

AGENCY

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had to cover. He also stated that he would advise them on building a search timeline and on what candidates they would be potentially looking for.

The timeline that Sutton and board members created has June 30 as the absolute latest date for naming a new superintendent. The district's fiscal year begins July 1.

"You absolutely have to have someone in place at that time," Sutton stated.

Sutton also pointed out that the Webster County search was later than other districts that are also hiring new superintendents, so time was very important. With that urgency in mind, the board elected to begin advertising for the position on April 22.

The board had the option of leaving the application up for 30 or 15 days. Fifteen is the minimum amount required by law. After some discussion, they chose 30 days, which means applications would be due by midnight on Thursday, May 21. Sutton stated that there will likely be more applicants if there is a 30 day window, and a 15 day window could potentially be a red flag to some candidates. KSBA will gather materials on the board's behalf.

A screening committee, composed of six to seven

Webster County stakeholders, will meet with the board on May 27, and get their "directive and criteria for the search." That portion of the meeting will be open to the public, but the screening committee's work will be in closed session because they would be dealing with confidential employment information.

The screening committee will meet again on June 2 and June 9. Because of the need for ongoing confidentiality, these two meetings are also in closed session. Screening committee members will also have to sign non-disclosure agreements to safeguard their work.

On June 11, the screening committee will meet with the board, and make their recommendations. This meeting is also closed to the public. Interviews will follow, taking place June 15-19 with flexibility for the candidates and board members. If all goes well, the board could have a candidate ready to be named by June 24. However, the superintendent will have to be named and the contract voted on in open session. The board already has a regular session scheduled on June 22, so it could be that day as well.

Sutton then turned his attention to the screening committee. Each of the six people represent stakeholders in the district. There is a board representative,

appointed by the board chairman, and a principal representative, elected by all the principals in the district.

Also on the committee are two teacher representatives, each elected by the teachers in the district and facilitated by Kentucky Education Association Local President Melissa McBride. The top two vote getters, regardless of school, are the representatives.

There is also a classified employee representative, elected by all classified employees (bus drivers, cooks, instructional aides, etc). Assistant Superintendent Dawn Forker will facilitate that election.

Finally, a parent representative will also be chosen. Principals collect parent nominations by email and send those to Forker, who will create the ballot. The individual school parent teacher organization presidents vote on the parent representative.

Sutton directed Forker, McBride and the board to have the six representatives in place by May 8. He added that since the district had an approximately 27% minority population, a minority member may need to be added to the committee if one is not initially selected. That position is held by a parent representative, and the school board facilitates that election.

Board members had questions about the process,

including paper versus electronic ballots, certified teachers versus full time non-certified staff, who kept ballot boxes at each school, and whether nominees could potentially have two roles.

Sutton took on each question without hesitation. He recommended paper ballots, defined the teacher representative to anyone who was certified, and directed one ballot box to be administered at each school. Forker and McBride will ensure the legitimacy of the elections they were responsible for.

"Teachers can serve as a parent representative," said Sutton. "The law does not specify."

Sutton fielded the question of what if screening committee members missed meetings. While a quorum is needed each time, Sutton explained that he had never had a screening committee member miss meetings before.

"They take the job seriously," he stated.

The screening committee will be charged to analyze candidate's documents, make reference checks, and to bring candidates before the board as recommendations. However, the board has the final say in who they choose to interview and can speak with someone the screening committee did not recommend. Candidates will also be presented to the board in alphabetical order. Sutton led the discussion

of how many candidates the board wanted from the screening committee, and the consensus was four. They would also treat that number as flexible, depending on the committee's recommendations.

The board also looked at the job description with Sutton, who prepared a draft ahead of the meeting. They then had the opportunity to add or take away from the draft.

Murphy was first, who wanted "teamwork" added as a needed attribute. She also questioned fellow board members about wanting to stipulate residency in the job description. Before any discussion, Sutton discouraged that, noting it could limit the candidate pool. Murphy agreed, but insisted that "everyone be on the same page" when it came to that issue.

Board member David Asher noted his suggestion on the matter, that it would be "encouraged to live in Webster but not mandatory." Board member Amanda Coomes deferred to Sutton, and also to Board Attorney Roy Massey, who concurred. The residency issue was left out of the job description. Sutton encouraged them to "weigh that decision as a board" when they had to choose a candidate, but not to give that issue to the screening committee.

Coomes added "be a visible and active member

of the community" and also suggested to strike "curriculum-driven" from the job description. While the visible and active member was added, the "curriculum driven" omission didn't get any traction. Coomes later clarified her position, stating "the curriculum wasn't the be-all end-all" and proposed an addition. Her addition, which stated "valuing strong instruction while recognizing learning should be engaging, meaningful, and student-centered" was added to the job description.

Murphy also wanted the salary description amended from "competitive" to "negotiable."

"We can't compete with Henderson and Hopkins counties," she explained. That change was noted.

