



The BOARD REPORT

July 28, 2026 • Issue 42

➤➤ New security cameras expand coverage at GRC

CCPS is installing 278 new security cameras at GRC with financial support primarily through grants and Safe Schools-related funding. The new system is designed to eliminate blind spots, improve coverage, and make it easier for administrators to locate and review footage when needed.

Technology Department staff, maintenance personnel, and students hired for summer work have participated in the installation, providing students with hands-on work experience while helping complete the project.

➤➤ Board approves partnership with BCTC for dual credit

The board acknowledged a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC), and CCPS to implement dual credit coursework.

BCTC President and CEO Dr. Gregory Feeney thanked Superintendent Howard and his team for their partnership, noting that BCTC has had a record-breaking year, including its highest enrollment and success rates in college history. He highlighted a 23% increase in Bluegrass College Academy participation in Clark County, giving high school students the opportunity to earn associate degrees before graduation and potentially save up to \$30,000 in college costs.

"What I also love about Superintendent Howard and his team is that they are not afraid to give feedback and ask for things," Dr. Feeney said. "That is what makes for a strong partnership and ensures we are all collectively doing the best we can do to support students."

➤➤ **NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Tuesday, Aug. 25 - 6pm**

“NOTABLE & QUOTABLE”

"Of the 13 counties we serve, Clark is one that has consistently been incredible to work with. Your focus on students and their success and your commitment to supporting their futures is clear. This partnership is just getting started and there are many great things ahead."

-BCTC President Dr. Gregory Feeney

Board of Education
GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS
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BCTC dual credit partnership



Several representatives from BCTC attended the meeting in support of our growing dual credit partnership, from left, Dr. Laura Hunt, Dr. Wendy Bolt, Camille Carpenter, BCTC President & CEO Dr. Gregory Feeney, Superintendent Dustin Howard, Dr. Erin Tipton, Assistant Superintendent Kelly Fithen, and BCTC Winchester campus director Dr. Sheldon Sharpe.



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>>> Leadership goals

The Board's approved goals for 2026–27 will guide the district's work in the coming year, with particular attention to ensuring that district resources remain focused on student success.

Board members formally acknowledged Superintendent Howard's outstanding **2025–26 evaluation** and thanked him for his work and dedication to CCPS students, with Board Chair Dr. Dora Hall reading the evaluation aloud.

The Board approved Mr. Howard's **2026–27 Professional Growth Plan**, which focuses on:

- > Continued instructional leadership and academic improvement.
- > Recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers and support staff.
- > Strengthening district culture and climate.
- > Encouraging staff to model the characteristics outlined in the Portrait of a Clark County Learner.

The Board approved its **2026–27 Board of Education Goals**. The goals are aligned with the superintendent's evaluation standards and emphasize long-term academic growth, instructional integrity, employee engagement and belonging, professional learning communities, leadership development, recruitment and retention, data-informed decision-making, fiscal responsibility, facilities, and maintaining services for students.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dustin Howard

Superintendent Howard reviewed major improvements in school safety (cameras discussed on Page 1) and expanded career education to feeding thousands of children and helping students meet their summer learning goals.

Cardinal Connections Academy is underway, with staff participating in professional learning centered on the district's five instructional pillars.

Back-to-school events begin Aug. 3 and continue through Aug. 11, and the annual staff Connect event will welcome all 1,300 employees with food, celebration, and community vendors.

Perhaps the most staggering number Howard shared was the district's summer feeding total. Up to the July 28 meeting, CCPS had served more than 130,000 meals to children 18 and under across the county. Thousands of additional meals were provided through camps and programs at Strode, Baker, BCTC, Preschool, College Park, GRC and the Community Center, while the Flight Academy served more than 6,000 meals.

The Flight Academy also celebrated academic success, with 201 students earning their "wings" after meeting their summer literacy growth goals.

