KATIE WEBB, SUPERINTENDENT

BOARD MEMBERS:
James M. See, Chairman
Maddlene Roberts, Vice Chair
Barbara Robinson
Garnett Skaggs
Susie Rice

LAWRENCE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
50 Bulldog Lane
Louisa, Kentucky
606.638.9671

MISSION: ALL IN for building relationships to personalize learning that inspires, challenges, and equips each student to dream, to persist, and to succeed!

LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING & 26-27
TENTATIVE BUDGET WORK SESSION

Inspire to Dream * Challenge to Persist * Equip to Succeed

May 28, 2026; 6:00 p.m.

IN PERSON & VIDEO TELECONFERENCE
Primary Location:
Lawrence County High School Library
Louisa, Kentucky

Public viewing of the meeting was available via the Internet using this link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCeObmWjYrXWRbaqkBEyznxg

Attendance Taken at 5:59 p.m.:

Present Board Members:
Mr. James See, Chairman
Ms. Maddlene Roberts, Vice Chair
Ms. Barbara Robinson
Ms. Garnett Skaggs
Ms. Susie Rice

Present: Superintendent Katie H. Webb; Finance Officer Brandi Peters; Director of Districtwide Services/Chief Information Officer Thomas Burns; Chief Academic Officer/DAC Myram Brady, EdD; Fallsburg Elementary Principal Sara Trimble; Board Secretary Betty Mullins

OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER
Mission and Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag

Chairman See called to order the May 28, 2026 Special-Called Meeting & 26-27 Tentative Budget Work Session of the Lawrence County Board of Education, stating that the primary purpose of the meeting was for the Board to review and approve the 26-27 Tentative Working Budget. Mr. See stated the Mission of Lawrence County Schools: **ALL IN for building relationships to personalize learning that inspires, challenges, and equips each student to dream, to persist, and to succeed**, then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2. COMMUNICATION

Mrs. Webb discussed the upcoming LCHS Graduation and shared a new convenience planned for those attending. Much appreciation to our transportation department, who will be providing three buses for a shuttle service from the Louisa Middle School parking lot to the high school. Thank you, JROTC, for traffic support and taking care of the route! Mrs. Webb wished best of luck to the Lady Bulldog Softball Team, who are hoping to continue their championship reign tonight going up against Johnson Central at Stonecrest.

3. STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

3.A. Claims and Orders of the Treasurer

Approval of the **Claims and Orders of the Treasurer** passed with a motion by Ms. Susie Rice and a second by Ms. Garnett Skaggs.

Mrs. Webb pointed out several items for payment on the warrants, including graduation and military ball expenses, sewer plant testing, several CTE-related items, FRYSC items, and payment, per the agreement, to NOLA Ed for Blaine's Star Academy for services completed,.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

3.B. Consent Agenda

Approval of the **Consent Agenda** items, as indicated, passed with a motion by Ms. Maddlene Roberts and a second by Ms. Barbara Robinson.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

3.B.1. Per diem and expenses for members in attendance
3.B.2. Contracts/Instructional Resources:
3.B.2.a. Approval of 26-27 Pear Assessment Enterprise Renewal, Liminex, Inc./dba GoGuardian and Pear Deck Learning; 7-15-26 to 7-14-27: $11,631.50
3.B.2.b. Approval to purchase the K-5 Illustrative Mathematics curriculum through Imagine Learning to support high-quality mathematics instruction across elementary grade levels, K-5
3.B.2.c. Approval of the STAR Academy Design for Blaine School's STAR Academy Program, a structured, standards-based instructional framework aligned with district curriculum and state standards for science, mathematics, ELA, and social studies
3.B.2.d. Approval of invoices for 55% of services rendered per service agreement for implementation of Blaine School's STAR Academy Program by NOLA Education (execution of agreement, curriculum and academy design, and acquisition of furniture and technology): $550,000
3.B.2.e. Approval of invoices for the remaining 45% of services after completion by NOLA Education for the Blaine School's STAR Academy Program (professional development and full installation): $450,000
3.B.2.f. Approval of FY27 & FY28 MAF Middle School (LMS) Coaching Pilot Memorandum of Agreement; July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2028; Total: $124,000.00
3.B.2.g. Approval of Mathematics Achievement Fund LMS Math Coaching Pilot Assurances

