



# The BOARD REPORT

April 28, 2026 • Issue 38

## ➤➤ Nest expanding services to former BCTC facility

The Board unanimously approved a lease to expand childcare services through a space at Bluegrass Community and Technical College on Rolling Hills Lane.

The additional classrooms will help meet high demand for childcare, which has become a key staff benefit. "Our childcare program has been a huge success," said COO Brandon Watkins. "It's one of the biggest recruitment and retention strategies we have."

The program is currently at capacity with a waiting list, and the expansion will allow more families to be served. The leased space will operate year-round and is expected to be financially self-sustaining, with tuition covering the monthly lease cost while maintaining affordable rates for families.

## ➤➤ BARR program making positive impact at RDC, GRC

The BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) program will continue in grades 7-9, with the possibility of expanding to include 6th grade in the future. GRC BARR lead Emily Cook and RDC lead Calvin Schmiege reviewed the program's success. BARR focuses on using student relationships and data to support academic, behavioral, and social-emotional growth through character lessons, regular teacher team meetings, and tiered interventions. Over three years, the program has led to:

- > Lower absenteeism (especially in 9th grade)
- > Fewer behavior issues
- > Improved student engagement and sense of belonging
- > Significant drops in course failure rates

With BARR's strong results, staff support, and remaining grant funding to help offset costs, the district is exploring a potential program expansion. [VIEW BARR PRESENTATION.](#)

➤➤ **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, May 26 - 6pm**

### “NOTABLE & QUOTABLE”

"State testing does not define us, and it does not define our kids. What truly defines us is our vision for the Portrait of a Clark County Learner. That means showing up, taking pride in your work, and being a strong leader, a dedicated learner, and a responsible citizen who represents this community with integrity. State testing is our opportunity not just to talk about growing greatness, but to live it."

-Superintendent Dustin Howard

Board of Education  
GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS  
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### MEET GUS, our new therapy dog!



Meet Gus, the Winchester Police therapy dog, in partnership with CCPS. Gus completed eight months of training, is handled by Captain Steve Charles and Lauren Charles, and has been visiting schools regularly to support student engagement, mental health, and community connection.



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## Upbeat survey positive

Originally implemented in 2024 to address a high turnover rate, the district's **UpBeat survey** allows staff to provide anonymous feedback that is used to guide improvement efforts. Participation increased from 80% in 2024 to 96% this year, reflecting strong staff trust and involvement.

Key results include:

- 96% of staff say they plan to stay another year
- 95% would recommend working in the district
- High marks for purpose (97%), belonging (92%), and collaboration (92%)
- Professional development ratings exceed national averages

The district's overall engagement score is strong, with higher engagement linked to better student achievement and staff retention. Overall, results show consistent improvement across all categories. **VIEW RESULTS.**



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The last day of school is May 21, followed by graduation on May 22 at 7 p.m.

The district is planning a second annual elementary field day on May 15 at GRC's stadium, bringing together 3rd and 4th graders from all four elementary schools for a fun, team-based competition.

State testing (KSA) begins May 1 for grades 3-11. While emphasizing that one test does not define district success, Mr. Howard encouraged students to do their best and represent the district's values of pride and leadership.

Overall, the focus remains on finishing the year strong and celebrating student growth and success.

## Additional Business

The Board:

- > Approved authorizing issuance of bonds for upcoming spring and late summer projects, structured as 20-year bonds at an estimated low interest rate.
- > Approved a 3-year renewal of the Samsara bus contract for GPS tracking, safety monitoring, and maintenance diagnostics.
- > Approved a contract with FCPS for CDL third-party driver testing.
- > Approved construction bid for the practice turf at GRC, and approved revised planning documents, and finalized design development for athletic facility upgrades at RDC.
- > Approved closure of three completed construction/financial projects.
- > Approved FY 2026-27 salary schedules, including a 1% increase to certified staff and adjustments to SRO pay.
- > Updated SBDM staffing allocations.
- > Approved an MOA with Campbellsville University for student teacher placements.
- > Updated the job description for Director, and added the positions of Instructional Assistant IV and District Clinical Nurse.
- > Authorized payment of salaries and accounts payable, and several Consent Agenda items. **VIEW AGENDA.**



## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: GEORGE ROGERS CLARK HIGH SCHOOL



Since stepping into leadership in July, Principal Justin Arms emphasized that GRC has remained grounded in its core vision of ensuring all students are college and career ready, while fostering a safe and supportive environment rooted in knowledge, self-expression, and personal responsibility.

### Big Rock 1: Strengthening Instruction

The first priority centered on improving Tier 1 instruction across all classrooms. Staff leaned into consistent Professional Learning Community (PLC) practices, allowing teachers to collaborate more effectively on curriculum alignment, pacing, and assessments. A structured advisory model was introduced to provide additional academic and personal support for students, while tools like SchoolLinks have expanded college and career readiness opportunities.