CCPS is preparing to significantly expand career and technical education through new Paxton Patterson Career Labs, bringing career exploration to students as early as fifth grade. A ribbon-cutting is planned for Sept. 8, and CCPS will be showcased as a national model for exposing students to career pathways before high school.



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Additional Business

Board vice chair Carl Kiser provided an update from the KSBA Summer Institute and the Local School Board Members Advisory Council.

Mr. Kiser reported that Clark County Schools were highlighted statewide for their work in teacher retention, with particular attention given to the district's daycare program as an innovative strategy supporting employees. Mr. Kiser will serve as chair of the Advisory Council for the coming year.

The Board received a construction update on the RDC and Baker renovation projects. John Hagan Codell of Codell Construction reported the projects are progressing without major problems.

The Board:

- > Supported facility improvements across the district, including approving construction documents for the RDC baseball and softball infield turf projects.
- > Approved a Student Based Enterprise Sales Agreement for the GRC School Store, supporting hands-on learning and student enterprise opportunities.
- > Approved the Multi-Tiered System of Supports Handbook, which provides a framework for identifying and addressing students' academic, behavioral and social-emotional needs through tiered levels of support.
- > Approved Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with several community organizations that provide services and resources to students and families: Center for Grieving Children and Families, Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, New Vista, National Youth Advocate Program, Resolutions Therapy Practice, and Specialized Alternatives for Family and Youth of Kentucky, Inc.
- > Approved updates of several district policies and procedures as part of ongoing efforts to bring processes up to date (see [agenda](#)).
- > Approved the annual request for an EPSB/ECS emergency certification application, allowing the district to obtain the necessary approval number should emergency teacher certifications be needed.
- > Approved the annual Kentucky School Boards Association-recommended staff handbook.
- > Approved a revised facility rental fee schedule form for the Hannah McClure Cardinal Community Center. The form is designed specifically for the center's hourly rental periods and does not change rental procedures for other district buildings.
- > Authorized payment of salaries and accounts payable.
- > Approved the consent agenda items as presented. [VIEW AGENDA](#)



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

ALE-8-ONE BOTTLING CO.

Sheila Frye



Who doesn't love Ale-8-One? Winchester is proud to be home to this iconic Kentucky original and even prouder to recognize Ale-8-One for being such a valued Engaged Citizen and CCPS partner. As one of our largest and most valued sponsors, Ale-8-One generously provides products for our school and athletic events, a wonderful example of a hometown company investing in the students and community that call Winchester home. We are grateful for the special relationship we share with Ale-8-One and for the many ways they continue to support our schools. Thank you to Sheila Frye for working so closely with us and to the Ale-8-One team for their phenomenal support in our mission to Grow Greatness in our students, staff, and community.



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ENGAGED CITIZEN CENTERPOINT HEALTH Chris Webb/CEO Matt Smith



We are proud to recognize CenterPoint Health and CEO Matt Smith for their outstanding partnership as Engaged Citizens committed to helping us Grow Greatness in our community. CenterPoint Health invests in our students in meaningful ways, including covering admission for all CCPS students to attend regular-season home athletic events. This generous support gives every student the opportunity to experience the excitement of school sports while building school spirit, relationships, and connection. CenterPoint also supports our students' well-rounded educational experience by helping prepare them for future careers and celebrating their talents through the annual HeART Walk Art Show. The event showcases student artwork, promotes heart health awareness, and provides scholarship opportunities. The hospital also proudly displays the Martin Luther King Jr. quilt, a collage of student artwork symbolizing the values of unity and equality that Dr. King championed. We are grateful to the CenterPoint Health team for being such a valued and dedicated partner as we work together to Grow Greatness in our students, staff, and community.