3.B.2.h. Approval of Superintendent Fidelity Bond with Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America for Superintendent Katie H. Webb: 1-Year Term, July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027: $1,319.33

3.C. 2026-2027 TENTATIVE WORKING BUDGET WORK SESSION

3.C.1. Overview: Katie H. Webb, Superintendent

By way of introduction, Mrs. Webb shared that she is very pleased with the budget overview being presented to the Board. She reviewed the three main steps the Board takes in developing each year's budget, beginning with examining the draft budget in January, adopting a tentative working budget in May, which is occurring at this meeting, and the adoption of the working budget by September 30. A summary of her remarks follows.

When we met in January to develop the draft budget, we had a lot of unknowns regarding SEEK funding, utilities, and enrollment. Tonight, we have a much clearer picture, and this tentative budget reflects responsible planning and strong fiscal management. I want to highlight a few key areas that shape our financial landscape for the upcoming year.

GRANTS AND TARGETED FUNDING

We were fortunate to receive several major grants this year, including the STAR grant, the math grant, the reading grant and funding for our math coach. While these are great for our classrooms, please remember that these funds are strictly "tagged" for specific, mandated programs. They are restricted funds and do not represent additional general fund money that can be spent on other operational needs.

PROPERTY TAX, FACILITIES, AND NICKEL EQUALIZATION

I want to thank our community for their support. With that support, the Board passed a small increase on the property tax rate. Taking that step was critical because it allowed us to qualify for nickel equalization funding from the state for our facilities. However, it is important to clarify how those dollars work. Even though we have more revenue coming in from that tax adjustment, all of that increase – plus the state matching dollars – is legally restricted and goes straight into our building and facility funds. These dollars are locked in to keep our school buildings safe and up to date. They cannot be used to fund day-to-day operational expenses.

TRANSPORTATION, UTILITIES, AND INFLATIONARY PRESSURES

On the operational side, we continue to closely monitor the high cost of fuel and rising utility rates, both of which heavily impact our general fund budget. Since September of last year, the retail cost of diesel has surged past $5.50 a gallon. Even with our ability to purchase fuel in bulk, our bulk cost has still jumped by an estimated **$1.50 to $1.65 more per gallon** today than it was when school started last fall. Because of this volatility, and out of concern that fuel costs will continue to climb through the summer, I specifically asked Mrs. Peters to build in this tentative budget a higher cost for diesel. We want to ensure we are proactively protected against further market spikes.

In addition to fuel, we are also budgeting for the continued rise in our utility costs from Kentucky Power, as well as an estimated increase in our facility property insurance premiums. Keeping our facilities conditioned, running, and fully covered comes at a much

higher premium this year, creating another fixed operational demand on our general fund. This pressure is compounded by the state not fully funding transportation reimbursements. Despite these compounding funding gaps, we remain committed to maintaining the essential student services that have become the norm in Lawrence County. The Board is absorbing these inflationary costs so we can continue to fully fund our baseline core services, such as, school resource officers and school nurses, dual credit tuition for our high schoolers, fuel costs for extracurricular trips so we do not have to charge individual programs, academic team shirts and district contributions to our band program for instrument repair, and our regular athletic uniform rotation.

By protecting our general fund through responsible budgeting, we are also able to step up and absorb the occasional or unique requests that come directly from our schools and student groups. This includes funding critical needs that fall outside base allocations, such as extra ACT testing fees, supporting our student safety patrol, providing necessary funding for our cheerleaders, and backing cultural learning opportunities like Heritage Day events.

