

SEBREE BANNER



VOLUME NINETY

SEBREE, WEBSTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

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Fiscal Court Approves Resolution; Passes Proclamation

Webster County Fiscal Court met in a short session Monday with magistrates hearing the reading of a proclamation calling for residents to recognize Thursday, October 28 as National First Responders Day. Judge/Executive Steve Henry read the proclamation noting the sacrifices first responders make every day as they work to insure the safety and welfare of every citizen.

The court head the reading of a resolution calling for the county to apply for

2026 Land and Water Conservation funding. The resolution followed a brief public hearing with a representative from Green River Area Development District presenting information on a \$112,981.00 grant that will fund the development of camp sites on the Hwy 983 side of Canaan Ridge Park. Land and Water Conservation grants support funding for outdoor recreation facilities. Should the county receive the matching grant, eight campsites will be developed in Phase 1 of

plan to further develop the park. Magistrates approved the resolution which allows Henry to sign documents related to the funding.

In other court business, magistrates heard highlights of work deputy judge/executive Ryan Hammack has done over the past few weeks. Hammack told the court that he and Zara Toal are working with economic development on a new business interested in locating in the county. He also sat in on a round table discussion with Rand Paul

to discuss energy and went with road department foreman Randy Norman to pick up a surplus vehicle. Other work has included working with county attorney Clint Prow on a title opinion, meeting with Deaconess staff to discuss the ambulance service and working on personnel issues.

The only personnel matter to come before the court was approval of Kelsey Curtis moving from part-time to full-time at the 9-1-1 center.

In her bi-weekly report, Toal told the court that work continues on the welcome center and restrooms at the park. She also noted she met with IDA at their monthly meeting and that work continues at the Sebree Springs development.

Claims, transfers and purchase orders were approved before court adjourned at 9:26. The next meeting of Webster County Fiscal Court is scheduled for November 9, at 9:00 a.m.

Board Of Education Hears Report; Approves Policy

Webster County Board of Education met Monday in regular session with a number of action items on the agenda. After hearing a report on the most recent round of state test scores, the board approved a policy that will allow a non-voting student member to join the board, approved the installation of one HVAC unit and agreed to join litigation regarding social media.

The district's new assessment coordinator, Kim Saalwaechter addressed the board using a power point presentation to provide information regarding the district's 2026 KSA scores. Saalwaechter's overview reviewed the color ranking status of each of the county's schools. Two elementary schools have a yellow status while the other two are in the orange category. The middle school is also orange with WCHS ranking the highest in the county with a green ranking. The DAC noted that the district continues to focus on quality teaching and learning, HQIR (high quality instructional resources), and coaching.

Veterans Day Parade Is November 6

Sebree Elementary School will host their annual Veterans Day Parade Friday, November 6th at 1:00 P.M.

The school invites all local businesses, churches, and dignitaries to please participate by entering a float. The theme for the parade will be patriotic.

The school is also asking all local veterans to please come and ride on an available float, which will be honoring all veterans. The parade will line up at 12:30 P.M. in the lower parking lot at the school will start down Washington Street, continuing to Spring Street, onto Main Street and returning to State Street. Parade participants will stop briefly on Main Street for introductions.

The public is urged to please come out, enjoy the parade, and honor our veterans.

Salwaechter highlighted areas where county students showed the most improvement, pointing out that elementary reading scores rose three percent in the distinguished category and math distinguished scores went up one percent. The high school decreased the number of novice by 18 percent and saw growth of ten percent proficient and 12 percent in distinguished scores.

The novice number in math decreased by 12 percent, social studies improved with two percent more distinguished and writing increased in proficiency by 17 percent in the distinguished rating.

Saalwaechter also reviewed the suppressed data (data for areas were not enough students were tested to provide scores), and gave the board a comparison of scores from 2025 to 2026. Information provided also included the district's five-year accountability trend which reflects significant growth at the high school, a decline in grown at the middle school and elementary school scores steady.

In her comments Saalwaechter reported that the district shows continuous improvement in the increase of proficient and distinguished scores and the decrease in novice. The district will continue to focus on closing the achievement gap, high quality grade level assignments and using HQIRs. She added that the 2027 test will not have on-demand writing as part of the assessment and a new indicator on individual growth will be added.

Superintendent Michael Gooch noted, "We have some good things going on across the district." Following Saalwaechter's presentation, the board approved second and final reading of a 'legal board status' policy that will allow for the election of a student member to the board. That individual will not be allowed to voted but can offer input related to students needs and activities.

In his comments to the board Gooch thanked the members for agreeing to purchase new scoreboard for the high school gym. Those boards, which costs just over \$18,000, were installed last week at no cost by 5 Start Electric out of Clay. Gooch thanked their company for their support.

The board also on Monday night heard a brief update on the HVAC systems as various schools with Gooch reporting that one unit can be installed at WCHS for \$131,137. TRANE will complete that work beginning in about two weeks. The district continues to wait for the costs of additional units for Providence and Clay elementary schools.

The superintendent also presented information related to class action type litigation over social media's impact

on school districts. He told the board that a number of area districts are "jumping in" on the program which will advocate for districts who are spending moving to offset the impact social media services have on schools. Board attorney Roy Massey added that the law suit is a way for districts to try to re-coup financial costs they have encountered. At the conclusion of Monday night's meeting, the board voted to join the litigation.

Following the reports, Samantha Winebarger asked to address the board with two questions. Winebarger asked if the board purchased the scoreboard for the high school and how the process was done. She noted that other schools and athletic facilities also need new scoreboards. Gooch responded noting that the board plans to replace scoreboards every year until all district boards have been upgraded.

Winebarger also

asked what the district's plans are for accelerated learners. The superintendent told Winebarger, who is the parent of two county students, that the district "is going to put a team together and work on that. We have to find ways to give those kids more opportunities." He added, "we're going to work on that and have discussions about (possibly) bringing algebra back at the middle school. We're going to have a lot of those conversations."

Before the meeting adjourned at 5:41, the board approved a shortened school day for four students; approved the resolution to join the litigation against social media companies, approved the TRANE proposal to install one HVAC unit and approved second reading of a board policy to allow a student member.

The next meeting of the Webster County Board of Education will be a work session on November 9, at 5:00 p.m.



#1WC DIFFERENCE MAKERS named for October were recognized at Monday night's school board meeting. Amber Wyatt, second from left is the October #1WC certified employee of the month. She works at Providence Elementary School. Buffy Corbin, second from right who is a teacher at Clay was the #1WC certified employee of the month. The awards were presented by Venita Murphy and Amanda Coomes.