



The BOARD REPORT

June 16, 2026 • Issue 40

➤➤ Focused investments. Measurable growth.

When districts invest in teachers, the impact isn't always immediate, but over time, those decisions begin showing up where it matters most: Student learning.

Assistant Superintendent Kelly Fithen shared encouraging results that connect intentional investments in instruction and teacher development with measurable student growth across Clark County classrooms.

After focusing heavily on phonics instruction, teacher training, and classroom support, kindergarten reading readiness climbed from 69% to 79%, while first grade posted an 11-point gain. The next phase, she said, is broadening the focus to reading comprehension and deeper literacy instruction across grade levels.

SEE PAGE 4 for STORY.

➤➤ Board initiates steps to sell CO building

Following the recent acquisition of the 273 Shoppers Drive property to house CCPS Central Office, the Board has officially launched the divestiture process for the current building.

The Board accepted a Letter of Interest from Lisle Adams of Adams Real Estate Services, granting administration the authority to enter negotiations for professional listing services.

Mr. Adams, who previously served as the listing agent for the Shoppers Drive property, brings specialized local expertise as both a commercial real estate agent and certified appraiser. With the vote, a formal real estate services contract will be brought before the Board for final approval.

➤➤ **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, July 28 - 6pm**

“NOTABLE & QUOTABLE”

“Contrary to popular belief, we don't take the summer off.

We never stop working hard for kids.”

-Superintendent Dustin Howard



Board of Education
GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS

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DISTRICT ACADEMIC TEAM



Steady improvement in i-Ready test outcomes is largely driven by our District Academic Team, which works closely with schools to support and advance our training initiatives. From left, Amber Murphy, Elizabeth Vallejo, Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer Kelly Fithen, Tiffany Austin, and Alyson Hill.



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>>> Facility improvements

The Board approved multiple items supporting ongoing facility improvements and athletic renovations:

- > KU easement for street lights on MLK Boulevard along district property
- > Payment of invoices, pay estimates, and change orders related to ongoing design and construction services for the RDC and Baker renovation projects.
- > Special inspections proposals for athletic fieldwork at RDC and GRC Fieldhouse to ensure compliance with construction quality standards, including soil, compaction, and concrete testing.
- > Geotechnical survey proposals for baseball and softball field development at RDC to evaluate subsurface conditions prior to final design and construction.
- > Schematic design for baseball and softball renovations at RDC, outlining planned improvements such as turf installation, drainage systems, updated fencing, irrigation relocation, and lighting alternates.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dustin Howard

CCPS continues to strengthen its connection with families and the community through the Hannah McClure Cardinal Community Center. A new online system allows families to easily schedule facility rentals, and Director Christy Bush highlights community partnerships through the "Friends of the Center" initiative.

Summer programming is in full swing, with the summer feeding program serving thousands of meals to students and families. We distributed 24,000 meals at the last event, so a huge shout out to our staff, our community volunteers, and local organizations that help make this possible.

The Book Bus program has returned, visiting multiple community locations throughout the week. Driver Alison Esler makes sure the Book Bus is a popular summer resource for students and families.

Flight Academy at Shearer Elementary is supporting students in reading and math skills through free, structured summer learning opportunities, including transportation and meals.

Expanded summer childcare is in full swing, along with upcoming professional development and leadership retreats in July focused on in-district training and cost savings.

Looking ahead, CCPS is preparing for back-to-school events, finalizing schedules for school openings, and wrapping up summer enrichment programs.

Mr. Howard emphasized that summer remains a highly active period focused on student learning, family support, and preparation for a strong start to 2026-27.



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Additional Business

The Board:

- > Approved the 2026–2027 school handbooks, which outline district expectations, policies, and procedures for students and families.
- > Approved the District Athletic Handbook, establishing a unified set of guidelines for student-athletes across all programs.
- > Granted approval for Board members to attend the 2026 Summer Leadership Institute in Lexington on July 10-11 to earn required hours.
- > Gave first reading of KSBA updates to policies and procedures, and set a special meeting for June 30 to approve second reading.

A series of agreements were approved to ensure continued and expanded services for students receiving specialized supports:

- > Interpreting Services of the Commonwealth, LLC to provide ASL interpretation; Karen Hadley, Speech-Language Pathologist; Lori Jones, Physical Therapist; On Track Orientation and Mobility Services, providing instruction for students with visual impairments; and Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Community Work Transition Program, expanding transition programming for students ages 16 and older.

The Board approved several required fiscal and compliance items:

- > Monthly financial update, including authorization of payroll and accounts payable.
- > Payroll calendar for 2026–2027.

