

Williamstown school board considers new law

BY BETSY SMITH
EDITOR

At their June 10 meeting, the Williamstown Board of Education members scratched their heads over how to implement HB 181, which mandates the use of traceable communication systems for all electronic communications with students. The law is designed to protect students when communicating online.

Social media has been full of posts from teachers announcing they are removing all students from their accounts; requesting students to “unfriend” them; and assuring everyone that the action is not personal.

Board members wondered how students could be kept from using those platforms to communicate with school staff by commenting on or liking posts.

“The law is very strict on this one,” Superintendent John Slone said, calling the law’s mandate to report any non-compliant electronic communication by a teacher or staff member with a student “black and white” in its clarity.

Slone said Williamstown will be using Apptegy for all of its electronic communication with

students and parents going forward. Communicating via the single platform will provide full control by the district.

Still, Slone said, educating everyone on the new rules will require a lot of training.

Another House Bill passed this year requires schools to prohibit the use of cell phones during instructional time. Slone described the ban as “broad,” saying that each district will have to enact its own policy.

- The Board heard an update by Ehmet Hayes, of Robert Ehmet Hayes and Associates Architects, PLLC.

Issues remain with HVAC control. In fact, the room in which the Board was meeting was cooled only by a small rotating fan, the air conditioning in the board offices having been out all week.

Hayes said he was told that circuit boards damaged when voltage was mistakenly thrown through them last summer would fail within a year if they were going to do so. He has asked for a three-year warranty.

He also discussed three BG-1s requiring approval at the meeting: one for paving, one for the floor replacement

in Gym One, and one for a proposed addition and, possibly, a soccer field/track.

Hayes and the Board discussed options for a possible addition on the back of the school, which would provide much needed classroom space and eliminate the need to go through the gym when entering the building.

A field house is on the wish list and Hayes shared a plan for a 70’X60’ metal structure that could accommodate a half basketball court while providing the length needed for archery practice. The cost of such a facility would be around \$3 million. The proposed facility would have a small foyer, bathroom/changing rooms and perhaps a couple of offices.

There is also a strong desire to create a soccer field encircled by a track which could also be used for band practice at times.

Given the hilly terrain on which the schools stand, however, the cost of earthmoving could be prohibitive. Hayes used the term “shoehorned in” to describe placing a playing field in the valley.

Hayes said there was no rush on the decision as to what

to construct. The bid process would not begin until around Christmas. However, the board needed to approve the BG-1s to secure the funding and get the ball rolling with the state department, he said.

- Band director Chris Hedges provided an update for the board. He brought along a sample uniform top made of athletic material. Not intended for use in marching band competition, the shirt would be worn for other official band functions, such as concerts and parades.
- After conducting all other business, the Board went into executive session to approve Slone’s required Summative Evaluation.

The Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA) provides guidance for evaluation. Superintendents are assessed in at least two of seven individual leadership standards. The Board chose three this year: Standard 1: Strategic Leadership, Standard 6: Collaborative Leadership, and Standard 7: Influential Leadership.

Individuals are scored as “exemplary” (exceeding the standard), “accomplished” (meeting the standard), “devel-

oping” (making progress) or “improvement required” (progress toward meeting the standard is unacceptable).

Slone, who has completed his second full year at the helm of Williamstown Independent Schools, was given an overall assessment rating “accomplished” by the Board and rated “accomplished” in each of the three standards.

- Josiah McCain, who succeeds Harper Mann as the student board representative, was in attendance and introduced himself.

OTHER ACTIONS

- Approved the Treasurer’s Bond with Ohio Casualty Insurance Company for Finance Officer Dean Faulkner, who is bonded in the amount to \$200,000.

- Approved the District’s Certified Evaluation Plan, which includes procedures and forms used to evaluate all certified school personnel excepting the superintendent.

- Approved the first reading of the proposed/revised 2025-2026 KSBA policy updates.