### Big Rock 2: Building a Positive Culture

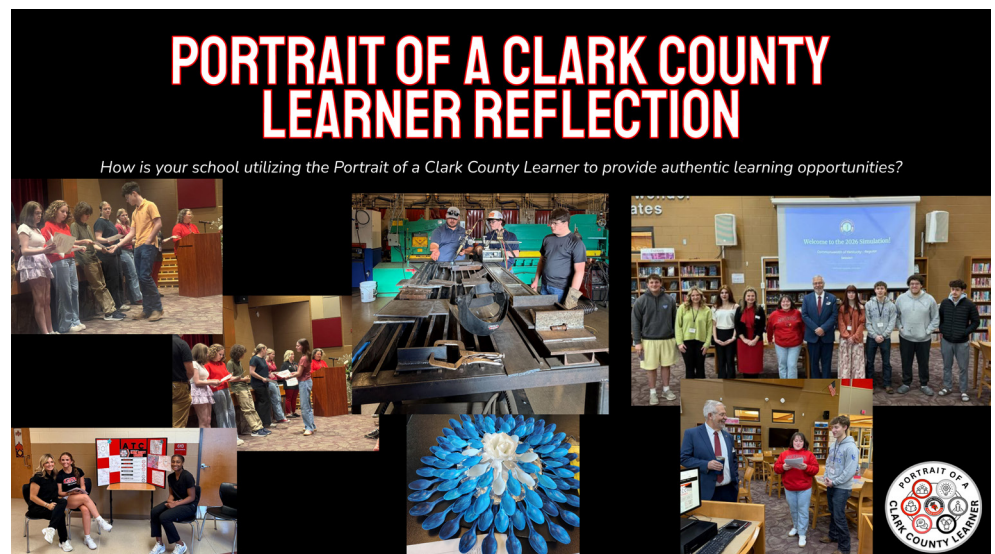
Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) events celebrated student success, reinforcing a balanced approach to accountability and encouragement. These efforts have contributed to a significant rise in staff morale and retention, with rates expected to exceed 90% this year. Survey data reflected notable gains, including double-digit growth in areas such as school safety, satisfaction, and sense of purpose.

## LINK TO GRC PRESENTATION

### Big Rock 3: Expanding Student Supports

The final focus area addressed support systems for students and staff. GRC implemented grade-level teams, ensuring each student has direct access to a dedicated assistant principal and counselor.

Weekly MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) meetings and early-warning tools help identify and assist students in need of intervention. Additionally, the school has prioritized clear, consistent communication with staff and tailored professional development opportunities based on teacher needs. "We are celebrating progress while acknowledging there is still work to be done," said Mr. Arms. "I'm looking forward to embracing the process as we work together to grow greatness each and every day in our students."



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## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: ROBERT D. CAMPBELL JUNIOR HIGH

RDC has aligned its behavior expectations (FLY - Focus on respect; Lead with responsibility; You represent our school) with the school's Big Rocks.

"Our vision statement focuses on development, not only in academics, but on being a decent human beings and illustrators of our Clark County Portrait," said Principal Tiffany Smith. "Just this year, we rejuvenated our behavior anchors to more closely align with our big rocks."

### Big Rock 1: Student Engagement

Through consistent instructional feedback, collaboration among staff, and a focus on cooperative learning, RDC saw measurable academic gains. Reading and math performance both improved, with notable decreases in novice levels and strong increases in students reaching proficiency. Students even exceeded projected growth benchmarks in reading, signaling that instructional changes are making a real impact.

### Big Rock 2: Character Development

The second "big rock" has been driven by the school's BARR (Building Assets and Reducing Risks) program. Weekly "I-Time" lessons provide structured opportunities for students to build relationships, practice communication skills, and develop empathy. These efforts

## LINK TO RDC PRESENTATION

have contributed to a noticeable shift in school culture, with a significant reduction in disrespect and fewer reported bullying concerns.

### Big Rock 3: Connectivity

The third focus centers on helping students feel seen, supported, and connected to their school community. RDC expanded student opportunities through clubs, classes, and mentoring programs while also prioritizing small gestures like birthday cards and personal outreach.

The school also introduced a new approach to showcasing student learning, allowing all students to share their work through live, in-school experiences aligned to the Portrait of a Clark County Learner.

Overall, RDC's work reflects an intentional balanced focus on academics, relationships, and student well-being.

**PORTRAIT OF A CLARK COUNTY LEARNER REFLECTION**

*How is your school utilizing the Portrait of a Clark County Learner to provide authentic learning opportunities?*

**ROBERT D. CAMPBELL JUNIOR HIGH**

**STUDENT SHOWCASE**

Making Connections to the Portrait through Showcasing Students in Our School

**THE CHALLENGE:**

1. Sharing Learning Experiences
2. Connect to the Portrait
3. Provide the opportunity for ALL

**PORTRAIT OF A CLARK COUNTY LEARNER**



## 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!

**GROWING GREATNESS**  
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### RESILIENT LEARNER

## RAYLAN ANDERSON



While the world sees a trophy, we see a Resilient Learner. To be a Resilient Learner means more than just getting back up after a fall, it means maintaining absolute focus when the pressure is at its highest. Raylan Anderson has mastered the art of composure and persistence, qualities that allow him to adapt to pressure and stay focused on a goal. These are the same traits that drive academic excellence and personal growth. By winning 1st place in the Junior Olympics U15 Air Pistol Division, Raylan has proven that he possesses these critical traits. He embodies the very spirit of our district's mission.

