

**Augusta Independent Board of Education**

February 13, 2014 6:00 PM

207 Bracken Street

Augusta, KY

**Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM:**

Present Board Members:

Mrs. Laura Bach

Mrs. Dionne Laycock

Mrs. Chasity Saunders

Absent Board Members:

Gene Groves

Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins

**I. Call to Order**

Rationale:

Congratulations Panthers and Lady Panthers

2014 Bluegrass Conference Champions

**I.\*. Roll Call**

**I.\*. Pledge of Allegiance**

**I.\*. Mission Statement**

Rationale:

The mission of Augusta Independent Schools is to enable all students to become self-sufficient, responsible, ever-learning members of society while sustaining our unique Augusta community and school.

**I.\*. Approval of Agenda**

**Order #14-129 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the agenda as presented. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Dionne Laycock and a second by Mrs. Chasity Saunders.

Mrs. Laura Bach Yes

Gene Groves Absent

Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins Absent

Mrs. Dionne Laycock Yes

Mrs. Chasity Saunders Yes

**II. Student Recognition**

Rationale:

Congratulations Academic Achievers of the Month!

6th grade: Acasia Bacon, Madeline Darnell, Honesty Duncan, Seth Fouts, Kylee Harper, Madison Kelsch, Jessica Maldonado, Preston Philpot, Alexis Shields, Morgan Thorpe, Cameron White.

6th grade DDXE: Noah Rayburn

7th grade: William Deatley, Brynn Dufrene, Madison Frodge, Kaitlynn Gilbert, Katelynn Howell, Rebecca Tabor, Aliyah Thorpe

7th grade DDXE: Stephen Cordle

Touchstone Energy All "A" Classic Scholarship: Leah Gibson

Bluegrass Conference All-Tournament Team: Olivia Rolph, Olivia Wiseman, Kaitlynn Whiteman, Brent Bach, Dustin Freeman, Camryn Snapp.

All A Classic Tournament Team: Brent Bach & Jerica Kelsch

All A Academic Team: Dylan Archiblad & Olivia Wiseman

1000 Point Club: Jerica Kelsch & Kaitlynn Whiteman

All-Time Leading Scorer: Brent Bach

**II. BREAK**

**III. Round Table Discussion**

**III. Principal's Report/Student Achievement**

Rationale:

Principal, Robin Kelsch reported the instructional pace would be adjusted using curriculum pacing guides and despite the missed snow days, the focus was underway for students to be well prepared for upcoming accountability assessments including; ACT Work Keys, KOSSA, End-of-Course, ACT and K-PREP. He stated the school counselor and army recruiter were working collaboratively on ASVAB preparation and some students would be retaking the exam.

**III. Approve 2013-2014 Amended Calendar**

Rationale:

Make-Up Days: February 17th on President's Day, May 19th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th.

Last Day of School; May 30th with graduation that evening (No school May 20th for Election Day or May 26th for Memorial Day).

Further missed days will be made up on March 20th and 21st and April 14th and 15th of spring break.

**Order #14-130 - Motion Passed:** Approve the 2013-2014 Amended Calendar passed with a motion by Mrs. Dionne Laycock and a second by Mrs. Chasity Saunders.

Mrs. Laura Bach	Yes
Gene Groves	Absent
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins	Absent
Mrs. Dionne Laycock	Yes
Mrs. Chasity Saunders	Yes

**III.\*. Budget**

Rationale:

Kelley Gamble, part-time finance officer presented the 2014-2015 draft budget to the board members stating that budget is a preliminary projection for the upcoming fiscal year and many variables are not yet finalized. He stated SEEK funding, as well as any mandated salary increases, will not be known until the end of the legislative session. As these and other factors unfold, a clearer picture will be available for the tentative budget in May 2014.

The draft budget provides a look at the budgetary situation based on current data and gives the district an opportunity to plan in case the funding situation does not improve. Revenues are projected to decrease slightly due to a smaller transfer to General Fund from Capital Outlay compared to the current fiscal year.

