

# The <sup>CCPS</sup> BOARD REPORT

September 23, 2025

## → Working budget approved

Clark County Public Schools has officially approved its 2025–2026 Working Budget, showing solid financial health despite rising costs and changing funding dynamics.

Director of Finance Aleisha Ellis shared that the district is currently operating with a positive balance of \$329,000. While the budget is always a moving target, Ellis described this working budget as the final formal step in this year’s budgeting cycle, required for submission to the state by September 30.

“We’re in a good position right now with where our revenues and expenditures stand,” Ellis noted. “There were only minimal changes from the tentative budget, but they reflect some key financial realities we’re managing.”

See details on Page 2.

## → Baker, RDC roof projects to begin

The board approved the initial planning step (BG-1 form) for facility upgrades at Baker Intermediate and Robert D. Campbell Jr. High (RDC). Planned improvements include:

- Baker Intermediate: Full roof replacement
- RDC: Roof replacement, HVAC system updates, fire alarm system upgrade, window and door replacements, preliminary discussions on potential athletic facility improvements

These projects were identified as top priorities in the District Facilities Plan. No final decisions or funding commitments have been made. The Board’s action simply begins the process of detailed planning and design.

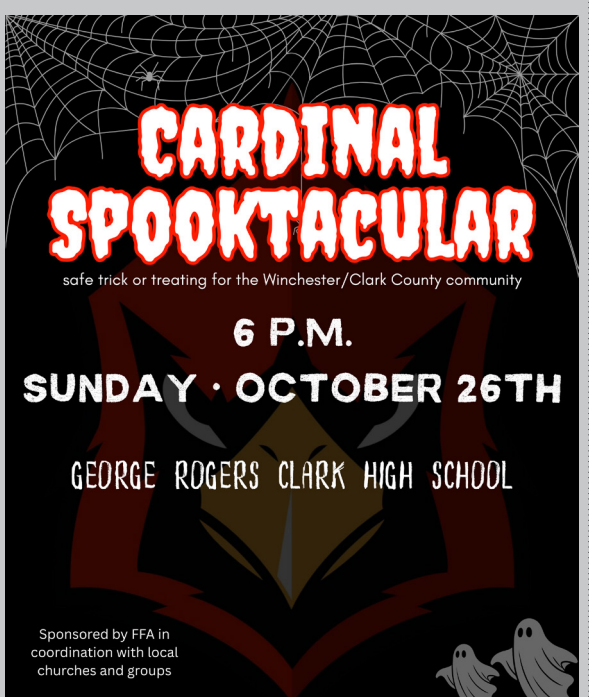
To help coordinate these projects efficiently, the board approved a request to advertise for construction management services.

## → NEXT REGULAR MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28

## NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

“Our students are growing greatness—not just in themselves, but in others. That’s what this work is all about.”

-Superintendent Howard speaking about the success of Ag Education Week and our high school students raising awareness about the importance of agriculture.”



**CARDINAL SPOOKTACULAR**  
safe trick or treating for the Winchester/Clark County community

**6 P.M.**  
**SUNDAY · OCTOBER 26TH**  
GEORGE ROGERS CLARK HIGH SCHOOL

Sponsored by FFA in coordination with local churches and groups

The Cardinal Spooktacular provides a safe Halloween option for families. The Board pledged \$5,000 toward the event, which includes trick or treating throughout George Rogers Clark High School, along with other activities for children. Sponsored by the Clark County FFA, the event brings numerous community groups together.



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## → Key budget details...

The General Fund changed by just \$87,000 overall. A few major factors behind that shift included:

- Pre-purchasing Chromebooks to avoid upcoming tariff and price increases (about \$250,000).
- A significant insurance cost increase (approximately \$320,000 over projections).
- An increase in property tax revenue (\$870,000), even as the actual tax rate decreased.
- A reduction in state SEEK funding by around \$234,000, due to changes in property assessments.

To maintain a strong financial reserve, the district reduced its set-aside for facilities and furniture from \$2.3 million to \$700,000—helping preserve a 6% contingency in the general fund.