STATE SEEK FUNDING

The state did provide a small increase to our SEEK base funding this year – about $40 more per student. While we appreciate any increase, it comes with a strict catch: that $40 increase is entirely dependent on a student being enrolled for the full school year and maintaining perfect attendance every single day. If a child has absences, the district only receives a proportional fraction of that SEEK per-pupil amount. Student attendance remains a direct driver of our funding.

CONTINGENCY AND FISCAL HEALTH

Finally, I want to commend this board for its ongoing fiscal responsibility. Our current contingency in this tentative budget sits at **3.9%**. This is a steady improvement over last year's 3.8% contingency. While we are still working toward the Kentucky School Boards Association's recommended long-term target of 5%, moving upward shows we are headed in the right direction. A resilient contingency fund is what protects Lawrence County Schools from unexpected emergencies, facility failures, or sudden drops in state revenue.

In closing, thank you to this board for your continued leadership and careful oversight. It keeps Lawrence County on solid financial grounds, and the budget Mrs. Peters is about to present will keep us on that exact path. I now turn the floor over to Mrs. Peters.

3.C.2. 2026-2027 Tentative Budget Review and Discussion: Brandi Peters, Finance Officer

Mrs. Peters stated that the Tentative Working Budget contains the projected revenues and expenditures of all funds for the upcoming fiscal year. State law requires that the local board adopt a Tentative Budget by May 30 of each year. The Board was provided a detailed MUNIS report of the budget and a summary, which included a key to the codes which identify the program areas being funded. Below is a summary of key points discussed.

District / School MUNIS codes

000 & 001 – District	150 - Fallsburg Elementary
020 – Louisa East	200 – Louisa Middle
021 – Louisa West	260 – Lawrence County High School
030 – Blaine Elementary	901 – Transportation

Revenue

- SEEK based on 2026-2027 Forecast from KDE (per pupil funding will be at $4,626)
- Local Revenue (Property / Franchise / Motor Vehicle Taxes is based on current year)
- Federal & State Grants (based on the current 2025-2026 award amount or grant information we have received at this time, which is only a few)

Expenditures

- Schools allocated according to staffing policy (total number of teachers are based on state recommended class size; principal, librarians, counselors, and assistant principal, if applicable, are also included in the budget. Secretaries, janitors, and instructional assistants for full day kindergarten are included in the base allocation
- Instructional supply allocation is $100 per student
- Preschool teachers/instructional aides based on 2025-26 and funded by state KERA Preschool grant
- Special education teachers and instructional assistants budgeted are based on population and specific needs

Section 7 – Total General Fund Budget less:

1. Home and Hospital;
2. Expelled or Suspended;
3. Other Instructional Programs;
4. Student Support Services, except for school-based employees and specified supplies;
5. Improvement of Instruction;
6. District Administrative Support Services;
7. Business Support Services;
8. Plant Operation and Maintenance;
9. Student Transportation;
10. Non-instructional Services
11. Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services;
12. Other;
13. All expenditures for extra-duty and extended employment, exceptional children services, itinerant teachers, and fringe benefits in all codes.

- Maintenance costs will be paid from General Fund
- SROs included in budget as they were in 2025-2026
- Debt Service—Includes bond payments and bus leases
- Food Service—districtwide free breakfast and lunch will continue.
- School nurses are included in the budget as they were in 2025-2026
- Homebound—1 full time teacher
- Alternative School—fully funded budgeted based on current staff
- Technology funding includes the KETS match
- KTRS district match is currently 3%. According to their website, the rate will remain the same until changed.
- CERS (County Employment Retirement System) contribution rates for 2026-2027 will be at 17.43%. The budget does not include any monies needed to cover pension spiking.