A \$10,000 increase has been budgeted for a transportation reimbursement from the athletic department. All extracurricular trips will be charged .40 cents per mile next year which is still less than half of the state recommended amount. Currently, the school only reimburses the district for the bus driver's salary which does not factor in fuel, maintenance, insurance, etc. SEEK funding and next year's tax rate will have a decided impact on next year's revenues.

Additionally, growth in student enrollment appears unlikely for next year and could slightly decrease due to a large senior class.

In terms of expenditures, salary increases are limited to experience raises with no new personnel or positions included in the budget. In addition, extracurricular salaries are frozen at this year's level. A decrease of two half-time positions in the Central Office are factored into the budget.

Other reductions are one middle school English position, one bus driver position and elimination of the Dover bus route which is out-of-district.

No retirements are anticipated that would necessitate sick payouts which represents a savings of \$13,966. However, employer matching costs continue to increase with unemployment costs quadrupling over two years and KTRS health insurance match increasing 50%. Salary and benefit costs are budgeted to decrease by \$52,440.

Contract services for finance software and counseling are eliminated for a savings of \$4,500 and \$9,000 in student accident insurance are excluded from the draft budget. The budget does include \$6,500 for the acquisition of a van for district anticipated to save the district for transporting small teams or groups of students instead of using a bus.

The school's instructional budget has been limited to \$26,800, down from \$31,000 this year and approximately \$40,000 the prior fiscal year. Other operational costs such as utilities, maintenance, fuel, insurance, etc. were only increased by 1/2 of 1%. This is a small increase and will require vigilance to keep the costs at this level. There is just slightly more than a \$1,000 increase in the expenditure budget. Budgeted receipts exceed budgeted expenditures by \$7,574 with the projected ending fund balance of \$240,913 compared to this year's \$233,339.

Superintendent, Lisa McCane stated despite the cuts necessary to balance the budget, the integrity of the instructional program for students was the main priority when determining the cuts. She stated the Governor's Budget Proposal to the General Assembly includes increases to SEEK with pay raises for all teachers and classified school personnel (2 percent in FY15 and 1 percent in FY16). Additional increases proposed are for textbooks, professional development, school safety, Extended School Services, preschool services, technology and school facilities. She explained if SEEK funding increases, the district's instructional budget may not change due to the required mandated pay raises. She further stated that teachers and classified personnel have not received a raise since 2008 and deserve a raise.

Superintendent McCane reported the City of Augusta is in quadrant four and scheduled for a property reassessment beginning in March 2014. She stated each quadrant is assessed at least once every four years. Also, the Clopay expansion is scheduled to be on the tax roll in 2018.

Superintendent McCane stated the fitness center was currently costing the district approximately \$1,100 per year and recommended monthly membership fees increase in order for the district to at least break even. She stated the fitness center is a good service to offer the community but it was necessary to increase the monthly membership fee from \$10 to the appropriate price point to alleviate pressure from the general fund. She stated that the board would receive her recommendation for monthly membership fees at the next board meeting.

The YTD budget report indicates receipts are up \$9,200 in spite of lagging real estate collections and expenditures are down in the general fund by nearly \$24,000 compared to January 2013. Receipts exceeded expenditures by \$152,000 through January compared to \$119,400 last year. This is a \$33,000 improvement through seven months.

Food Service revenues exceed expenditures by \$979 through January. However, compared to the same time last year, revenues exceeded expenditures by \$4,800. Costs have increased by \$6,700 through seven months, a trend that needs reversed since the fund balance to start the year was only \$5,000 and it is the goal of Food Services to be self-supporting and not place addition pressure on the general fund. The current balance is \$6,097 with paid lunches down by \$1,100.

The Special Revenue Fund (Fund 2) expenditures are on target with regards to budget. However, the cash balance for fund 2 is -\$177,000 so reimbursements are lagging and expected to increase in February.