-Tom Swart, Nominator

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### EMPOWERED LEADER

## MARKELL MATTINGLY



Markell Mattingly continues to demonstrate excellence and leadership beyond the classroom through her achievements in competitive gymnastics at Excel Gymnastics in Richmond, Kentucky. Competing in Region 5 (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan), Markell recently earned 1st place on floor in Level 10 for her age group (Junior D) at the 2026 Regional Championships—an impressive accomplishment that reflects her discipline, resilience, and commitment to her craft. Her success has advanced her to the All-Star level, where she will represent her region on floor exercise at the USA Gymnastics National Competition in Oklahoma this May. Through her dedication and performance, Markell is not only excelling athletically, but also serving as an empowered leader and role model in her community, demonstrating the impact of hard work, perseverance, and goal-setting for others to follow.

-Emily Cook, Nominator

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### REFLECTIVE INNOVATOR

## LOGAN HOLLAND



Mr. Holland is a true champion for every student in his classroom. He works intentionally to challenge the competency of Reflective Innovator through his commitment to creative thinking, continuous reflection, and student-centered instruction. In his classroom, he consistently challenges traditional approaches to teaching by designing engaging lessons that encourage collaboration, critical thinking, and active participation. Mr. Holland regularly reflects on his practice and adapts his strategies to better meet the needs of all his students, ensuring that learning is meaningful and accessible for all. He removes barriers to learning, differentiates instruction, and builds strong relationships that help students feel supported and confident in their abilities. His willingness to try new approaches, refine them based on student needs, and share innovative ideas with colleagues demonstrates the mindset of a reflective innovator who goes above and beyond to create meaningful learning experiences.

-Diana Cline, Nominator

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### EMPOWERED LEADER

## CALVIN SCHMIEG



Calvin Schmieg is an Empowered Leader who consistently demonstrates a remarkable ability to innovate by fostering a collaborative environment. Mr. Schmieg is the motor of the Clark County Band Programs, leads the BARR program at RDC, serves on the Leeds Board, and fills other leadership positions as well. Mr. Schmieg leads our monthly meetings, coordinates events, leads curriculum alignment, advocates and promotes the band program across the district, and generally maintains the pulse of the program as progress through the school year. More than just leading, Mr. Schmieg inspires others to adopt this same mindset of proactive problem-solving and thinking in their own work. Through this combination of innovation, vision, and mentorship, he effectively multiplies the leadership capacity within the entire Clark County family.

-Matthew Leedy, Nominator



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**EMPOWERED LEADER**  
LEXI HARRIS • TONY MANN  
JAMIE MARTIN



When agreeing to be a Chaperone on the DC trip, you are agreeing to be a leader. You are taking on the immense responsibility of monitoring, caring for and protecting 120 of our community's kids. Empowered Leaders exhibit such qualities as adaptability, effective communication, resiliency, and a collaborative mindset. When we had two students in need an emergency medical care, these three people stepped up and went above and beyond their responsibilities to care for our kids. In doing so, they displayed the characteristics of empowered leaders, displaying adaptability, resiliency, and above all love for our students. These three people were specifically referenced by the parent of one of the students. He expressed admiration and gratitude for how they cared for his daughter. Particularly Lexi who stayed with her in the ER until 3 AM.

-Tom Swart, Nominator



**GROWING GREATNESS**  
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**COMMITTED COLLABORATOR**  
TOM SWART

There is an old saying that, "smooth seas do not make skillful sailors." The teachers just recognized are a tremendous example of resiliency and empowered leadership, true skilled sailors in choppy water. While we are here to celebrate them, we would be remiss if we didn't recognize the person who acted as the lighthouse during those moments of weather on the water. Mr. Tom Swart is the epitome of the Committed Collaborator competency. As we know, being a collaborator isn't just about working well with others when things are easy. It's about taking in the concerns of others before taking action, keeping the focus on students' experience when personal exhaustion or adversity sets in, and being the person everyone knows they can lean on when pressure is the highest. While Mr. Swart's work in DC is commendable, we see this same spirit in Tom every single day at our school. As an assistant principal he is committed to collaboration through bridging the gap between administration, faculty, and families. He doesn't lead from behind his desk; he leads from the halls, cafeteria, meeting rooms, athletic fields... and did I mention the cafeteria? Mr. Swart, thank you for your resilience, partnership, and for being the anchor that keeps us grounded. We are a better, stronger team because you are a part of it.



-Tiffany Smith, Nominator



# GROWING GREATNESS

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