

Board Of Education Preparing For Upcoming School Year

The Union County Board of Education met in a work session Thursday, July 23, reviewing a number of items related to the opening of schools in August.

Superintendent Dr. Terra Hancock reviewed the agenda for the board's Monday, July 27, regular session.

The agenda includes 28 consent items the board discussed on Thursday, before voting to approve them on Monday. In addition to regular consent items that include travel reports, personnel reports, fund raisers, trip requests and leaves of absence, the board received the 2026-27 student handbooks for Morganfield and Sturgis elementary schools, Union County Middle, Union County High

School, UCLA and UCvLA to review and approve. The district code of conduct of acceptable behavior and discipline for 2026-27 is also on the agenda for approval as are four staff handbooks—employee handbook, coaches handbook, substitute handbook and transportation handbook.

The board also received a list of updates to the UCPS Special Education procedures and a partnership agreement for Educational Neglect Prevention and Family Engagement Program.

Thursday meeting also included information related to the fidelity bond for new board Chief Finance Officer Amanda Davis who took over that position on July 1. The fidelity bond through Ohio Ca-

sualty is an annual bond document signed by the district.

Board members also learned that a grant application for the fresh fruits and vegetables program has been submitted. While that program has traditionally been incorporated daily in school menus, food services director told the board Thursday that funding that had traditionally been about \$7500 will decrease for the 2026-27 school year; thus, the fresh fruits and vegetables program will be limited to two to three days a week.

The board will also approve memorandums of understanding with Earl C. Clements Job Corps Academy for Victory Technical High School and CTT One Way Concurrent En-

rollment as well as a memorandum of understanding with Henderson Community College for dual credit and early college classes.

An annual agreement for district-wide services pest control through West Kentucky Pest Control is expected to be approved and an independent contractor agreement for student mental health service for up to \$15,000 will be presented for approval. Dr. Hancock told the board that the mental health services contract maxes out at \$15,.000 but she anticipates it will likely exceed that amount.

Also on the agenda is a request for approval of the Relevant Speakers Network contract for Red Ribbon Week guest speakers.

In her review of the

agenda, the superintendent told the board that athletic tickets for adults will increase from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per event; however, due to donations from groups like Friends of Coal all students will get into games free of charge.

A technology recycling plan for district-wide technology will now be include a monthly review of devices that are being taken out of service and/or devices being added to the current inventory. The board was expected to approve the plan Monday night. Also included on the board agenda for approval is the Community Ed Grant Award for FY 2027. That \$20,000 grant is used to pay portions of salaries.

A 52-page document of district funding as-

surances required for the district to receive SEEK funds is up for approval, along with the district's 2027 federal cash request of assurance and the district funding assurances statement, all of which must be signed by Superintendent Hancock.

A memorandum of agreement for Title I and Title IV with John Paul II Catholic School will be approved. Those agreements support extended school services for all Union County students with the Title I program including an extended service summer teacher and a Title IV art teacher.

The superintendent's professional dues for the professional organizations is also scheduled for approval.

Hancock has appointed Blaine Hunter, to serve on the district sick leave bank committee as the administrative representative. During consent item approval Monday night, the board was expected to approve that appointment.

Other business to come before the board is the approval of two change orders for district construction projects. The first change order relates to the boiler replacement project at the middle school; the second relates to a \$69,000 change for site excavation and storm drainage on the vocational school project.

The last item on the agenda relates to approval of the 2026-27 certified evaluation plan. That plan will not change from last year and is expected to be approved as presented.

Thursday night's work session adjourned at 5:35.

UCBOE Meets

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leave bank committee and two change orders—one for the construction project and one for the UCMS boiler project. The consent agenda items also included approval of the certified evaluation plan, the food services procurement plan and a memorandum of understanding with Henderson Community College for dual credit classes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m. The next work session for the board is set for August 20 with a regular board meeting scheduled for August 24.

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Morganfield City Council Hears Residents Concerns

The Morganfield City Council met in regular session on Thursday, July 23 with Mayor Randy Greenwell presiding and all council members in attendance. City Attorney Lindsay Durbin was also present for the meeting. City Administrator Scott Clements was absent from the session.

Also attending the meeting were city department heads and several residents of the community.

Following approval of the minutes from the June meeting and the bills, claims, and transfers, the council conducted a short business session. There was one transfer in July, according to Mayor Greenwell. That was the transfer of \$200,000 from the water fund to the general fund.

Council members reviewed the monthly financial report before the mayor presented an

overview of activities in the city.

Mayor Greenwell told those gathered that the splash pad in downtown Morganfield “has been very successful.” He noted, “It has really helped the downtown area.”

The mayor told members that a representative from the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) will attend the August council meeting to present an update on opportunities available for cities. Greenwell remarked that GRADD has been instrumental in helping the city of Morganfield with grant opportunities. He said the business district has shown marked improvement in the past year, and added, “I’m really proud of Morganfield.”

Mayor Greenwell acknowledged the city is still looking to fill two important positions –

fire chief and licensed operator at the wastewater treatment plant. The search is ongoing for applicants. He added the city has two new police officers, and those individuals will be attending academy training in September.