- > KDE Grant Management Assurances, a required federal compliance acknowledgment ensuring eligibility for grant funding.
- > Fidelity bond for the district treasurer, providing financial protection as required by statute.
- > Approval of reserve balance for sick leave payable (for liability reporting).
- > Acknowledgment of indirect cost rates for 2026–2027, including updated allowable percentages for federal grants and food service programs.
- > Approval to reduce committed general fund balance for the district's rotation and replacement schedule, formally aligning prior budget updates with current fiscal planning.
- > Approval of the 2026–2027 pledge of collateral agreement, securing district funds held in financial institutions.
- > Approval of carry forward requests, allowing school-level Section 6 funds to roll into the next fiscal year for planned instructional and operational use.
- > Approval of updated student fee schedules, while maintaining waivers for eligible students.
- > Approval of a MOA with Georgetown College, supporting clinical placements for student teachers and continuing educator preparation partnerships.

The Board approved the consent agenda items as presented. [VIEW AGENDA](#)



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i-Ready Report: Seeing the impact of intentional investment

Years of consistent, intentional investment in teacher support and instruction are showing measurable results for CCPS students.

Since 2023, the district has focused on providing premium instructional resources, professional learning, and targeted staff support, and that investment is paying off.

“When we invest in top-tier resources, we invest in our students,” Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer Kelly Fithen told the Board.

As district academic specialists reviewed end-of-year i-Ready data, they looked beyond single-year growth and examined trends over time to evaluate whether instructional priorities are making a lasting impact.

One area showing clear progress is early literacy.

Since 2023–2024, CCPS has strengthened foundational reading through explicit phonics instruction and IMSE Orton-Gillingham teacher training, building instructional expertise.



That work is now showing measurable results.

Kindergarten students showed a 10-point increase over three years in end-of-year phonics readiness, growing from 69% to 79%.

First grade students demonstrated an 11-point increase, growing from 49% to 60%.

“These gains represent more than improved scores,” Ms. Fithen said. “They reflect intentional support for teachers, consistent instructional practices, and sustained focus on foundational literacy.”

With that foundation taking hold, the district is preparing for its next phase of growth.

“After establishing a strong foundation and equipping teachers with the tools to teach students how to read, we are now focused on helping students read to learn,” Ms. Fithen said.

To support that work, CCPS will implement new literacy resources across grades 1–12 to strengthen comprehension, critical thinking, and engagement with grade-level texts.

The Board also reviewed progress in mathematics.

Elementary math continues to show growth through instructional coaching, hands-on learning, and conceptual understanding.

Moving forward, CCPS will continue investing in elementary math while piloting additional supports and instructional resources at Baker, RDC, and GRC.

Ms. Fithen credited her District Academic Team for their hard work, and reinforced that meaningful growth takes time, intentionality, and continued investment.

“We are seeing significant gains in the areas where we have been putting our focus and our intentionality,” Ms. Fithen said. “Now we’re ready to expand our focus to other areas as well.”

[View i-Ready Report](#)



GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS

The Clark County Board of Education Greatness Recognitions honor staff, students, and community members who exemplify one or more of the Portrait of a Clark County Learner competencies. This is Growing Greatness in action. Congratulations to all, and shoutout to our nominators!



ENGAGED CITIZEN COMMITTED COLLABORATOR

TRADITIONAL BANK Whitney Davidson/Mason Guy



Traditional Bank is a valued community partner, an engaged corporate citizen, and a committed collaborator that consistently demonstrates its dedication to supporting local initiatives. Traditional Bank's willingness to invest in programs that strengthen our community has made a meaningful impact on those we serve. This year and last, Traditional Bank generously provided a monetary donation to support our HR orientations, helping us create a welcoming and informative experience for new team members. In addition, they donated bags for our Summer Feeding Program, contributing resources that help us better serve children and families throughout the community. We are grateful for their continued partnership and their ongoing commitment to making a positive difference.

-Aleisha Ellis, Nominator



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EMPOWERED LEADER ENGAGED CITIZEN

MIKE MCCORMICK

Clark County Public Schools proudly recognizes Mike McCormick for his exceptional leadership and valued partnership in helping us Grow Greatness throughout CCPS. His impact reaches far beyond guidance and support—he is helping shape the future of leadership within our district. Mike exemplifies the qualities of an Empowered Leader and an Engaged Citizen through his commitment to investing in



others, sharing his expertise, and building leadership capacity across CCPS. Through his mentorship and leadership knowledge, he is equipping our leaders to better serve our students, staff, and community each and every day. His dedication, partnership, and belief in the work we do do not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful for the meaningful difference he continues to make in Clark County Public Schools.

