

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

July 29, 2025

## → Board partners with WPD for therapy dog

CCPS students and staff will once again have a therapy dog for support as soon as the new dog is trained. The Board voted unanimously to donate \$6,000 toward the purchase price after Winchester Police Captain Steve Charles explained the process.

“Abe was obviously a great partner, and while we can’t replace him, his loss left a huge hole in our partnership that I would like to rebuild,” Captain Charles told the Board.

Using grant funds, the CCPS donation, and an allocation from the City of Winchester, Captain Charles will begin the process to acquire a fully insured, non-shedding, hypoallergenic Australian Labradoodle from Ultimate Canine out of Indiana. Captain Charles said the process may take as little as eight months, though it could take longer depending on training requirements.



Our beloved Abe, who passed away unexpectedly this spring, was a huge support to students and staff at all schools.

## → NEXT REGULAR MEETING: TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

## NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

Our vision is connecting our district and community as one to grow greatness in all of our students, and we’re doing that through the competencies of the Portrait of a Clark County Learner. This is built around ensuring that when our kids graduate, they’re empowered leaders, resilient learners, effective communicators, reflective innovators, engaged citizens, and committed collaborators because if you can’t work together in the world, you don’t succeed in the world. We remain dedicated to a strong focus on our Portrait of a Learner.

-Superintendent Howard on his Professional Growth Goals for 2025-26

### CONNECT with New CCPS Administrators

GRC Principal, Justin Arms  
ATC Principal, Jessica McCullough

Monday, August 4

5:00pm - 6:00pm

George Rogers Clark High School

You're Invited!  
Join us for a Community Meet & Greet with our new school administrators. All community members are welcome—let's connect and celebrate new beginnings!

CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-2026

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH

Click [HERE](#) to view details about our Back-to-School events!



Clark County Board of Education - The Board Report - July 29, 2025

Ashley Ritchie-Rowland, Chair (District 5)  
Dr. Dora Hall, Vice Chair (District 2)

Paula Thomas (District 3)  
Ben Dorsey (District 4)  
Carl Kiser (District 1)

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

## → In other action, the Board...

- Approved the **GRC Student Handbook** after it was tabled at an earlier meeting due to policy updates.
- Approved a change order related to fire code compliance (installing a repeater for sufficient radio signal) for the Clark County Preschool project. Several credits also were issued. Chief Operations Officer Brandon Watkins told the Board he expects the project to be closed out soon.
- Approved contracted speech therapy services to cover possible vacancies, noting this is a proactive measure as the district is fully staffed; and approved contracted speech/language services for private schools.
- Approved eight Memorandums of Understanding related to mental health services for students.
- Acknowledged a partnership with the University of Kentucky that will result in a boosted workforce for mental health services in our district. UK received a grant to send graduate-level interns to provide school-based services to students.
- Approved a procedure that includes updated Kentucky Department of Education guidance on administering medications. A provider's written signature is now required for both prescription and over-the-counter medications. This update will be included the online update/registration process.
- Approved first reading of an updated hours of duty policy as part of the process of updating all policies.
- Was briefed by Board vice chair Dr. Dora Hall, who attended the KSBA Summer Conference in Lexington. Dr. Hall said her beneficial experience there confirmed that "Clark County is ahead of the game."

- Approved a two-way communication platform for BCTC and GRC students.
- Approved the **Financial Report**, authorized payment of salaries and accounts payable, and approved numerous routine and consent agenda items. **View Agenda.**
- Received input from PVA Jada Brady during public comments explaining details regarding the property tax rate.

### **Superintendent Evaluation**

Superintendent Dustin Howard received an "overwhelmingly positive" evaluation from the Board for 2024-25.

**VIEW EVALUATION on Page 4.**

### **Board of Education Goals**

The Board of Education goals for 2025-26 are focused on the superintendent standards.

**VIEW BOE GOALS HERE.**

### **Superintendent Growth Goals**

Superintendent Howard's Professional Growth Goals are based on improving instructional practices, something he has focused on diligently since his hiring in 2022.

**VIEW MR. HOWARD'S PGP HERE.**



## → Superintendent's Report

### Dustin Howard:

Although school is closed for students during the summer, our staff has remained hard at work. I'd like to highlight several key initiatives and accomplishments from the last few months:

### Summer Programs & Literacy Lift-Off

Our Literacy Lift-Off program focuses on closing learning gaps and boosting students' reading confidence and skills. About 150 students participated, supported by dedicated teachers over six weeks. The program included free transportation and meals. Shoutout to Ms. Fithen and the team for making this a success.