Superintendent McCane provided a District Funding Analysis Overview comparing various funds for the last seven years.

**Order #14-131 - Motion Passed:** Accept the 2014-2015 Draft Budget. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Chasity Saunders and a second by Mrs. Dionne Laycock.

Mrs. Laura Bach	Yes
Gene Groves	Absent
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins	Absent
Mrs. Dionne Laycock	Yes
Mrs. Chasity Saunders	Yes

### **III.\*. Approve Joining KEDC's KSBIT Litigation Efforts**

#### **Rationale:**

Superintendent McCane informed board members that Educational Cooperatives across the state are joining forces to file a Statement of Position with the Franklin Circuit Court regarding the KSBIT Assessments. Attorney, Mike Owsley will be representing all school districts in the matter so costs can be split among school districts. The cost estimate is \$350 for each district and \$60,000 overall.

The purpose is to prevent further financial burden to be placed on the districts if the court rules for KSBIT to repay the \$8 million loan back to the Kentucky League of the Cities.

Augusta Independent's current KSBIT Assessment is \$8,500 and will substantially increase if the loan is repaid to the KLC.

Augusta Independent School Board Attorney, Don Ruberg recommended joining the effort citing Mr. Owsley has extensive knowledge of the current matter.

**Order #14-132 - Motion Passed:** Approve Joining KEDC's KSBIT Litigation Efforts passed with a motion by Mrs. Chasity Saunders and a second by Mrs. Dionne Laycock.

Mrs. Laura Bach	Yes
Gene Groves	Absent
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins	Absent
Mrs. Dionne Laycock	Yes
Mrs. Chasity Saunders	Yes

**III.\*. Approve 2014-2015 Meal Prices**

Rationale:

Superintendent McCane stated the board approved a three-year meal price increase proposal in 2011 for 2012, 2013 and 2014. However, the district opted to delay the 2013 increases projecting the Food Service Department would be self-supporting. Revenues in the Food Service Department are flat, while employee and food costs continue to rise. So far this fiscal year, revenues exceed the expenditures by only \$979 through January compared to the same time last year at \$4,800. Costs have increased by \$6,700 YTD, with fund balance to start the year at only \$5,000. The current fund balance is \$6,097 with paid lunches down by \$1,100. With the current trends, it is necessary to apply the meal price increases for the 2014-2015 school year.

The proposal includes one exception compared to the previous board approved proposal with an adult breakfast being \$2.75 instead of \$3.00. This is still an increase of .25 over the current price of an adult breakfast at \$2.50.

**Order #14-133 - Motion Passed:** Approve 2014-2015 Meal Prices passed with a motion by Mrs. Dionne Laycock and a second by Mrs. Chasity Saunders.

Mrs. Laura Bach	Yes
Gene Groves	Absent
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins	Absent
Mrs. Dionne Laycock	Yes
Mrs. Chasity Saunders	Yes

**III.\*. Approve SFCC Offer of Assistance**

Rationale:

School Facilities Construction Commission made an Offer of Assistance to the Augusta Independent School Board in the amount of \$12,180 annual debt service in bonds to be sold for proposed construction or major renovation of facilities outlined in the current facilities plan. The funds will be escrowed and should bond approximately \$160,000 to \$170,000 project.

Superintendent McCane stated the board has a 2010 Offer of Assistance in the same amount and with both could bond approximately \$325,000. In addition to the local bonding potential, local payments decrease by approximately \$23,000 in January 2015 so the district's bonding potential is maximized at that time to approximately \$650,000. Superintendent McCane stated with the expenses of construction project, she recommends the board wait until next year to utilize the entire amount. She stated the project would be considered a priority one project from the district's Facility Plan.

**Order #14-134 - Motion Passed:** Approve SFCC Offer of Assistance passed with a motion by Mrs. Chasity Saunders and a second by Mrs. Dionne Laycock.

