

Board Of Education Meets; Hears Comments, Approves Action Items

The Webster County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, May 26 with Superintendent Aaron Harrell and all board members in attendance. In addition, several members of the Webster County Public Schools staff and administrators and guests were also present.

Following approval of the meeting agenda, two members of the audience addressed the board of education.

Jackie Nance told members she had attended the Local Planning Committee meetings which have been held over the past few weeks. She stated she had questions about the report from those meetings. She noted that Clay Elementary School and Providence Elementary School have the largest buildings; however, the student population at those schools is lowest in the district. She added the student population at Sebree Elementary School is at capacity and that situation is not likely to change in the future. Ms. Nance asked the board to consider mov-

ing sixth graders to the Webster County Middle School to alleviate some of the pressures of overcrowding.

Karen Mackey told board members, "I have been amazed in the last little bit." She praised the support for Superintendent Harrell. "That speaks highly of your character and work in the district," she said. She added, "Thank you for a job well done," and then said, "I hope the board recognized the reaction of the public at graduation." Ms. Mackey emphasized the need by the board of education to focus on teacher retention and recruitment. She told members the pay scale for certified staff in the Webster County School District is the lowest in the area. She concluded, "The culture in Webster County is not what it needs to be."

Following those remarks, Greg Bowles, assistant superintendent and Director of Pupil Personnel, presented three items for consideration by board members. The first of those is the need to declare

two trucks – a 2005 Ford F-250 and a 2008 F-250, four-wheel drive – as surplus and list them for sale by sealed bid. Bowles noted the district will take the proceeds from the sale of those vehicles and a budgeted amount to purchase a new vehicle.

He then told members the local planning committee met three times, developing the facilities plan, and that plan has been approved by the Kentucky Department of Education. He noted the district has over \$50 million in unmet needs. He added those are general upkeep needs, and represent an increase from a year ago.

He concluded by telling board members there must be a scheduled hearing to present the facilities plan to the public.

Board members reviewed the personnel report and approved five items on the consent agenda. That included the paid warrant for May 2026, the treasurer's monthly financial report, the food service monthly financial report, payroll registers

for April and May, and the attendance report for May.

The board then approved 10 action items. The first seven of those items were approved on 5-0 votes by the board. They included an insurance bid, approval to sell the two surplus trucks, approval of the district facility plan, approval to hold the district facility plan hearing, approval of the job description for Special Education Coordinator, approval of the Local District Health Coordinator RN description and the pay, and approval of the health services assistance pay increase.

Two of the three remaining items resulted in a lengthy discussion that consumed about 30 minutes. The first item was the salary schedule for the 2026-2027 school year. Coupled with that was principal requested additional positions.

Board Chairman Tim McCormick cautioned members that additional positions without funding in place is a dangerous precedent. The district

treasurer, Brandi Burnett, told the board, "If you take money for new positions, somebody will suffer." She added that the district contingency fund, which currently is four percent of the yearly budget, is not enough money for the district to operate even one month if state and federal funding were to stop. Although the state requires only a two percent contingency, she emphasized, "I am not comfortable reducing the contingency."

Members discussed the need for additional positions versus the cost of those positions. Member David Asher told members he would return the funds he has received for his service as a member of the board of education when a position is created for an assistant principal or dean of students at Sebree Elementary School. According to numbers he presented, that would be over

\$4,800 as of last Tuesday. He also noted the board had little choice but to reject the motion to approve the principal requested additional positions.

When votes were called for the two items, members approved the salary schedule on a 5-0 vote and rejected the motion for additional positions on a 4-1 vote. Members McCormick, Venita Murphy, Melny Hopgood, and Asher voted to reject that motion. Member Amanda Coomes voted in favor of the positions.

In final business, the board approved the tentative budget for fiscal year 23026-2027 in the amount of \$27,515,021.73.

No further business came before the board, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 P.M.

The next meeting of the Webster County Board of Education will be a work session on Monday, June 15, 4:30 P.M.

County Students Graduate From MCC

Madisonville Community College celebrated the accomplishments of its Spring 2026 graduates during commencement ceremonies held Friday, May 8, at the Glema Mahr Center for the Arts. Family members, friends, faculty, staff, and supporters gathered to honor the Class of 2026.

According to Casie Richardson, MCC's Registrar, 967 credential applications were submitted this spring, including 242 degree candidates, 15 diploma candidates, and 710 certificate candidates. A total of 163 graduates crossed the stage during the ceremonies.

"Each graduate's journey to this milestone is unique," said Dr. Cindy Kelley, MCC President. "The Class of 2026 represents many different experiences, passions, and dreams, and we are proud to celebrate each graduate's achievement. It has been an honor to be part of their time at MCC, and we are excited to see what comes next for

them." As the Class of 2026 begins the next chapter, Madisonville Community College congratulates its graduates and looks forward to seeing the impact they will make in their careers and communities. No matter where their paths lead, they will always have a home at MCC.