### Summer Meal Distribution

We provided a total of 56,630 meals (breakfast and lunch) to children 18 and under in our community in June, with deliveries once per week. Additionally, 10,000 more meals were provided at various summer camps, including band camp, theater camp, and local programs like Parks & Rec and Vacation Bible School.

Thanks to our food services team and our GRC students, who returned to help distribute food – demonstrating the values we work to instill in all our graduates.

### ParentSquare Training

Training for our communication platform, ParentSquare, has officially begun. Administrators were trained today, coaches will be trained tomorrow, and building staff will train on August 4. Parent resources, including login instructions for the new app, will be released by August 8 or shortly after.

### Community Partnership with the Cardinal Innovation Center

We are excited about a new partnership with the Cardinal Innovation Center, offering students volunteer roles, job shadowing, internships, and part-time jobs. Opportunities are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, with transportation provided.

This collaboration exemplifies our mission of building strong community connections to foster student success. Shoutout to Kristina Covington-Jones and Greg Yates for leading this initiative.

### Book Bus Initiative

In June alone, the Book Bus distributed 682 free books to students. A huge thank you to Ms. Bush, driver Ms. Alison, and our transportation team for their commitment to helping increase literacy across our community.

### Looking Ahead

School starts August 13. Expect heavy traffic that day, especially from families dropping off students. We appreciate your patience and cooperation. We'll coordinate with the city to manage congestion and post signage accordingly.

Finally, a big shoutout to all of our maintenance and custodial crews, transportation teams, and bus drivers who have been preparing all summer long. We're excited and ready for a great school year ahead.

## Summer Feeding Program

4,544 breakfasts to 11 sites  
5,779 lunches to 11 sites  
Total: 10,323 meals

56,630 7-day meal kits

Total meals provided: 66,953

DATA Extracted:  
June 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025



## 2024-2025 Superintendent Summative Evaluation Clark County Board of Education

The Clark County Board of Education has completed the evaluation of Superintendent Dustin Howard for the 2024-2025 school year, deeming it overwhelmingly positive for education in our school district.

The evaluation focused on seven (7) standards of performance and goals for the district, as set forth in Board policy.

Superintendent Howard received a perfect rating of exemplary (4/4) on all of the seven (7) standards in the areas of Strategic Leadership, Instructional Leadership, Cultural Leadership, Human Resources Leadership, Managerial Leadership, Collaborative Leadership, and Influential Leadership.

The Board commends Mr. Howard on his recent award of the prestigious Eastern Kentucky University/Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative Experience Excellence Superintendent of the Year Award.

Mr. Howard has great relationships with the community members and leaders. He also

keeps in touch with state level leaders. He advocates for our school district. Mr. Howard has taken the Board's directives and created a high level of performance within the staff, which has led to a highly professional environment with our community's needs and expectations at the center.

The Board will work with Superintendent Howard over the coming weeks to develop goals for our District for the 2025-2026 school year, and the Board looks forward to working with Superintendent Howard for continuing success and growth for the Clark County Public School District.

For the upcoming 2025-2026 school year, the Board encourages Superintendent Howard to focus on continued growth in the area of Instructional Leadership. The Board encourages Superintendent Howard to continue implementation of the Portrait of a Learner Initiative.



## CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### 2025-2026

# BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13TH

### AUGUST 5TH

CONKWRIGHT (K-1<sup>ST</sup>)  
5:00PM - 6:30PM

GRC HIGH SCHOOL (9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)  
4:00PM - 7:00PM

### AUGUST 6TH

GRC HIGH SCHOOL (10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)  
4:00PM - 7:00PM

CONKWRIGHT (2<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup>)  
5:00PM - 6:30PM

CARDINAL INNOVATION CENTER  
(CVA & PHOENIX ACADEMY)  
5:00PM - 7:00PM

### AUGUST 7TH

JUSTICE (K-4<sup>TH</sup>)  
5:00PM - 7:00PM

BAKER INTERMEDIATE (5<sup>TH</sup>-6<sup>TH</sup>)  
2:00PM - 7:00PM

### AUGUST 8TH

GRC HIGH SCHOOL (11<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)  
1:00PM - 4:00PM

### AUGUST 11TH

RDC JUNIOR HIGH (7<sup>TH</sup> - 8<sup>TH</sup>)  
1:00PM - 6:00PM

SHEARER (K-4<sup>TH</sup>)  
2:00PM - 7:00PM

STRODE (K-4<sup>TH</sup>)  
2:00PM - 7:00PM

### AUGUST 12TH

PRESCHOOL FLIGHT TO PRE-K  
8:00AM - 10:00AM

11:00AM - 1:00PM

CLASSROOM TEACHERS WILL CONTACT FAMILIES  
REGARDING THE TIME TO ATTEND.

**PRESCHOOL FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: AUGUST 18**



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