### Bus Purchases & Delays:

The budget also reflects a \$1.7 million rollover for previously approved bus purchases. Of the seven buses ordered two years ago, three have just arrived, with the remaining still delayed due to supply chain backlogs.

### Childcare & Nutrition Programs:

The district's aftercare program is experiencing record-high enrollment, putting it on track to become self-sustaining.

School Nutrition (Fund 51) also received a boost (over \$100,000 increase in beginning balance) thanks largely to a successful summer feeding program.

Board Vice Chair Dr. Dora Hall praised Ellis for her clear and thorough presentation: "You always do such a great job breaking down the numbers and making them understandable. That makes it easy for us to support these decisions."

[VIEW WORKING BUDGET PRESENTATION](#)

## → In other action, the Board...

- Granted Winchester Municipal Utilities a temporary easement behind Shearer Elementary as part of a sewer project on nearby Hamilton Street. The easement will allow WMU to stage equipment and provide temporary parking access. There will be no disruption to student drop-off, pick-up, or bus traffic. After the project, WMU will either restore the area to grass or leave the gravel in place to serve as extra parking near the ball fields (if the Board so desires).
- Approved a policy clarifying the legal status of the Board.
- Acknowledged the monthly CCPS financial update, including authorization for payment of salaries, and approval of accounts payable.
- Granted approval for Board members and Supt. Howard to attend the Kentucky School Boards Association Winter Symposium, Dec. 5-6, in Louisville. Board members will earn state-required hours at this training conference.
- Approved numerous consent agenda items. [VIEW AGENDA.](#)



## → Superintendent's Report

### BIG CHANGE: ACT REPLACED WITH SAT

The Kentucky Department of Education just announced that the SAT will replace the ACT for high school juniors statewide, effective this spring.

The SAT will be digital, shorter and adaptive, and quicker to score, and comes with free prep tools via Khan Academy

“Our teams are already working with high school staff and PLCs to adjust plans accordingly,” Mr. Howard told the Board.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS AT OUR SCHOOLS

Mr. Howard reviewed several upcoming events at our schools.

**Fall Family Connection Events:** “These events are part of our ‘open house’ season to connect schools and families.”

**Veterans Day Celebrations:** “Every school will host its own Veterans Day event again this year. These events are a point of pride for our district. They align with our vision of Growing Greatness and building strong community ties.”

**Holiday Lunches:** “These meals bring families into our schools and help build relationships. Our goal is to give families plenty of advance notice so they can attend.”

Flyers for all these events may be found at the end of this report.

### AG EDUCATION WEEK RECAP

Last week was Ag Education Week, and our schools participated in various ways. A highlight was Friday when high school students engaged directly with 4-year-olds at the preschool, a powerful learning moment for both age groups.

Our district welcomed Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell and representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education.

“We want to offer a shoutout to our GRC Ag Department for a great week, and extend a big thanks to Kentucky Farm Bureau for their support,” Mr. Howard said.



### HOMECOMING WEEK 2025

This week is Homecoming Week, and we're focused on connecting with the community.

Local businesses, offices, and schools have decorated windows based on the theme, “Take ‘em to the shed.” The football Cards meet the West Jessamine Colts on Friday at Cardinal Stadium. The window decorating contest has drawn a lot of interest with community members casting hundreds of votes for their favorites.

“It's been great seeing our community and students working together,” Mr. Howard said.



Superintendent Howard and Board members support the Homecoming parade in downtown Winchester.





## Board 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!

**GROWING GREATNESS**  
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### COMMITTED COLLABORATOR

**JEREMY BANKS  
NATASHA CAUDILL**

The McClure custodial team has demonstrated outstanding collaboration, working seamlessly to support our shared vision for a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for the upcoming community project. Their proactive approach and dedication to maintaining the facility has been instrumental in creating a space where all community can thrive. We are grateful for their tireless efforts, which is a cornerstone of the positive and cohesive CCPS Community efforts we are building together.



**-Christy Bush, Nominator**

**GROWING GREATNESS**  
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EMPOWERED LEADER

**BOB PULLIAM**

Bob Pulliam exemplifies empowered leadership through the calm and steady way he stepped into additional responsibilities at the Cardinal Innovation Center, specifically Phoenix Academy, during my father's passing. He led with integrity and compassion, ensuring that both staff and students felt supported and that operations continued smoothly in my absence. His ability to rise to the moment, take initiative, and care for people while maintaining high standards shows the true mark of an empowered leader.