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ENGAGED CITIZEN COMMITTED COLLABORATOR

AMERICAN FIDELITY
Rebecca Combs/Leslie Smart



American Fidelity is a valued corporate sponsor, trusted cafeteria plan partner, and Committed Collaborator that works closely with our organization throughout the year. Their ongoing support and engagement play an important role in helping us provide meaningful resources and benefits to our employees. As a dedicated partner, American Fidelity actively participates in our HR orientation process, helping new employees navigate important benefit options and ensuring they have the information needed to make informed decisions. This year, American Fidelity further demonstrated its commitment to our organization by providing a monetary donation to support the purchase of new employee T-shirts. Their generosity helped us create a welcoming experience for incoming staff while fostering a sense of belonging and organizational pride from day one. We are grateful for American Fidelity's continued partnership and their investment in the success and well-being of our employees.

-Aleisha Ellis, Nominator



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EMPOWERED LEADER LTC THOMAS KRUPP MSG LARRY LEE



LTC Tom Krupp and MSG Larry Lee exemplify GREATNESS not only with their JROTC instruction, but also empowering leadership. Both are exceptional servant leaders who consistently lead by example, demonstrating integrity, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to student success. Their ability to build meaningful relationships with cadets fosters a culture of trust, respect, accountability, and excellence. Through their efforts, they inspire the cadets of today to be leaders of tomorrow. With their mentorship and instruction, they develop confident, disciplined, and responsible young leaders while maintaining high expectations and providing the support necessary for students to succeed. Their dedication to character development, citizenship, and community service has had a lasting impact on countless cadets. LTC Krupp and MSG Lee's passion for developing the whole student, combined with their exceptional leadership and commitment to continuous improvement, make them outstanding ambassadors of GRC and CCPS. Whether it's the parking detail for Friday Night Football, the 9/11 Ceremony, Veteran's Day Program, competing for another Raider National Championship, or placing flags on the graves of veterans, their efforts do not go unnoticed. Most recently, they both received the distinction of KY JROTC Instructor of the Year as well as the 7th Brigade Senior Army Instructor of the Year. Thank you for your service and your commitment to GRC.

-Justin Arms, Nominator



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ENGAGED CITIZEN

• for service to the Hannah McClure Cardinal Community Center •

TOM COLLINS



A Huge Thank You to Our Resident Beekeeper, Mr. Tom Collins! 🐝🌟 We want to give a special shoutout to Mr. Tom Collins for his incredible dedication and passion for beekeeping! Tom recently took the drive to Morehead, KY, to pick up 60,000 new bees for our center. Thanks to his hard work, he built and set up the brand-new hives funded by our Whole Foods Grant. Moving forward, Tom will be serving as our lead instructor, educating the public on the crucial role bees and pollination play in our environment. Plus, he'll be caring for the hives and helping us extract delicious local honey! Thank you, Tom, for sharing your knowledge and keeping our community buzzing!

-Christy Bush, Nominator



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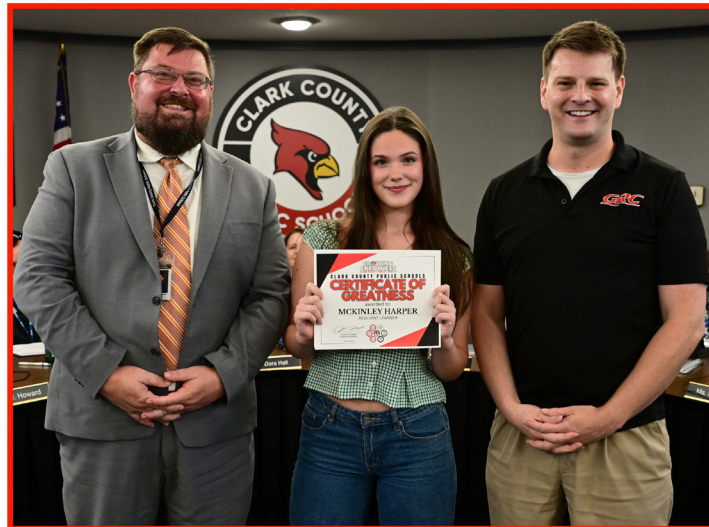
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RESILIENT LEARNER MCKINLEY HARPER



McKinley Harper won the Kentucky Performing Arts Bradley Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Penelope Pennywise in GRC's production of "Urinetown." The process is an exhaustive one, starting with being adjudicated at the musical performances themselves and culminating in a live audition the weekend of the Bradley Awards. Exemplifying the qualities of a Resilient Learner, McKinley extensively studied her character and the show, thoroughly prepared her material (including quite demanding vocal repertoire), and showed artistic choices from character voices to body language that rose above that of the typical high school performer. Above all, she exuded goodwill, humility, coachability, and humor, traits that will carry her far in the performing arts world.

