

The ^{CCPS} BOARD REPORT

August 27, 2024

→ Summer program sees huge results

Literacy Liftoff was celebrated with significant improvement shown among students who participated.

[See Page 3 for details.](#)

→ Tax rate approved

The 2025 tax rate was approved at a rate lower than the 2024 rate – 66.8 real property, 67.5 personal property, 53.5 motor vehicle, and 3% utility.

[See Page 4 for details.](#)

→ Kagan specialist praises CCPS

CCPS is a “model district” among the hundreds around the nation implementing comprehensive Kagan Cooperative Learning strategies. Vern Minor, director of Educational Leadership with Kagan, spoke at the meeting via Zoom, recapping the district’s work with Kagan.

[See Page 5 for details.](#)

→ Innovation Center officially named

The building behind RDC currently undergoing renovation to house the Phoenix Academy, the Cardinal Virtual Academy and STEM Academy is now officially named The Cardinal Innovation Center. The Board voted on the name based on survey results gathered from the community. The naming process has gone for several months with numerous surveys administered to gather input.

→ Marty Jackson honored

The access road adjacent to RDC that leads to the Innovation Center will be known as Marty Jackson Way in honor of Officer William “Marty” Jackson who spent decades directing traffic outside RDC and passed away this past year.

→ NEXT REGULAR MEETING: SEPTEMBER 24

NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

“ This is unique. The fact that we’re having this conversation right now is unique. I know very few boards of education who deal with what’s most important, and that is teaching and learning. So I applaud you. I sing your praises across Kentucky and literally around the country...”

-Vern Minor
Kagan Cooperative Learning
Director of Educational Leadership
(during Zoom call with the Board)

Congratulations to our Hall of Fame Class!



We were so proud to honor our 2024 CCPS Hall of Fame Class in a beautiful ceremony Aug. 23 at Cardinal Stadium.

Congratulations to, from left, Sandy Stults, Harvie Spry, Mike “Bear” Rogers, Jackie McCloud, Martha Miller, Jan Horn, Jeannie Jackson (representing Marty Jackson), Betty Curtis, and Paul Columbia. Joe Gilliam’s family was unable to attend. We loved celebrating our new Hall of Fame inductees and their families.



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Dora Hall, Vice Chair (District 2)

Billy Bennett (District 3)
Ben Dorsey (District 4)
Jennifer Simpkins (District 1)

CCPS
Supt. Dustin Howard
CAO/Asst. Supt. Kelly Fithen
COO Brandon Watkins
Full Admin Team

→ Routine actions...

In other action, the Board:

-Changed the language in the Non-Resident Student Enrollment Form so students are auto enrolled from year to year as long as attendance, academic and behavior requirements are met; and also changed the language in the Non-resident Student Transfer/Registration Form to grant permission until the student is unenrolled.

-Approved a \$97,159.92 change order for additional work needed on the Innovation Center renovation project. Architect Brian Buckner noted that the demolition uncovered more structural deficiencies than were known in the aging building and the additional costs will remedy that as well as make the building viable for long into the future. Mr. Buckner noted that even with the change order, the project remains under the initial project estimate.

-Acknowledged the district's new Health-E Pro menu software used by schools. The software provides the ability to switch the language and custom print the menu, along with noting foods with allergens, and listing the nutritional value of items.



[Click the image or here to find your school menu.](#)

-Voted to approve the purchase of 13 AED (automated external defibrillator) units to replace outdated units in our buildings. The cost will come out of the district athletic fund. The district has a total of 39 AEDs placed throughout the county.

-Updated the Verification of Employment Record, approved an update to the Diagnostician job description, acknowledged the monthly financial update, and authorized payment of salaries and bills.

-Approved numerous consent agenda items. [View Agenda](#)

→ Superintendent's Report

OPENING DAY

"I want to thank our staff for an incredible Opening Day. Mrs. Fithen and her team did a great job planning the event. We had tremendous support from our community partners. We really wanted to wrap around our staff because they work their guts out for our kids. I challenged every staff member very directly to be a light every day from the moment they walk in the building to the moment they leave."

COMMUNITY CONNECTION EVENT

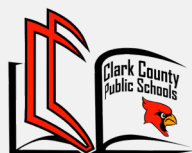
"We will have a Community Connection event on October 10th at 6:30 at GRC. We're going to feed everyone and take a look at our recently unveiled Portrait Of A Learner. We're going to discuss our new vision and mission and how we're growing greatness in Clark County. It's going to be a fantastic event."

MTSS BULLYING TASK FORCE

"Our K-6 schools have unveiled their programming vision for the year. If you go to any school's Facebook, you will see there are a lot of great things going on to combat bullying and take care of our students. The junior high and high school are also utilizing intervention strategies. In Clark County, we don't accept bullying. Let me say that officially. We're going to help kids as very best we can. You'll be hearing more about the task force's ongoing work in the coming months."

CELL PHONE EDUCATION PROGRAM

"After Labor Day, we're collaborating with the Winchester Police Department on a cell phone and social media education campaign in every classroom grades 5 through 12 on several specific cell phone-related dangers. Captain Charles will speak very directly to educate our students and parents. We want to do all we can to support our kids and keep them safe."



