

# Webster County School Board Appoints Final Local Planning Committee Members

Written by Dennis Beard Thursday, 02 December 2010 16:13



WEBSTER COUNTY, KY - Following a discussion with a crowded room full of parents and other concerned citizens from Dixon (see related story), the Webster County Board of Education heard its annual audit report, approved a list of community members to be added to the Webster County Local Planning Committee (LPC) which will develop a long-term plan for the Webster County School District, thanked two outgoing school board members for their years of service, and approved several routine items of business.

The LPC, which is formed every few years, consists of individuals directly and indirectly involved in the school district. As the final step in the process of forming the committee, the Webster County Board of Education at its meeting Monday night approved the results of an

individual board ballot vote for the final three members to be added.

Steve Hendrix, Mark Moser, and Keith Johnson were the three candidates elected by a majority of the board members. Other candidates on the ballot included Wendy Shepherd, Lori Weldon, Robin Rhea, and Dannetta Willoughby.

The three community members will join with 17 other people to make up the LPC, including Webster County School District Superintendent James Kemp, parent members Kristie Clark, Kristie Vaughn, Tina Darr, Kirha Ross, teacher members Tara Pelton, Elizabeth Warren, Carrie Tanner, and Jacob Knight, Dixon Elementary Principal Eric Wheatley, Providence Elementary Principal Greg Bowles, Sebree Elementary Principal Dave Rupsch, Webster County High School Principal Tim Roy, Webster County Board of Education member E Carolyn Tucker, interim Facilities Director Dennis Parrish, and local building/zoning official David Wilcox. As part of the process this year, the LPC will coordinate with an engineering firm to determine the condition of all of the district's buildings.

In other business, district auditor Michael Overby presented the district's annual financial report. According to Overby, the district began the 2009-2010 fiscal year with almost \$9 million, and ended the year with approximately \$2.69 million. He attributed the majority of the decrease to the WCHS renovation and new construction that took place last year.

"The continuation of the renovation of Webster County High School resulted in additional costs of \$6,355,617," Overby said as he read the report. A graph chart included in the report showed how the district allocated funds during the 09-10 school year, with the largest chunk - 48 percent – going toward instruction. The remainder of the distributed funds were all listed in single-number percentages, with nine percent for "plant operations" being the next highest allocation. Another eight percent went toward "instructional support," and six percent of the funds covered "student support services."



The district also spent five percent on school administration and three percent on district administration, the report stated. Of the revenue received during the 09-10 fiscal year, about 68 percent was generated through state allocations. 19 percent was provided through local sources such as property and utility taxes, and 13 percent came from federal funds. Of the local revenues, property taxes made up two-thirds of the 19 percent.

Overby said the district's general fund revenues for the year exceeded \$15 million, and expenditures totaled approximately \$14.9 million. The district's revenues exceeded expenses by about \$121,000, he also said. Overby also brought several accounting issues to the board's attention, such as incorrect processing of purchase orders, the need to fill out specific forms for receipts, fund raising, and inventory, a requirement that money collected for a school purpose be deposited on the same day, and "deficiencies in the recording of fixed assets."

Board members said they would work with administrators to help volunteers understand the requirements, and Overby offered to host a workshop on proper filing of paperwork at no charge to the district. The board then approved the auditor's report.

Next on the agenda was the superintendent's report, and Kemp then reviewed a list of items on the board's "consent agenda," including the amendment of an "extracurricular salary schedule to include six Webster instructional leadership network coordinators," a matching SFCC offer of assistance for FY 2011, an agreement with the West Kentucky MUNIS Consortium for services provided by Jerry Toomes as an accounting consultant, and several routine requests and district reports. The board approved the consent agenda without discussion.

Webster County School District Assistant Superintendent Alan Lossner presented a revised version of the district's comprehensive plan. He said the changes in the plan centered primarily on No Child Left Behind federal regulations, such as the insertion of a goal of five percent for increase in proficient scores, and a section added to the document regarding Senate Bill 1, which has to do with state mandated testing of students.

"We have, as required by (the Kentucky Department of Education), another unfunded mandate," Lossner said.

The new addition introduces a section on creating "instructional leadership teams geared toward new math and language arts standards," Lossner said.

The board approved the revised plan.

Under board concerns and new business, the board approved the first and final reading of revision of its policy regarding professional development, the suspension of its tuition reimbursement program for teachers, and a request by Kemp to increase the district's deductible on property insurance to \$5,000.

At the start of the meeting, Webster County Board of Education Vice-Chairperson Lisa Preston and Webster County Board of Education member Sandi Jackson, who both chose not to seek re-election to the board, received plaques for their years of service on the board.

"These are two fine ladies that have worked hard," Webster County Board of Education Chairman James Nance, in thanking the two for their service.

Preston, who has been on the school board for 12 years, spoke briefly after receiving her plaque from Nance. She

said she "got into this for children," and plans to continue working with the school district and its community support staff.

Jackson joined the board as one of two members appointed as part of the merger process with the former Providence Independent School District.

The board held a brief reception for the two outgoing board members while a crowd of approximately 30 people waited to address the board about their concerns over a proposed conversion of Dixon Elementary into a middle school.

Just prior to the start of that discussion, Webster County School District Assistant Superintendent Riley Ramsey told the board a set of six defibrillator units - one at each of the district's schools - was donated by Webster County Emergency Medical Services and Base Supervisor Justin Cardwell. The board presented a certificate of thanks for Ramsey to give to Cardwell.

Ramsey said EMS personnel had also agreed to donate time to train the school staff on proper operation of the devices in the event of an emergency.

The school board's next meeting is set for Monday, Dec. 20.