

**SHELTON***Continued from A1*

politics in multiple roles for approximately 45 years. Shelton said those experiences shaped his belief that public office is rooted in service.

"I try every day to help somebody in one way or another," Shelton said. "Politics is about service. When you're an elected official, you're working for the people."

Shelton said his decision to run for Congress was driven by the economic condition of the 5th District, which has consistently ranked among the poorest congressional districts in the nation.

"Our district has been at or near the bottom for 40-some years," Shelton said. "At some point, people have to recognize that doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result doesn't work."

A central pillar of Shelton's campaign is support for congressional term limits. He said long tenures in office can lead to stagnation and disconnect representatives from constituents.

"If you had a coach who finished at the bottom year after year, eventually people would want a different direction," Shelton said. "It's the same in politics."

Shelton also emphasized economic development through domestic energy production, particularly coal. He said federal policies have harmed coal communities and pledged to advocate for revitalizing the industry.

"I'd like to see the 5th District 'plum full' of electric-producing plants fired by coal," Shelton said. "Mining creates jobs, and those jobs support local businesses. It's all a big circle."

He added that expanding energy production would strengthen local tax bases and help rural counties invest in infrastructure and services.

Shelton said he supports policies aimed at easing financial pressure on working-class families, including limits on high credit card interest rates.

"A lot of less fortunate people rely on credit cards," he said. "That interest can become a burden pretty quickly."

While describing himself as a "hardcore Republican," Shelton said effective governance requires cooperation across party lines once elections are decided.

"You've got to learn to compromise, and it's got to work both ways," Shelton said. "If it doesn't, we're just stuck in the same situation, and that

doesn't benefit anyone."

"When the election's over, it's time to go to work," Shelton said. "Your job is to serve the people and do their will as best you can."

Shelton said he looks to help at least one person every day. He described it as a standard he tries to live by, whether through small gestures or grander overtures.

"I try each and every day to serve somebody, help somebody out in one way or another, no matter whether it's small or large," Shelton said. He said that help can range from taking someone to a doctor's appointment, assisting with work around their property or running errands, to something as simple as holding a door open for a stranger. Shelton said the practice keeps him grounded and reinforces his belief that leadership begins with everyday actions.

"I believe we've got a responsibility to serve others as best that we can," he said.

Shelton said his guiding principle in Congress would be very similar: It's all about service to constituents rather than ideology.

"It's our job to come together and better our community and our country as whole. That's the ultimate goal."

found the district in compliance with all financial rules and guidelines, with finances trending in a positive direction.

Administrators also reviewed a proposed draft budget for the 2026-27 school year, which must be submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education by Jan. 31. The draft general fund budget totals approximately \$42 million, with SEEK funding estimated at \$14.2 million based on an allocation of \$4,586 per average daily attendance.

Officials noted continued enrollment declines and rising assessments affect SEEK calculations. Salary and benefits account for about 66% of the general fund, while contingency funds are budgeted at 13%, exceeding the state-mandated 2%.

Additional discussions covered change orders related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services. Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

**Mobile ID program begins****By TOM LATEK***Kentucky Today*

FRANKFORT — To help prevent identity theft and deliver modern licensing services, Gov. Andy Beshear said Tuesday that Kentuckians can download Kentucky Mobile ID, a secure digital version of a standard or REAL ID driver's license or ID accepted for air travel at more than 250 airports.

The app is used at Transportation Security Administration checkpoints to verify a user's identity and helps protect privacy by shar-

ing only the information needed. The app does not replace a physical ID or driver's license, which should still be carried at all times.

"Mobile ID offers Kentuckians more options for air travel, while further protecting them from identity theft or having their private information shared," Beshear said. "We want our families to be safe and feel safe while they are traveling, and this is just another step Team Kentucky is taking to increase safety for our people."

A Kentucky Mobile ID is stored on the user's smartphone as a valid form of ID locked behind a mobile phone's unique PIN, Touch ID or Face ID, so that, if the device is lost or stolen, the ID is locked. The authenticity of the Mobile ID is ensured through verification with the Transportation Cabi net, based on records created when a user applies for a driver's license or state ID.