Summer enrichment program results in significant gains

Assistant Superintendent Kelly Fithen on Literacy Liftoff:

“This summer was extremely rewarding as I had the honor and privilege of being a part of a significant growth and improvement initiative for our students. I was able to work alongside some of Clark County’s finest educators to improve our students’ literacy skills. We are so proud of the growth numbers we were able to produce. I am beyond grateful and appreciative of the dedication and commitment that so many of the CCPS staff portrayed during Literacy Lift-Off.”

Click the We Love It Wednesday graphic below to view the full PDF.



- The program served 142 K-2 students in classes of no more than 12 students.
- Students were in the program for four hours each day for 18 days, with 75% of the day focused on intentional literacy instruction directly based on the specific curriculum all our schools use.
- Teachers gave assessments every week to track progress and ensure student needs were being met.
- The same assessment given before the program began was given again at its conclusion.
- The average growth rate for students working on kindergarten skills who missed three days or less was 30.2 percent, and for those who missed more than three days, 17.3 %.
- The average growth rate for students working on 1st grade skills who missed three days or less showed a growth rate of 33%, and for those who missed more than three days, 23%.
- “All of our teachers have been trained in IMSE Orton Gillingham instruction, which is a very intentional focus on how to teach literacy in scope and sequence of what students should learn and how it should be taught,” says Mrs. Fithen. “We are closing achievement gaps by being intentional.”

WE LOVE IT WEDNESDAY
SPOTLIGHTING GREATNESS

Literacy Liftoff

You can say a program accomplished its purpose, but when you can show it with proven results, that calls for celebration. CCPS has much to celebrate on behalf of its students as the Literacy Liftoff enrichment program we sponsored this summer boosted reading skills in participating students by leaps and bounds.

A brainchild of Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer Kelly Fithen, Literacy Liftoff was designed for students who need extra help with reading, and featured some of our district’s finest reading teachers.

The results of the 6-week, 18-day program, which included a fun activity each Wednesday, were quite spectacular. The standard assessment used at the beginning and end noted a greater than

30% growth rate in reading skills in the 142 K-2 students who received the focused, grade-appropriate literacy instruction. Teachers are analyzing the data to ensure a seamless transition to phonics instruction in the regular classroom.

Mrs. Fithen on the program: “This summer was extremely rewarding as I had the honor and privilege of being a part of a significant growth and improvement initiative for our students. I was able to work alongside some of Clark County’s finest educators to improve our students’ literacy skills. We are so proud of the growth numbers we were able to produce. I am beyond grateful and appreciative of the dedication and commitment that so many of the CCPS staff portrayed during Literacy Lift-Off.”

CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS: GROWING GREATNESS

[VIEW FULL PRESENTATION HERE](#)



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Board of Education Lowers the Property Tax Rate - Rationale

The responsibility that we, as the Board of Education, have to the community, taxpayers, and parents of the students who attend our schools is that we must be fiscally responsible and good stewards of the taxpayer dollars we receive while also providing for the needs of our staff, educate our students, and maintain our facilities.

We are a business; our business is our students, and it takes revenue to maintain the operational expenditures of any business. We currently spend a little less than 85% of that revenue in salaries which leaves only about 15% for operational expenses.

Our business and employees, along with every other business and personal household, has been affected by inflation. Our staff members have had to work multiple jobs just to stay afloat (some as many as three jobs). The average inflation rate since COVID has been 7%; prior to that, it was 2%. No business or family can maintain a consistent revenue source year after year and afford the inflation of expenditures to operate.

We would like to expand on how the tax rate set coincides with the revenues the district receives to maintain our operations. The rates that are most discussed are the compensating rate and the 4% revenue increase rate. The compensating rate is designed to provide basically the same revenue as the previous fiscal year based on the existing property values.

Our revenue would remain essentially the same while our operational expenditures would increase due to

inflation and the initiatives the Board is carrying out to support staff and students. More specifically, we would lose a little less than 1 million dollars from both the draft budget (Jan/Feb) as well as the tentative budget in May.

The 4% revenue increase rate is calculated to allow the district to set a rate that, based on the increased property values, would allow them to collect 4% more revenue than in the prior fiscal year. This is not a 4% increase to the tax rate itself. In many cases, including this year, the rate will decrease from the prior year rate based on the % increase of property values. There are very limited ways a school district can increase their revenue stream. This tax rate allowance is the primary way.

We want to circle back to what was said at the start of this conversation that we must be fiscally responsible with all of the revenue sources we receive, but also providing for our students and staff.

Below are some highlights of the big initiatives the BOE has approved over just this past year with the use of taxpayer dollars (both local and state).