-Kris Olson, Nominator



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ENGAGED CITIZEN

ALISON ESLER



Alison Esler is a bus driver like no other. When the Book Bus was just a tiny idea in my head in 2014, she ran with it from day one. She has been there for every mile and every step of the journey, taking the program on as her own and loving it just as deeply as I do. Three days a week, she navigates city streets and county roads to put brand-new books directly into children's hands each summer. Back when I used to ride along with her, I saw firsthand the magic she creates—she would blow the horn, and kids would literally jump right out of their swimming pools and run over to grab a book! From the bottom of my heart, I know this program has enjoyed the longevity and success it has because of her incredible passion. Thank you, Alison!

-Christy Bush, Nominator



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EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR RESILIENT LEARNER COMMITTED COLLABORATOR CCPS FINANCE TEAM



I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my Finance team for the exceptional dedication, adaptability, and professionalism they demonstrate every day. As Resilient Learners, they continually embrace new challenges, regulations, and processes with a growth mindset and a commitment to excellence. As Committed Collaborators, they ensure accuracy, consistency, and accountability in every aspect of their work, helping maintain the financial integrity of our organization. Their strength as Effective Communicators fosters collaboration across departments, builds trust with stakeholders, and ensures that complex financial information is shared clearly and thoughtfully. Their collective efforts, expertise, and unwavering commitment play a vital role in our organization's success, and I am grateful for the positive impact they make each day.

-Aleisha Ellis, Nominator

Finance Director Aleisha Ellis, Whitney Hood, Mandy Hounshell,
Adrienne McClellan, Kim Anderson, and Anna Hall with
Superintendent Howard (Not pictured: Katy Midden and Laurie Todd)



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EMPOWERED LEADER COMMITTED COLLABORATOR

STUDENT PRODUCTION TEAM

Erin Southwood/Karlee Gray/Bailey Howard



We are proud to recognize three exceptional students who spent their senior year serving as communications ambassadors for the district. Through this unique opportunity, these students stepped beyond the traditional high school experience and into a professional communications role, using their talents to help tell the CCPS story of Greatness. They traveled to schools across the district, met with students and staff, and produced communications pieces that highlighted the people, programs, and opportunities that make our district special. They were Empowered Leaders and Committed Collaborators as they set aside their comfort zones, took initiative, adapted to challenges, and worked with others to bring stories to life. This trio also represented CCPS through their work on a poster for the Kentucky School Boards Association conference. Their "Built to Last" graphic showcased the competencies of the Portrait of a Learner while highlighting the skills and characteristics that prepare our students for success beyond high school. Please join us in recognizing these outstanding students as Empowered Leaders and Committed Collaborators who exemplify the qualities we want to see in every graduate of our district.

-Shanda Crosby, Nominator



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GROUP GREATNESS RECOGNITIONS

EARNED SINCE OUR GROUP RECOGNITION EVENT AT RDC ON APRIL 21



GRC TRACK & FIELD

The Board of Education is honored to recognize GRC Track & Field athletes who achieved excellence since our April 21 group recognition event. We recognized senior Haddon Cecil, and 2026 graduates Bailey Howard and Teigh Yeast. Congratulations! Your Greatness Shows!

Bailey was the KHSAA Region Champion and State Champion in pole vault.

Teigh was KHSAA Region Champion in long jump, triple jump, and high jump, KHSAA state runner-up in triple jump, and finished 3rd in KHSAA state long jump.

Haddon finished 5th in KHSAA state high jump.



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