

Webster County Schools Leadership Alliance Meets

The Webster County Schools Leadership Alliance met in the Webster County Annex on January 22nd for its second meeting of the year. The focus for this meeting included curriculum and instruction, food service, and school safety.

After the initial welcome from Aaron Harrell, School Superintendent, Principals Jarrod Hankins (WCHS) and Eric Wheatley (Dixon), along with other school and district leaders, led the Leadership Alliance members on small-group classroom visits at Dixon, WCHS, and the WC Area Technology Center. These classroom visits showcased reading and math instruction, instructional technology, blended learning (a blend of different teaching modes that includes technology), and career and technical education courses in both the high school and the area technology center.

After the classroom visits, Food Service Director Sue Shelton shared that Webster County Schools participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP) as part of the National School Lunch Program. This allows schools and school districts located in high-poverty areas to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to enrolled students. Webster County Schools offer breakfast and lunch, with middle and high schools also offering a second-chance breakfast option and an after-school meal for students who stay after school for tutoring or other programs. Last year, the district served 202,527 breakfasts and 244,075 lunches. WC Food Service also provides summer meals

for any child 18 and under. The food service staff provided the Leadership Alliance samples of some of the students' favorite menu items, including Chinese dishes such as General Tso's chicken, orange chicken, and an egg roll; buffalo chicken wraps; school pizza; a fruit slushy; and chicken with mashed potatoes.

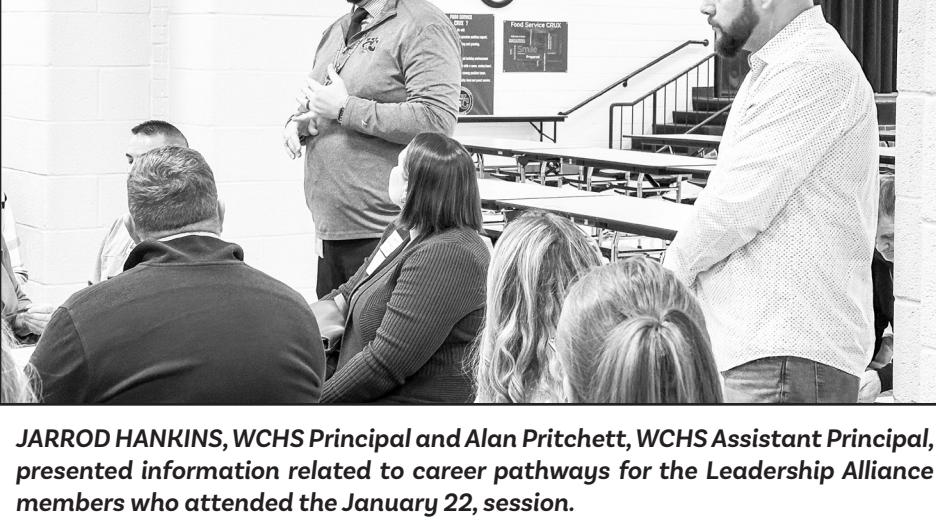
Zack LaGrange, Director of Safe Schools, and Russell Roberts, Dixon Campus School Resource Officer, shared some of the school safety upgrades implemented districtwide. All Alliance members checked in at the high school main office and experienced the Open Gate weapons detection system and the visitor check-in process.

Each school campus now has a safe and secure entrance; the Open Gate weapons detection system; security cameras; a badge-swipe system for classroom and exterior doors; PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) for student behavior; access to both the WCTipline and STOP Tipline; and a school resource officer, with one to be added at Sebree Elementary soon. When discussing the roles of a school resource officer, SRO Roberts stressed the importance of "developing trust with students" as that helps to "keep the lines of communication open."

This was the second meeting of the Leadership Alliance, a group of 24 Webster County community members, parents, and/or business leaders who are passionate about education and have a desire to learn more about Webster County Schools. The next meeting is scheduled for March.



SUPERINTENDENT AARON HARRELL welcomed members of the Leadership Alliance to the second meeting of the group.



JARROD HANKINS, WCHS Principal and Alan Pritchett, WCHS Assistant Principal, presented information related to career pathways for the Leadership Alliance members who attended the January 22, session.