- \$3.1M increase in salaries
- Additional teachers for lower

- classroom ratios
- Nurses in every school
- Resource Officers in every school
- Safety tinting on all buildings and classrooms
- Renovation of Phoenix Academy
- 12 new buses
- Camera update to ALL buses
- New playgrounds at EVERY school
- Furniture replacement at EVERY school
- New Chromebook rotation plan at EVERY SCHOOL and for EVERY STUDENT
- Expanded Preschool, Daycare, and Aftercare Services
- 75" clear touch screens in every school

With all that has been discussed, it is the recommendation that the BOE adopt the 4% revenue rate of 66.8 for real property and 67.5 for personal property so that we can maintain our business of supporting and educating the students of Clark County. This would be a decrease for real property by 0.7 cents. By lowering the rate, tax payers will save money on their taxes from last year, while the district is able to better keep pace with inflation.

Property Value	2023-2024 Rate	4% Revenue Rate	Compensating Rate	Decrease from 2023-2024 rate		difference of compensating rate to 4% revenue rate
				4% Revenue Rate	Compensating Rate	
	67.5	66.8	64.3			
\$ 200,000	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,336	\$ 1,286	\$ 14	\$ 64	\$ 50
\$ 350,000	\$ 2,363	\$ 2,338	\$ 2,251	\$ 25	\$ 112	\$ 88
\$ 500,000	\$ 3,375	\$ 3,340	\$ 3,215	\$ 35	\$ 160	\$ 125



➔ Kagan Cooperative Learning: *It's not what we teach as much as how we teach it*

The district's full-on commitment to Kagan cooperative learning is supported by consistent, long-term research showing students who learn under this instructional philosophy are not only more academically sound, but more employable.

Vern Minor, Kagan Director of Educational Leadership, enthusiastically applauded CCPS for its vision and staunch implementation of Kagan across the district. In his work with around 60 Kentucky districts who are implementing Kagan instructional strategies across classrooms, as well as in his work around the country, Minor said CCPS stands out.

Minor pointed out that not only does cooperative learning help close achievement gaps, but it better prepares students for life after public education. "The world of work is an interdependent world," Minor pointed out. "With cooperative learning, students not only achieve at higher levels, but they develop skill sets they need to function in jobs,"

The idea is that while teachers are teaching content related to the curriculum, they are simultaneously teaching students employability skills such as communication, teamwork, collaboration, and problem solving.

Minor added that he is working with school districts across the country and dozens in Kentucky, "but I can probably count on one hand, maybe two, the number of districts that are doing it right and you're one of them. I can tell you there are very few districts in this country that are having the conversations that you're having in Clark County. This is unique. I sing your praises across Kentucky and literally around the country when people ask me, 'How do you roll this out?' And I say to them, let me tell you about Clark County, Kentucky, because this is what they're doing to make this happen. You guys are well down the road on being a model district."

Kagan



Kagan's Vern Minor speaks to the Board over Zoom on how CCPS is excelling in training teachers in the organization's proven instructional model.



District admin and instructional specialists participated in two all-day sessions this summer on how to oversee and guide Kagan cooperative learning in their buildings. We want all principals and leaders to be as well-equipped as possible to lead our schools and support our teachers.



Kagan's Vern Minor works with a group of CCPS staff and admin during the summer training at GRC.





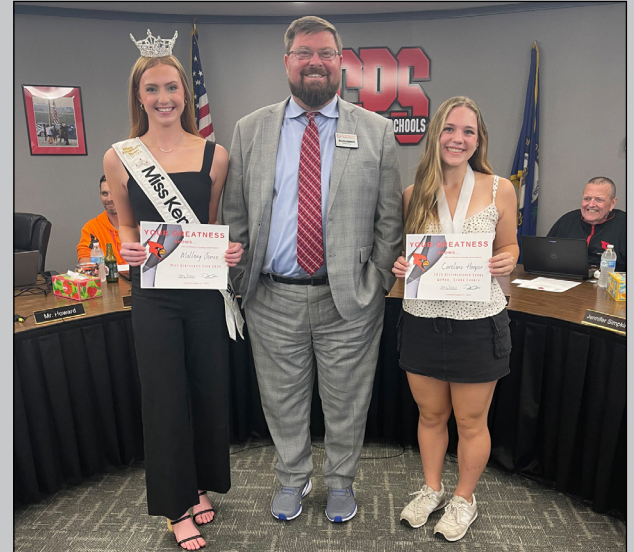
Your Greatness Shows...



The Summer Feeding Program crushed all previous records, providing 6,000 more meals than last summer. Superintendent Dustin Howard and the Board honored our Summer Food Services specialists, including our café managers and other staff members who teamed up to serve 18,804 breakfasts and 21,368 lunches in June and July. In addition to summer feeding, many of the same staff worked seven days at Group Workcamp Summer Missions, housed at RDC, serving 3,600 meals to participants.



The district's Literacy Liftoff program this summer was an enormous success with significant gains shown among students who attended. Superintendent Dustin Howard, Assistant Superintendent Kelly Fithen, and the Board recognized the teachers and staff who made Literacy Liftoff so beneficial for our students.



Superintendent Dustin Howard and the Board presented Certificates of Recognition to Caroline Harper, Distinguished Young Woman of Clark County; and Mallory Jones, Miss Kentucky Teen.

Both seniors at GRC, Caroline and Mallory are representing GRC and our district with distinction and honor in their respective leadership roles this year. Greatness abounds in our students!