Council member Brian Humphrey told members it is time to re-bid the lease for the city-owned farmland.

Before the meeting was opened for public comments, the council approved the sale of police tasers from the Union County Sheriff's Department.

City resident Bill Rose told the council there is an issue at Dunbar Park with individuals parking vehicles under the shelters and on the basketball court. Mayor Greenwell he will make arrangements to get new signage erected at the park.

City residents Mabel Johnson and Jewel Sil-

bey addressed the council concerning the condition of the mini park and dilapidated properties in the west side of Morganfield. Ms. Johnson told members there are several young people who congregate in the mini park, and the park needs more upkeep. She added, “There is no playground equipment. The park needs to be renovated.”

Ms. Silbey asked, “Do any of you council members ever drive on the west side?. She said there are several properties which need to be taken down, mowing that needs to be done, and added there is a serious drainage issue at the home of her neighbor that is causing damage to her driveway.

The city attorney told the group there is a lengthy legal process that has to be followed in order to for the sale or demolition of dilapidated property.

Difficulty In Saying Yes Becomes Rewarding Occasion

**By Becky Greenwell
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Sometimes the hardest thing to say is “No” when “Yes” would be so much easier.

That time comes when you are speaking to your child who wants to go to a party and they are saying, “Everybody is going to be there,” but you know the parents won’t be.

You see the hurt in his eyes and hear the unspoken words of “I hate you,” but you know you still have to say “No.”

What is even harder is saying “Yes” when “No” is much more preferred.

That time was when I was asked to say yes to something I believed I really would rather not do it at all. (Only because I was a big chicken.)

If a determined grandson did not persuade me to say yes, I knew that whenever I said no the disappointment I created would be devastating.

That is what happened to me. It had started several weeks earlier when he asked me if I would come and speak to his fourth-grade class.

He didn’t ask me if I could, he asked me if I would. If he had just said could then saying no would have been a whole lot easier to say.

Without coming right out and flatly refusing I sidestepped his invitation. I couldn’t come up with any good reasons why not, so I just played my procrastination card.

He trumped it with his persistence card.

Every week I heard a simple, “When are you coming to visit my class?”

Then he pulled out his Ace in the hole card. He called me on the phone and simply said, “I have a letter to read to you.”

He continued with the words from his teacher and fellow classmates saying how much they enjoyed my column and would I please come and talk to their class.

Now I didn’t see the note, he may have added a few choice words of his own, but whether he adlibbed along the way or not he sure put in some dramatic reading.

I argued that I didn’t speak in front of crowds, I wasn’t good at that.

He argued I wasn’t speaking I was just talking.

I told him I had to work and he told me it would only take 15 minutes, and I could come during my lunch hour.

I told him I didn’t know what to talk about; he told me they would ask the questions.

I was running out of excuses rapidly. So, I managed to get a weak yes out. Then I got a big “Yessss!” and I imagined the big fist pump. My fate was sealed.

I went to his class with a stack of notes just in case my nerves caused me to forget why I was even there.

The class entered in an orderly fashion, I stood at the front of the room while my grandson so proudly introduced me, and did very well, too. I spoke to the two fourth grade classes and

told them all about writing, the importance of learning grammar and spelling, gave them a little educational advice, and read one of my earlier columns to them.

They were well-mannered, interested in what I had to say, and then they put me on the spot with their questions.

Very good questions I might add. In fact, I think a couple of them may have a career in journalistic writing because they were already getting their interviewing skills honed.

After several questions on writing, someone casually asked the question of “How old are you?”

Their teacher was quick to let them know that there were some questions you didn’t ask a woman.

That didn’t matter, my grandson was quick to fill in that blank and even gave them my birth date.

That was okay, he was proud of his “Mackey.” I enjoyed his class and they seemed to enjoy me. I continued my lunch hour with them in the cafeteria and was treated like a very special guest. My grandson made sure I knew where to sit, what to order, and where to take the empty tray. There was added advice on how to keep from accidentally dropping the plate in the trash. I also received a dessert treat from someone’s lunch box from home.

It was rewarding to have fourth graders for fans, and they made the difficult task of saying yes so simple.

The issue is one that the city council has few options. According to information presented last week, e-bikes (bicycles) are vehicles and laws governing their use are set at the Commonwealth of Kentucky. It was noted, however, the parents of two bikers have been cited recently. Council members did urge parents to discuss safe use of the e-bikes with their children.

No further business came before the council, and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

The next regular meeting of Morganfield City Council will be Thursday, August 27, 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Union County Fiscal Court is accepting applications for a Full-Time Home-Delivered Meal/Transportation Driver position at our Senior Citizen Facility.

This full-time position includes benefits, health insurance, retirement, and vacation.

Applications and a copy of the job description can be picked up and turned in at the Union County Judge/Executive's Office, located at 100 W. Main St., Morganfield, KY 42437. They may be obtained via email at jill.hunley@unioncountky.gov or on our website at www.unioncountky.org. Applications will be accepted until August 14, 2026.

The Union County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer: All applicants are considered for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

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