**-Dr. Lindsay Hale, Nominator**

**GROWING GREATNESS**  
CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### COMMITTED COLLABORATOR

**CASSIE PUCKETT**

Cassie's pivotal role in the success of clubs at both Baker and Conkright cannot be overstated. She tackles the monumental, often unseen, task of organizing and ordering all necessary supplies well before students and teachers even step foot in the door for clubs to begin. This incredible undertaking requires meticulous planning and a rare level of collaboration, proving that her behind-the-scenes efforts are the very foundation upon which these clubs thrive. Without her exceptional organizational skills and dedication, none of this would be possible. My deepest thank you goes out to her.



**-Christy Bush, Nominator**



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# FALL FAMILY CONNECTION EVENTS

CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SEPTEMBER

**Tuesday, Sept. 9**  
Shearer Elementary  
5-6:30pm

**Thursday, Sept. 18**  
Conkwright Elementary  
5-6:30pm

**Tuesday, Sept. 30**  
Baker Intermediate  
4:30-6:30pm

## OCTOBER

**Thursday, Oct. 2**  
Strode Elementary  
5:30-7pm

RDC Junior High  
5:30-7pm

**Wednesday, Oct. 8**  
Justice Elementary  
5-6:30pm

**Thursday, Oct. 9**  
CC Preschool  
5-7pm

## NOVEMBER

**Thursday, Nov. 6**  
Cardinal Innovation  
Center  
5-7pm

**Thursday, Nov. 13**  
Clark County  
Preschool  
5-7pm

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**  
GRC High  
4-6pm



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**CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS**



**FRIDAY, NOV. 7**

**RDC**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH  
VETERANS BREAKFAST: 8:30 AM  
ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS AND VETERANS: 9:15 AM

**MONDAY, NOV. 10**

**STRODE STATION**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH  
9:00 AM  
ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS AND VETERANS

**TUESDAY, NOV. 11**

**BAKER**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH  
VETERANS BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM  
ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS WITH VETERANS: 9:30 AM

**CONKWRIGHT**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH  
8:30 AM  
ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS AND VETERANS

**JUSTICE**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH  
9:45 AM  
ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS AND VETERANS

**SHEARER**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH  
ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS AND VETERANS: 1:00 PM  
TAKE-HOME GIFT FOR ALL VETERANS

**PRESCHOOL**


CLARK COUNTY PRESCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR RED, WHITE, AND BLUE TO HONOR VETERANS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH.

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 12**

**GRC**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH  
9:30 AM  
ASSEMBLY FOR STUDENTS AND VETERANS  
HOSPITALITY ROOM AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS

**CCPS is honored to celebrate our veterans across the district! Check with your school for registration details.**



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## CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS **THANKSGIVING LUNCH**



*Thanksgiving lunches will take place at schools across the district in November. Make plans to join your student for this delicious meal!*

