
IN MY GARDEN

The most common form of plant propagation is digging and dividing, which is best done in early spring before new growth emerges, or in the fall before plants go dormant. Digging and dividing is great for herbaceous plants, but those plants that are considered woody ornamentals do not divide as easily with a spade.

In this case we can look to the technique of rooting out softwood cuttings from the mother plant.

Greenhouses have stock plants that they maintain from year to year to provide the cuttings for each year's new generation. We can do this at home on a smaller scale with just a few tools.

Grab a pair of sharp pruners, some light soil-less potting mixture (like peat and perlite), some small three-inch pots, a few ziplock bags, popsicle sticks and some rooting hormone (like Rootone). Any variation on the theme will work we just want to be able to create mini greenhouses for each cutting once they are prepared.

June is a good time of the year to propagate by cutting those plants that root out well from ripened soft wood. This soft wood is essentially new, succulent growth that has been allowed to "ripen" but not harden off totally.

Think about the new growth of a hydrangea in June: not too soft and not too hard. In fact, I think

hydrangeas are one of the easiest to propagate through cuttings, and this is what I'll be doing this year. Give it a try.

Take about a three- to four-inch stocky cutting from the tip of a stem. Strip the leaves from the stem except for the top two (if they are large you can trim them up with scissors to balance the top to the bottom).

Dip the stem into a little bowl of rooting hormone and then into your prepared pots filled with peat and perlite (I use a pencil to prepare the little hole, and I moisten the peat prior to sticking the cuttings in).

Craft a little greenhouse with your popsicle stick

SEE TAKE/PAGE B4

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 25-CI-00347

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC PLAINTIFF

VS. NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

JULIE A. GARLAND, ET AL DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Grant Circuit Court on March 26, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the **Judicial Center Lobby**, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Grant County, Kentucky, on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, at the hour of **1:30 p.m.**, prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:
Being the same property conveyed to Julie A. Garland who acquired title by virtue of a deed from Austin Ryan and Ashley Ryan, husband and wife, dated January 2, 2015, recorded January 13, 2015, in Deed Book 374, Page 359, Grant County, Kentucky records.
More Commonly Known As: 302 Brentwood Drive, Dry Ridge, KY 41035
Map ID #: 046-04-00-133.00
There is not a mobile home, doublewide or manufactured home included in the sale.
Announcements made on the day of sale take precedence over printed material.
The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of \$89,774.92, together with accrued interest thereon to April 1, 2025, and interest thereafter at the rate of 4.125% from April 1, 2025 (per diem interest in the amount of \$10.15) until the entire amount has been paid in full plus late fees, costs, attorney's fees, and other advances.
The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 4.125% per annum for the date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid in the amount of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the amount of the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, at minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Grant Circuit Court and the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchasers to obtain such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to obtain said insurance and furnish the policy or premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.
The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:
a. All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2026;
b. Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
c. Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
d. Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

/s/ Edward M. Bourne
MASTER COMMISSIONER
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-0007

L&N FEDERAL CREDIT UNION PLAINTIFF

VS. NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE

COLLIN E. HENSLEY, ET AL DEFENDANTS

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Grant Circuit Court on March 26, 2026, I will sell at public auction at the **Judicial Center Lobby**, 224 South Main Street, Williamstown, Kentucky, the property described herein located in Grant County, Kentucky, on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, at the hour of **1:30 p.m.**, prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:
Being the same property conveyed to Collin E. Hensley, unmarried, by Deed dated June 7, 2022, and recorded June 9, 2022, of record in Deed Book 429, Page 570, in the Office of the Clerk of Grant County, Kentucky.
Property Address: 345 Barley Circle, Crittenden, Kentucky 41030
Parcel ID No. 042-06-00-208.00
There is not a mobile home, doublewide and/or manufactured home included in the sale.
Announcements made on the day of sale take precedence over printed material.
The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of \$193,770.74, plus \$12,013.85 in interest through and including February 26, 2026, with interest on the principal balance at the rate of 6.875% per annum from February 27, 2026, until the date of Judgment, \$656.90 in late charges, \$2,144.67 in escrow shortfall, with interest accruing on the entire balance at the rate of 6.875% per annum from date of Judgment until paid, and its reasonable attorney fees and court costs herein expended.
The real estate shall be sold on the terms of 10% cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of 4% per annum for the date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder's own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid in the amount of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the amount of the unpaid balance of the purchase price, whichever is less, at minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Grant Circuit Court and the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchasers to obtain such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser's liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to obtain said insurance and furnish the policy or premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser's costs.
The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:
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/s/ Edward M. Bourne
MASTER COMMISSIONER
GRANT CIRCUIT COURT