-Kelly Fithen, Nominator



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ENGAGED CITIZEN

• for service to the Hannah McClure Cardinal Community Center •

RAMON MALDONADO



We would like to formally recognize Coach Ramon Maldonado for his outstanding dedication to our community. Coach Maldonado recently organized and hosted a free soccer clinic for the youth ages 6-11 of Clark County at the Hannah McClure Cardinal Community Center. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to him for volunteering his valuable time and sharing his expertise with our upcoming athletes. Coach, thank you not only for investing in our kids and inspiring the next generation of players, but also for sharing your profound love for the game. Your passion for the sport and commitment to our youth are truly inspiring, and we are incredibly grateful for your impact.

-Christy Bush, Nominator



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EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR RESILIENT LEARNER COMMITTED COLLABORATOR SCHOOL BOOKKEEPERS



Our school bookkeepers are at the heart of helping our schools succeed. They don't just manage numbers. They are trusted partners who make sure our staff and students have the supplies, resources, and support they need. They are skilled and effective communicators, working closely with school leaders to provide clear and accurate financial information, helping monitor budgets, and guiding thoughtful decision-making. At the same time, they support staff in understanding financial procedures, making complex processes feel manageable. In the constantly changing world of school finance, our school bookkeepers demonstrate what it means to be resilient learners. They adapt to evolving regulations, requirements, and processes while skillfully navigating the complexities of the ever-important Redbook with professionalism, flexibility, and expertise. Their commitment to continuous learning, attention to detail, and willingness to collaborate make them invaluable members of our Finance Team. Through their hard work and committed collaborative spirit, they help ensure fiscal responsibility while empowering schools to focus on what matters most—Growing Greatness in our students.

-Aleisha Ellis, Nominator



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GROUP GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS

EARNED SINCE OUR GROUP RECOGNITION EVENT AT RDC ON APRIL 21

RDC STLP

Three students were Student Technology Leadership Program state champions in their individual product categories, which are part of the Creative Digital Arts competition.

Marielle Maldonado: State Champion in Digital Storytelling with her story, *The Golden Goal*.

Lily Baumgardner: state champion in Logo Design with her logo for Kovalic's Christmas Tree farm.

Savannah Frye (not pictured): Second place in state in Scratch Coding for her game, *Missy's Bakery*.

Pictured: Marielle and Lily with teacher Damonica Partin and Mr. Howard



RDC BOYS SOCCER



The 2026 RDC Boys Soccer team finished the season 14-2-0 as Bluegrass Conference Regular Season Runner Up and Bluegrass Conference Tournament Champions.

Roster: Brooks Bradley, Oscar Luna Jordan, Tucker Harney, Jayden Hisle, Rhylan Herndon, Parker Raney, Angel Rodriguez, Oliver Snowden, Jack Swart, Kash Ritchie, Crosby Snowden, Colton Wilson, Josue Flores, Kendrick Gashel, Reece Harney, Tony Luna, Cameron Maxey, Tate Reece, Jackson Whallen, Easton Conlee, Myles Miller, Elias Quiorz • Coaches: Renny Ross, Tyler Wallin, Will Carrington



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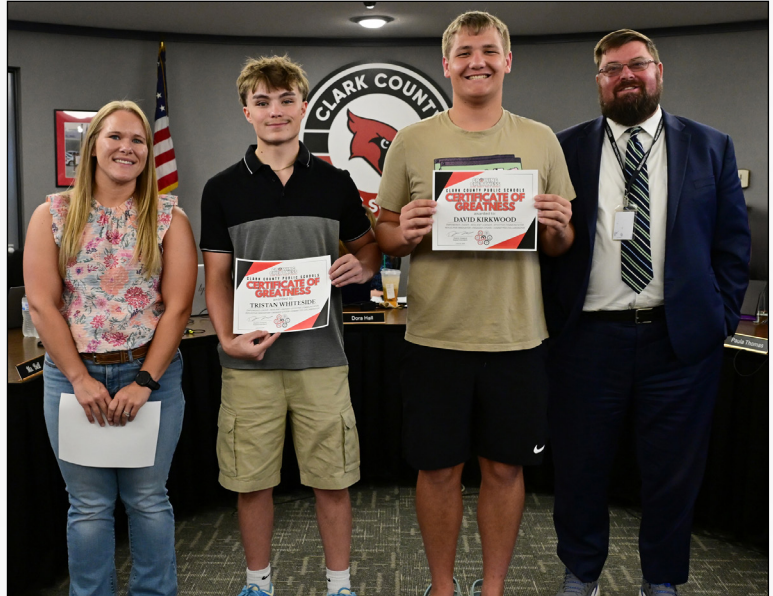
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Clark County Area Technology Center Industry Certifications