Webster County Board Of Education

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view different grade levels and see the activities taking place in classrooms. The visits came a day after students had missed school due to snow, yet principals and teachers continued with lessons allowing visitors to see instruction and students participation as it takes place daily.

Harrell added, "This event gave this group an idea of what a typical school day is like" in Webster County.

McCormick added that he is pleased that when visiting elementary schools, "all teachers are following the same curriculum. It has taken a long time to do that." He also noted that this was "an eye-opening experience for those who participated." The Leadership Alliance will have a final meeting in March (seen additional story about the January 22, meeting is this week's Banner).

In other announcements Harrell reported that the district is accepting bids for the mowing contract with bids due February 6. Bids will be scored on a district rubric and presented to the board later in February.

Consent items including field trips, fundraisers, the FYSC/YSC assurance and monthly reports were approved in one motion.

Actions items to come before the board included a shortened school day for one student, and approval of the FY 25 annual financial report and balance sheets; and the FY 25 audit report. The board also approved FY26 KETS first offer of assistance in the amount of \$21,190 and a SFCC construction offer of assistance in the amount of \$18,275.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02. Regular February meetings are scheduled for February 9 and 23.

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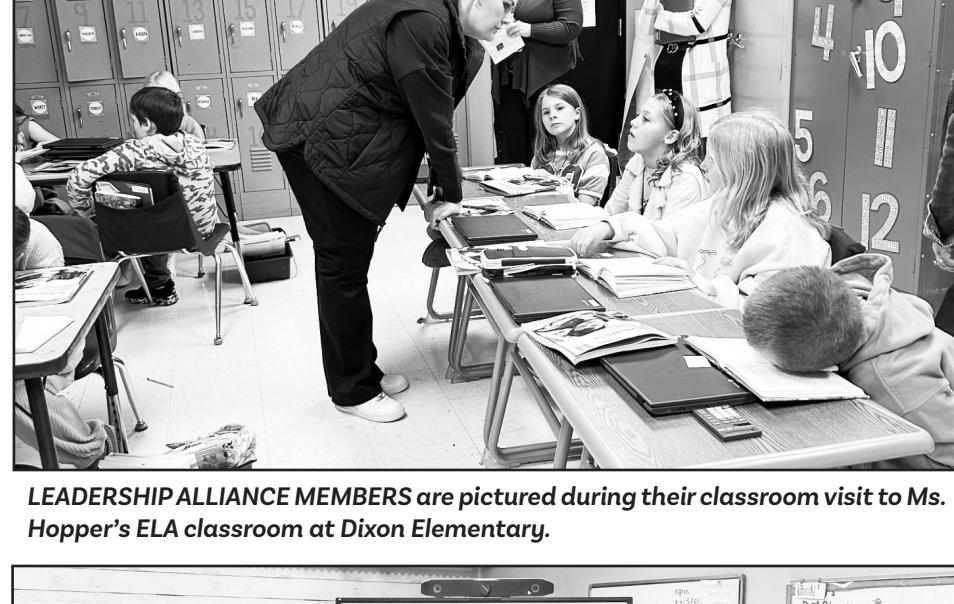
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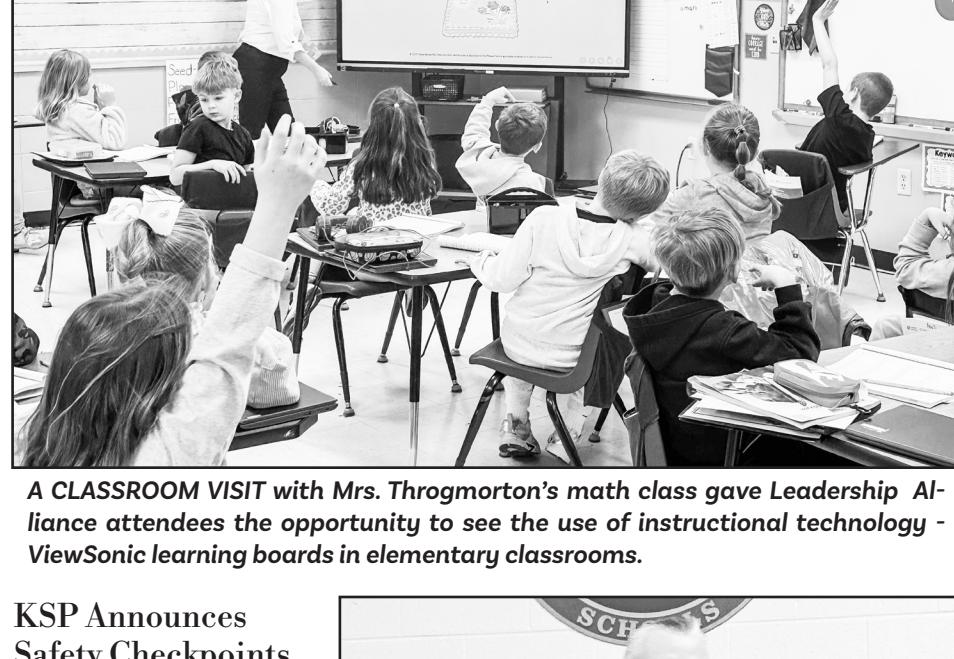
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LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE MEMBERS are pictured during their classroom visit to Ms. Hopper's ELA classroom at Dixon Elementary.