Mrs. Laura Bach	Yes
Gene Groves	Absent
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins	Absent
Mrs. Dionne Laycock	Yes
Mrs. Chasity Saunders	Yes

**III.\*. Facilities Update**

Rationale:

The Energy Reduction Report for the month of December billing period (12/11 to 1/14) indicates a reduction in electrical energy consumption of 9,383 kWhs (12.9%) and savings of approximately \$844 in electricity charges. The total

reduction of electrical energy consumption through the December billing has produced a savings in energy cost of over \$3,814. We have reduced our electrical consumption by 42,378 kWhs or 11.8% as compared to our 3-year average baseline consumption. Unfortunately, through December, we have had an increase in natural gas consumption of 388 CCF for an added cost of approximately \$462. Even with that increase, we have saved approximately \$3,352 in total energy cost through December, as compared to our 3-year average baseline.

Even though our electrical consumption is lower than any of the past 4 years, our cost remains about the same due to rate increases from the utility companies. Electrical rates have increased approximately 33% in the past few years.

The main reason for increases in natural gas consumption is due to the number of heating degree days in 2013 which has been 22% more than 2012.

#### Monthly Maintenance

- Replaced A/C Air Filters
- Replaced (3) Serving Line Table Bulbs
- Removed Tree Limb
- Repairing (3) Security Cameras and DVR Hard drives

#### **IV. Communications**

##### **IV.\*. Superintendent's Report**

###### Rationale:

Superintendent McCane stated the district applied for a Read to Achieve Grant for early reading intervention and if awarded the district could fund hiring a reading intervention teacher. She stated the grant was for three years at \$48,500 per year. In addition, the district is planning the instructional program for utilizing the \$10,000 grant awarded for implementing SB 97 (Raising Compulsory Attendance Age to 18-years-old). She stated the district is planning to apply for a Durr Foundation Grant for Technology in March and a Bluegrass Pipeline Grant for STEM initiatives in April.

January Attendance: 93.72%

Enrollment: K-12 is 293 and P-12 is 315

##### **IV.\*. Citizens**

##### **IV.\*. Board Members**

#### **V. Business and Consent**

**Order #14-135 - Motion Passed:** Approval of the Business and Consent items as presented passed with a motion by Mrs. Dionne Laycock and a second by Mrs. Chasity Saunders.

Mrs. Laura Bach	Yes
Gene Groves	Absent
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins	Absent
Mrs. Dionne Laycock	Yes
Mrs. Chasity Saunders	Yes

##### **V.\*. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

##### **V.\*. Approve 2013-2014 Comprehensive District Improvement Plan Assurances**

##### **V.\*. Approve Use of Building Requests**

##### **V.\*. Approve Band Instrument Surplus Items**

##### **V.\*. Approve Bills**

##### **V.\*. Approve Treasurer's Report**

**VI. Personnel**

Rationale:

Certified Substitute Hire  
Elizabeth Blevins  
Jessica Swoisky

**VII. Adjournment**

Rationale:

Homecoming: February 14th, 2014

Weather Make-Up Day: February 17th, 2014-President's Day

Senior Night: February 22nd, 2014

District Tournament: February 25th, 2014 at BCHS- GOOD LUCK PANTHERS AND LADY PANTHERS!

Rotary Pancake Breakfast: March 1st, 2014 in A.I.S. cafeteria

Parent-Teacher Conferences: March 6th, 2014 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: March 13th, 2014

**Order #14-136 - Motion Passed:** Approve to adjourn the meeting. Passed with a motion by Mrs. Chasity Saunders and a second by Mrs. Dionne Laycock.

Mrs. Laura Bach	Yes
Gene Groves	Absent
Ms. Jacqueline Hopkins	Absent
Mrs. Dionne Laycock	Yes
Mrs. Chasity Saunders	Yes

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Laura Bach, Chairperson

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Lisa McCane, Superintendent