Sutton concluded with a charge to the board regarding the release of information. He wanted them to elect a spokesman that would be the single voice of the board on the matter. He explained that "everyone will want to know" but that they couldn't speak about the candidates. He also reminded them that the screening committee would have to sign non-disclosure forms to protect the confidentiality of the candidates.

"Please let the screening committee do their work without interference," Sutton added.

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE A7

Natalie Eversole and Ellie Branson posted an RBI apiece.

Scott earned the win in the circle, throwing five no-hit innings with four strikeouts and a walk.

**Todd Central 6
Lady Trojans 4**

Webster County cut into Todd County Central's lead in its last chance at the plate Saturday, but couldn't come all the way back in a 6-4 loss in Dixon.

The Lady Trojans scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning, but TCCHS held off the rally for the victory.

After a lead-off single by Emma Harmon, the Lady Rebels' Olivia Weikel got a strikeout and a pop out to make the base runner less of a threat. But Harmon advanced to third base on an error that allowed

Layla Scott to reach.

Todd Central issued a four-pitch walk to Alyssa Cartwright to load the bases, and Natalie Eversole gave WCHS new life with a hard single to center field that plated Harmon and Scott.

But Weikel got Raynei Roy to leave the ball on the ground for the third out to end the rally.

Eversole accounted for all four Webster RBIs in the game, finishing 2-for-3.

Scott suffered the loss for WCHS, allowing five runs on seven hits and a pair of walks. She struck out four.

**Murray 1
Lady Trojans 8**

The Lady Trojans bounced back in the second game Saturday, scoring six runs in the fourth inning en route to an 8-1 win over Murray.

Natalie Eversole completed her stellar day at the plate, driving in three more runs and scoring once. She finished 1-for-4.

Layla Scott proved to be a hard out, going 3-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs scored.

Alyssa Cartwright and Raynei Roy both drove in a run and scored once. Avery Guill, Emma Harmon and

Aryah Frazier each added a run.

Scott also had an outstanding day in the circle, giving up just one run on right hits. She fanned five and walked one.

The Lady Trojans were

scheduled to host Fort Campbell for a double header Tuesday. They will enjoy almost a week off before welcoming Hopkinsville on Monday and Trigg County on Tuesday.

TROJANS

FROM PAGE A6

for the second out, then caught the come-backer from Brayden Lynch to get the third out at first base.

Trace Hardison led off with a six-pitch walk in the home half, then advanced to second base on a sacrifice bunt by Zander Snyder. Hardison ended up 90 feet away from paydirt when Harrison Warren reached on a dropped pop fly to right field. He then scored on a fielder's choice off the bat of Aiden Alstadt.

Jameson Newton drove in four runs on the day, finishing 1-for-3 with a double and a run scored.

Alstadt accounted for two RBIs, including the walk-off, going 1-for-4 with a run scored.

Boone scored twice in a 2-for-4 outing, while Maddox Dunn crossed the plate three times and finished 1-for-3.

Boone earned the win with two innings of no-hit baseball, striking out two and walking two.

With the home stretch in sight, the Trojans were scheduled to host Henderson County Tuesday, and are set for a rematch tonight in Henderson. Ohio County is on the slate Saturday in Dixon, with a trip to Whitesville Trinity Monday before a home game Tuesday against Heritage Christian Academy.



WEBSTER COUNTY FISCAL COURT INVITATION TO BID
The Webster County Fiscal Court will accept sealed bids on the following items until 9:00 A.M., prevailing time, Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Webster County Courthouse in Dixon, Kentucky. Bids shall be delivered to the office of Stephen R. Henry, Webster County Judge/ Executive, P.O. Box 155, U.S. Hwy 41A South, Dixon, KY 42409, in a clearly marked sealed envelope. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the meeting of the Webster County Fiscal Court on May, 11, 2026, beginning at 9:00 A.M. Bids will be awarded on May, 25, 2026. Copies of specifications may be obtained from the office of Stephen R. Henry, Webster County Judge/ Executive. Bids prices submitted shall remain in effect from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Items to be Bid
1. Corrugated Steel Circular Piping
2. Corrugated Steel Arch Pipe
3. Corrugated Polyethylene Pipe
4. Emulsified Asphalt:
A. AE 200 Oil
B. RS-2 Oil
5. Bituminous Concrete Hot Mix
6. Crushed Stone (Various Sizes)
7. Crushed Stone & Hauling
8. Hauling Fee
9. De-icing Salt
10. Chip & Seal
11. Motor Fuel
The Webster County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding process.

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Webster County Schools will be participating in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. As part of this program, Clay Elementary, Providence Elementary, Dixon Elementary, Sebree Elementary, Webster County Middle School and Webster County High School will offer healthy meals every school day at NO COST to the students due to the implementation of the Community Eligibility Provision for school year 2026-2027. Students will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a household application. For more information, you may call Sue Shelton at 270-639-0194 or e-mail at sue.shelton@webster.ky-schools.1

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