The ATC celebrated an outstanding milestone this school year, with a total of 252 students earning industry certifications. This total includes approximately 160 additional certifications since our April 21 recognition event. While many students were unable to attend due to summer break, they will be formally acknowledged when the school year resumes. Many of these students are current sophomores and juniors who will return next year to continue building their credentials and pursuing additional industry certifications. Pictured: welding students Tristan Whiteside and David Kirkwood with ATC Principal Dr. Jessi McCullough and Superintendent Howard.



Certs earned since April 21 (others may be found in the **April special meeting Board Report**)

WELDING

Ethan Hrivnak
Tristan Whiteside
Oliver Hutchens
James Reed
Jerry Martinez Lopez
Uziel Galindo Perez
Nathan Hoskins
Phoenix Watts
Cole Fithen
David Amador Garcia
Darwin Flores Ordonez
David Kirkwood
Drake Warner
Max Culton
Robert Johnson

CERTIFIED

PHLEBOTOMY TECH

Cooper Moore
Teigh Yeast

MNA

Brielle Wiggington
Saydee Wesley
Maahi Patel
Carly Marstella
Viv Anne Lane
Charlotte Craig
Caroline Brookshire

Shaylynn Berryman
Lynx Black Tomey
Abbigayle Branham
Macy Wasson
Kinslee Wesolwski
Olivia Varney
Savannah Thomas
Elizabeth Sutherland
Karisma Spahni
Riley Sadler
Arabella Guinn
Adriana Chagolla
Aniya Anderson
Allison Totty
Porter Tipton
Kyleigh Stakelin
Ellory Moore
Logan Kennedy
Claire Kearney
Halle Johnson
Leah Howard
Charles Garrison
Adreona Ward
Ava Muncie
Alexis Notchie
Simone Anangono
Kennedy Stamper

NOCTI HEALTH SCIENCE

Ariana Delarosa
Morgan Bennett
Annabelle Fletcher
Mischa Root
Taranpreet Singh
Olivia Smith
Isabella Caudill
Elayna Swart
Arielynn Brooks
Juliette Dominguez Villa
Draxton Douglass
Jane Sutherland
Marissa Thomas
Ashtyn Walters
Emma Hrivnak
Lucas Smoot
Haylee Wills
Samar Zelaya Valladares
Zoie Turner
Olivia Urzua
Bailey Watts
Avigail Rodriguez
Vasquez
Jayda Grigsby
Madison Merriman
Jillian Franco

Amberlin Skinner Israel
Lila Fugate
Mariah Heidle
Doc Robinson
Karley Spears
Dawnyella Hernandez
Evelyn Evans
Piper Brock
Avaree Williams
Joshua McBride
Kiley Brewer
Hannah Whitt
Moriah Williams
Joseph Chirico
Anniston Kash
Caelynn Meyerhoff
Curtera Thomas
Jace Perry
Jeremie Afram
Talia Sotski
Alexis Gross
Paislee Carroll
Sophia Beisker
Madelyn Honaker
Brylie Keltner
Maimouna Drame
Avery Dore
Lucille Keene

Madison Gullett
Lyric Hampton
Kamryn Porter
Bailey Henry
Alivia Hart
Elizabeth Coates
Rachel Horton
Presley Harper
Sarah Sexton
Kyleigh Hampton
Brooklyn Stamper
Ciara Vasquez
Sophia Stonionis
Olivia Stiles
Anna Smith
Kimberly Stokley
Cali Griffith
Ava Hall
Miley Banks
Luke Clark
Addilyn Farmer
Maria Meza
Carmen Guitierrez
Zyniia Tichenor
Marley Walker
Aubrey Williams
Emery Hunter
Henry Galindo Perez

Jayci White
Kiley Sidles
Kanvar Purewal
Kaelyn Stewart
Sophia Altehu
Braxton Douglass
Kinley Green
Peyton Hall
Reese Hatton
Ayla Wesolowski
Addison Zak
COMPUTER SCIENCE
INDUSTRY STACK:
CYBERSECURITY
Michael Davis
Christian Smith
Will McClellan
Gabriel Hatton
CONSTRUCTION/
CARPENTRY: NCCER
Tanner Rivers
Micah Bodo
KeShawn Smith
Jackson Greene
Adrian Davis
Walker Overton
Timothy Barr
Carson Zak



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