A CLASSROOM VISIT with Mrs. Throgmorton's math class gave Leadership Alliance attendees the opportunity to see the use of instructional technology - ViewSonic learning boards in elementary classrooms.

KSP Announces Safety Checkpoints

The Kentucky State Police (KSP) will be conducting traffic safety checkpoints throughout the Post 2 district, to check motorists for compliance with motor vehicle laws including driving under the influence statutes. KSP utilizes traffic safety checkpoints to promote safety for motorists using the public roadways and to provide a deterrent for those who violate laws contained in the Kentucky Revised Statutes.

The intent of a traffic safety checkpoint is to provide for a high visibility, public safety service, focusing on vehicular equipment deficiencies, confirming appropriate registration and insurance of vehicles, and the valid licensing of drivers. Violations of law or other public safety issues that arise shall also be addressed.

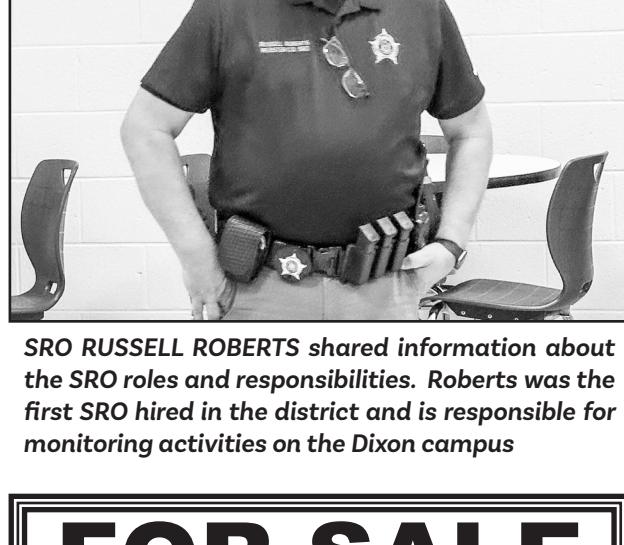
For a list of KSP Post 2 checkpoint locations, visit the KSP website, <https://www.kentuckystatepolice.ky.gov/post2checkpoints>

Retired Teachers Meet February 9

The Webster County Retired Teachers will meet 11:00, at Palmer Place, Providence, on Monday, February 9.

Palmer Place will cater lunch. Hostess for the meeting is Faye Melton.

The scheduled program will be on insurance, either Long Term Care or other types of insurance.



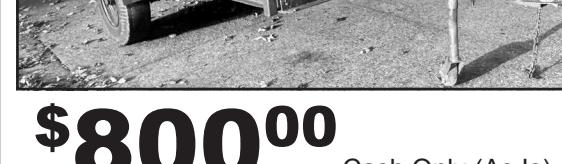
SRO RUSSELL ROBERTS shared information about the SRO roles and responsibilities. Roberts was the first SRO hired in the district and is responsible for monitoring activities on the Dixon campus

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