To learn more about Mobile ID or how to verify a Mobile ID, visit [drive.ky.gov/mobile-ID](http://drive.ky.gov/mobile-ID)

**JACKSON***Continued from A1*

his name, Adams described Jackson's accomplishments as remarkable.

"It is unbelievable to imagine winning 700 games," he said. "I think about the dedication that takes. All the practices, fundraisers, summer ball and seasons he has been part of over the years. It's truly remarkable and we're honored to recognize him for his hall of fame career."

Coach Jackson himself said the honor came as a surprise and left him feeling humbled.

"I'm very, very honored and very humbled," Jackson said. "There's a lot of quality people in Lincoln County, and it's a great place to live. I'm very fortunate and very blessed to be a part of it."

Reflecting on his coaching career, Jackson said his greatest joy has come from working with young people and helping guide them both on and off the court.

"Being around the kids is a great feeling, a great opportunity," he said. "We try to influence them to do the right thing — on the floor, in the classroom and in the community. We want to help them to be high-character kids and great representatives of our program, our school and our community."

Jackson credited the success of the program to those around him, including his coaching staff, players, adminis-

trators and family.

"I'm surrounded by a great staff, great players and great administration," he said. "And I'm very fortunate and blessed to have the beautiful family I have at my home that has supported me for all these years; I could never have done it without them."

Jackson closed by thanking the Lincoln County community for its continued support.

"I appreciate them for all that they've done," he said. "We've got great people in this community and they work very, very hard for our community and for the kids in our school district. I'm very fortunate and very blessed to be a part of it."

The following is the proclamation read at the ceremony on Tuesday:

**PROCLAMATION  
HONORING COACH JEFF  
JACKSON**

**ON THE OCCASION OF  
HIS 700TH CAREER  
VICTORY**

WHEREAS, Coach Jeff Jackson has devoted his career to the young people of our community, serving as a leader, mentor and educator through the game of basketball; and

WHEREAS, through decades of dedication, discipline and unwavering commitment to excellence, Coach Jackson has achieved the extraordinary milestone of 700 career victories, placing him among the most accomplished high school basketball coaches in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jackson's success extends far beyond wins and losses, as he has consistently instilled in his players the values of teamwork, perseverance, accountability and respect — preparing them not only for competition on the court, but for success in life; and

WHEREAS, Coach Jackson's leadership has brought pride and recognition to his school, his athletes and the entire community, creating a lasting legacy that will be felt for generations; and

WHEREAS, the impact of Coach Jackson's career is measured not only by championships and records, but by the countless lives he has influenced, the character he has helped build and the standard of excellence he has set for student-athletes and coaches alike;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, J. Woods Adams III, along with the Magistrates of Lincoln County, do hereby recognize Coach Jeff Jackson and proclaim today, Jan. 13, 2026, to be in Lincoln County, Kentucky,

**JEFF JACKSON DAY**, in recognition of his 700th career victory, his outstanding contributions to high school athletics and his enduring service to the youth and families of this community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this 13th day of January, 2026.

**SCHOOL***Continued from A1*

Benson was named board secretary at an annual salary of \$6,000.

The board also set its 2026 meeting calendar, including a change to the July meeting date. Members agreed to move the meeting from July 2 to July 7 to avoid the Kentucky High School Athletic Association's summer dead period, allowing families and staff with student-athletes additional uninterrupted vacation time.

Discussion items included a presentation of the district's 2024-25 financial audit by Joe Montgomery of Montgomery and Co. Board members received the full report at the meeting, with Montgomery highlighting key figures and changes. The audit

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.

Administrators recommended using Strawbridge for elementary and middle schools and Lifetouch for high school photos, citing higher school returns and improved yearbook integration.

The board also discussed a memorandum of agreement with Gaines and Associates Counseling to expand student mental health service options, a request for a shortened school day for one special education student to attend therapy, and several early childhood program items, including eligibility criteria and updated guidelines.

Additional discussions covered change orders

related to construction materials, an extension of the district's snow removal contract, plans to seek bids for mowing services and bids for school photography services.