Graduates from Webster County include Stephanie Allen of Dixon, Associate in Applied Science

Reagan Corbett, Slaughters, Associate in Arts

Reagan Corbett, Slaughters, Associate in Science

Audrey Daulton, Sebree, Associate in Science

Canaan Floyd, Sebree, Associate in Science

Brianna Frailey, Providence, Associate in Arts

Brandon Nicole Harmon, Providence, Associate in Applied Science

Kayla McCurry, Providence, Associate in Arts

Kyla Plowman, Sebree, Associate in Ap-

plied Science

Carly Schuh, Providence, Associate in Applied Science

Mary Sweet, Dixon, Associate in Arts

Grant Turner, Providence, Associate in Applied Science

Mylee Whitlege, Providence, Associate in Arts

Mylee Whitlege, Providence, Associate in Science

Hannah Yates, Slaughters, Associate in Arts

Deaths And Funerals

Lucian Townsell
Lucian Townsell, 76, of Providence died in Hanson, Kentucky on Sunday, May 24.

Lucian was a truck driver for Davis Trucking and also Tyson Foods. He was a member of the Start Hope General Baptist Church in Liberty, Kentucky. He worked on becoming ordained and achieved that goal.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and served during the Vietnam War. He served as a past commander of the VFW Post 5484 in Providence and was also past commander of the state VFW.

He was a member of Dixon Masonic Lodge 911. He enjoyed helping people, grilling and smoking meat.

He was the son of the late James Marion and Lucy Stewart Townsell. He was also preceded in death by a daughter, Candy Lynn Townsell, four sisters, and three brothers.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Debbie George Townsell of Providence; sons, Lucian Scott Townsell (Chelsea Smitson) of Robards, Kentucky and James Michael Townsell of Providence; a sister, Velmer Garrett of Slaughters; three brothers, Paul Townsell of St. Charles, Kentucky and Johnny Townsell and George Townsell, both of Madisonville, Kentucky; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Funeral service was held on Monday, June 1 at Townsend Funeral Home in Dixon with the Rev. Ernie "Deacon" Lingerfelt officiating.

Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery in Dixon. The Hopkins County Honor Guard performed military rites at the graveside.

Online condolences at www.townsendfuneralhomeinc.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
28 STATE ROUTE 1340
DIXON, KY 42409

The Webster County Board of Education is accepting written sealed bids for the following Trucks:
F-250 Super Duty (2 wheel drive, VIN #1FDNF20505EB314494)
F-250 Superduty XLT (4 wheel drive, VIN #1FDNF21518EC21787)

Bids will be received in the office of the Board of Education, 28 State Route 1340, Dixon, KY until 1:00 p.m. on Monday June 15, 2026. Sealed bids shall be opened and read aloud at that time in the Board Office Conference Room, however, bids will not be awarded on this date.

All bids should be sealed and labeled: "Truck Bids - 2026-2027"

The bidder's return address shall appear in the upper left-hand corner.

Trucks may be viewed at the Webster County School Bus Garage by appointment. You can call 270-639-5083 or send email to greg.bowles@webster.kyschools.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE
Pursuant To Application Number 917-0034,
RN #8

(1) In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Hopkins County Coal, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street Suite 350 Lexington, KY 40515, has applied for renewal of a permit for a surface coal mining and reclamation operation affecting 1,123.1 acres located 0.7 miles north of Providence in Webster County.

(2) The proposed operation is approximately 1.4 miles northwest from KY Route 670's junction with KY Route 293 and located 1.6 miles south of Slover Creek.

(3) The proposed operation is located on the Providence and Nebo U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The operation will use auger and area methods of surface mining. The surface area is owned by Dr. James Salmon c/o James L. Salmon Jr., Thomas & Frank Skinner, and Providence Coal Reserves, LLC.



(4) The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's, Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Written comments, objections or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40601. 6/17c

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE
Pursuant To Application Number 917-5013,
Major Revision 32

(1) In accordance with KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Webster County Coal, LLC, 1146 Monarch Street Suite 350 Lexington, KY 40513 has applied for a major revision of permit 917-5013 for an underground coal mining operation, slurry injection and a coal processing facility located 2.3 miles southwest of Lisman in Webster County. The proposed revision will disturb no new area. This revision is being submitted to change the post mining land use of 19.20 acres to industrial/commercial.

(2) The proposed operation is approximately 2.9 miles southeast from KY Route 270's junction with KY Route 132 and located 0.6 miles north of Slover Creek.

(3) The proposed operation is located on the Providence, Nebo, Slaughters, Bordley, Dixon, and Sebree U.S.G.S. 7-1/2 minute quadrangle maps. The surface area to be disturbed is owned by Webster County Coal, LLC.

(4) The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's, Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Blvd, 2nd floor, Frankfort, KY 40601. 6/17c