- Contingency / End of Year Balance – 2% required. 2026 - 2027 is budgeted at 3.9%

- 74% of Fund 1 is budgeted for staff salaries

- Board Minutes must reflect which of the following expenditure option(s) are chosen by the Board for Section 7 funds:
  A. An amount per year final ADA
  B. Based on student needs identified by council in CSIP (needs assessment) and designated by the board
  C. For specific instructional purposes based on student needs identified by board from disaggregated data
  D. Combination of A, B, and/or C

  (A combination of B and C are the recommendation of Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Webb.)

- **Total 2026-2027 Tentative Working Budget: $36,686,227.20**

3.C.3. Approval of the **2026-2027 Tentative Working Budget**, with a combination of Option B and Option C as the expenditure options for Section 7 funds, on the recommendation of Superintendent Webb and Finance Officer Brandi Peters, passed with a motion by Ms. Susie Rice and a second by Ms. Garnett Skaggs.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

3.C.4. Discuss/Set End of Fiscal Year 25-26 Special Board Meeting in June (No Action Required.)

Set for: Monday, June 29, 6 pm, LCHS Library

3.D. CONSTRUCTION/BUILDING & GROUNDS

3.D.1. New Louisa West Elementary & Preschool Project

3.D.1.a. Approval, on the recommendation of Superintendent Webb and Director of Districtwide Services Thomas Burns and after consideration of the received Letters of Interests, the selection of RossTarrant Architects of Lexington, Kentucky, as the architectural firm for the New Louisa West Preschool & Kindergarten Project passed with a motion by Ms. Garnett Skaggs and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

3.D.2. Building and Grounds Maintenance/Upgrades/E-RATE

3.D.2.a. E-RATE: Approval of the E-rate Agreement for Funding Year 2027 consulting services with AdTec (Administrative & Technical Consulting, Inc.) for Category One Services, Phase 1 and Phase 2, with annual total of **$4,200**, passed with a motion by Ms. Susie Rice and a second by Ms. Garnett Skaggs.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

3.D.2.b. Tennis Court Facility Grant Project: Approval of the United States Tennis Association Grant Application, which includes a percentage of reimbursement, to assist in refurbishing the tennis courts, passed with a motion by Ms. Susie Rice and a second by Ms. Barbara Robinson.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

3.D.2.c. Tennis Court Facility Grant Project: Approval of permission to bid refurbishing the tennis courts passed with a motion by Ms. Susie Rice and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

4. PERSONNEL

4.A. Approval, on the recommendation of Superintendent Webb, Memorandum of Agreement between the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and Lawrence County Schools for Sara Trimble to work for KDE, pending board counsel review, passed with a motion by Ms. Susie Rice and a second by Ms. Barbara Robinson.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

4.B. Superintendent Professional Growth and Evaluation: Katie H. Webb
Board Evaluation/Capstone Scheduled

Mrs. Webb reviewed with the Board the items included in the meeting packet, which included a summary of the schedule of her presentations on the seven leadership standards and her growth goals and a preliminary evaluation document for the Board's use in preparing for her upcoming annual evaluation. Mrs. Webb stated that she will be presenting a Capstone at the June 15 evaluation, which will illustrate, "…not things I've done, but things **we** have done" this year to advance the success of our students and district.

4.C. Approve to acknowledge receipt of **Superintendent's Personnel Action/Update**
No Action Required.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Closing remarks: ***Chairman See stated that the next scheduled meeting is the regular meeting, June 15, which will be held at 6 pm at the high school. A special meeting to help in closing Fiscal Year 25-26 is scheduled for Monday, June 29, at 6 pm at the high school. Mrs. Webb gave a reminder of graduation for Friday, May 29 at 7 pm, stating, "Congratulations to the Class of 2026!"***

Approval to adjourn passed with a motion by Ms. Susie Rice and a second by Ms. Maddlene Roberts.

5 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Mr. James See Yes
Ms. Maddlene Roberts Yes
Ms. Barbara Robinson Yes
Ms. Garnett Skaggs Yes
Ms. Susie Rice Yes

Chairman – James M. See

Secretary to the Board – Betty Mullins