**COST: \$5.25 per guest**

**November 18**

RDC Junior High  
Cardinal Innovation  
Center

**November 19**

Shearer Elementary  
Justice Elementary

**November 20**

Strode Station  
Elementary  
Conkwright Elementary  
GRC High School

**November 21**

Clark County Preschool  
Baker Intermediate  
School

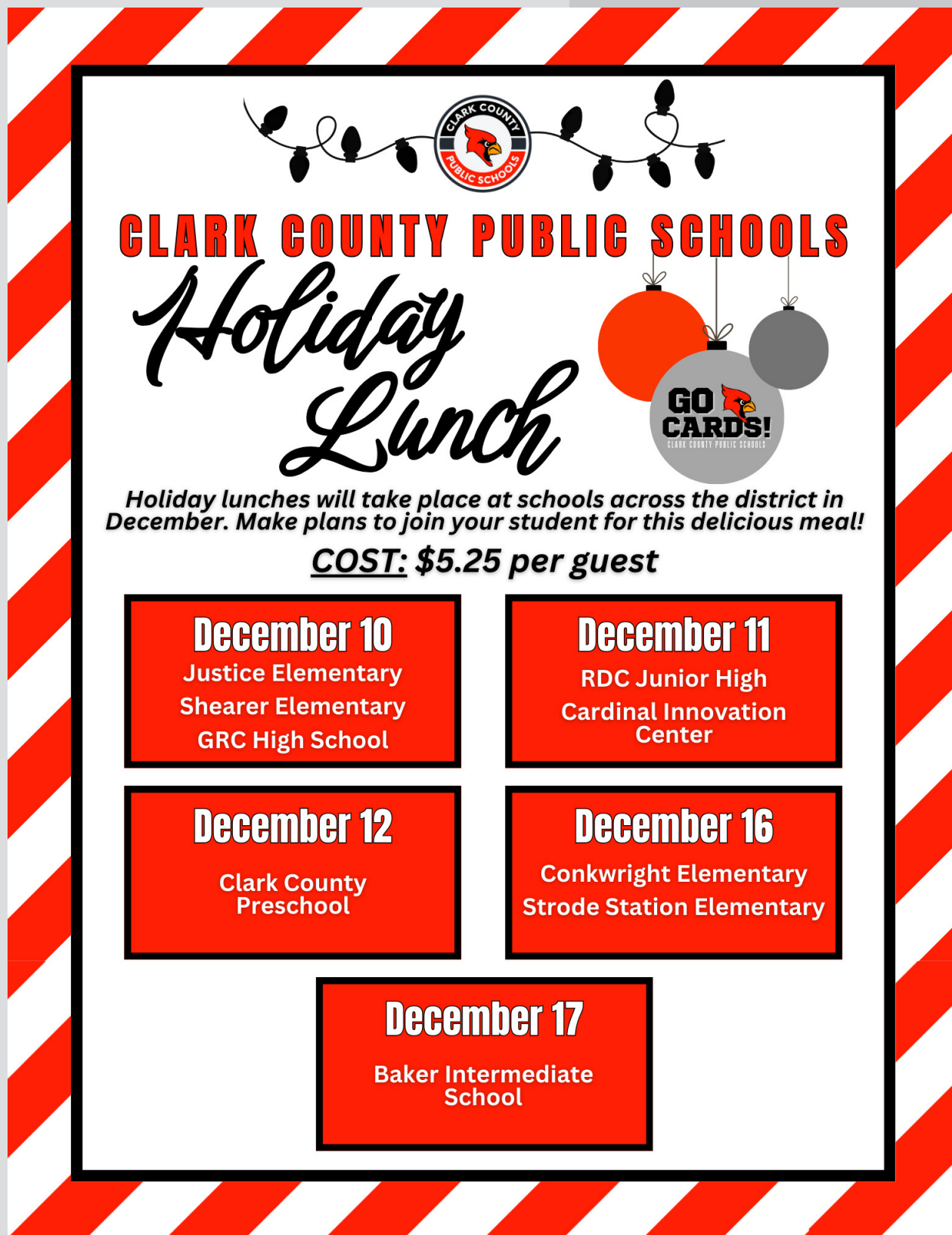


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The graphic features a white background with a black border, set against a red and white diagonal striped background. At the top, there is a string of black lights with a circular logo in the center that reads 'CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' around a red cardinal head. Below this, the text 'CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Underneath, 'Holiday Lunch' is written in a large, black, cursive font. To the right of the text are three Christmas ornaments: a red one, a grey one, and a white one with a red cardinal head and the text 'GO CARDS! CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS'. Below the ornaments, the text reads: 'Holiday lunches will take place at schools across the district in December. Make plans to join your student for this delicious meal!' followed by 'COST: \$5.25 per guest'. The dates and school names are listed in red boxes with black borders.

**CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Holiday Lunch*

Holiday lunches will take place at schools across the district in December. Make plans to join your student for this delicious meal!

**COST: \$5.25 per guest**

<b>December 10</b> Justice Elementary Shearer Elementary GRC High School	<b>December 11</b> RDC Junior High Cardinal Innovation Center
<b>December 12</b> Clark County Preschool	<b>December 16</b> Conkwright Elementary Strode Station Elementary
<b>December 17</b> Baker Intermediate School	