SEE **LAW/PAGE B6**

Grant County Board of Education moves into summer

BY DEBORAH
LUCAS ANGEL
NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Meeting on June 12, all members of the Grant County Board of Education (Board) were present with Board Attorney Jake Thompson attending virtually. The agenda included construction projects, planning, 2025-2026 academic year items, as well as the annual superintendent evaluation.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION

Board Chair Lisa Smith read into the record, the “annual evaluation of Superintendent Todd Moody for the 2024-2025 school year.” She related, “This year has been a positive yet challenging one (Mr. Moody’s first year) for education in our school district.”

The evaluation focuses on “seven standards of performance as well as two goals for the district agreed on by the board and Superintendent Moody.” She said the Board “used performance based levels recommended by the Kentucky School Board Association (KSBA) for his evaluation.” Standards ratings are: “Exemplary — exceeds; Accomplished — meets; Developing — making progress and Improvement Required — progress toward meeting the standard is unacceptable.”

According to the guidance from KSBA, the evaluation document is used “in its summative evaluation, together with the evidence the superintendent has compiled throughout the year to show how he or she has performed in

those seven areas.” It further states, “the superintendent is expected to collect evidence during the year to demonstrate how he or she is stacking up to those standards before the summative evaluation.”

Following are the areas and results by the Board for Moody:

- Instructional — Accomplished
- Cultural — Accomplished
- Human Resources — Accomplished
- Managerial — Accomplished
- Collaborative — Exemplary
- Influential — Exemplary
- Strategic — Accomplished

Supporting information for the evaluation included items such as Moody’s “diverse meetings he

attended with the Fiscal Court about transportation” as well as attending various civic group meetings sharing the schools’ needs; awards received by “both ... staff and students...recognized for their accomplishments.” As well “his town hall meetings and community survey which were used to gain insight into what our parents, staff and community value in our students learning so he could develop our district Strategic Plan.”

Additionally, Smith said Moody did “an exemplary job” reaching both goals set by him and the Board in August 2024 to “assess and change if needed the vision and

mission statement of the school board.”

The plan can be viewed on the Grant County Schools’ website.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Moody said there is potential to use “Envision Program” for Grant County Middle School Math. (Envision is described as a program combining problem-based and visual learning “to deepen students’ conceptual understanding.”)

He also suggested a “parent and student agreement — loan and repair schedule” for Chrome books. Also there is potential of having schools to have email

access to “contact parents directly” during the school year.

Moody plans to have another “town hall,” as he did in 2024, on July 10 at 6 p.m. at the High School Auditorium. He said Board members may attend but not to speak, only observe. He said there will not be a work session for July.

APPROVALS

Consent Agenda includes items that have been discussed during a previous work session, however approval, further discussion, is completed during a regular session.

SEE **BOARD/PAGE B6**

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN, IN GRANT COUNTY, KENTUCKY, ESTABLISHING ITS DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN PURSUANT TO K.R.S. 91A.030(10) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND PROVIDING THAT NO MONIES SHALL BE EXPENDED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTOWN EXCEPT IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
WHEREAS, Pursuant to the requirement of K.R.S. 91A.030(10), the City of Williamstown shall during the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2026, operate and be operated pursuant to a departmental budget,																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Williamstown, Kentucky has prepared and approved a line item departmental budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 and is available for public inspection in the office of the Mayor of Williamstown, Kentucky,																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council, City of Williamstown, Grant County, Kentucky that the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 is hereby adopted.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
Given First Reading at regular session this 12th day of June, 2025.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
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Excess of Resources Over/Under Appropriations		154,884	13,300	259,900	1,064,500	1,329,400	1,244,000																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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OTHER CAPITAL EXPENSES				-200,000	-353,300	-248,300	-185,300																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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END OF FISCAL YEAR		\$154,884	\$13,300	\$46,600	\$386,200	\$174,219	\$180,900																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																

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ORDINANCE NO. 342-2025 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF CRITTENDEN TO REFLECT PROJECTED REVENUES & EXPENDITURES THROUGH JUNE 30TH, 2026 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF CRITTENDEN:			
CITY OF CRITTENDEN PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY - GENERAL FUND FY 2025 - 2026			
			General Fund Budget Year Ending FY 25-26
Resources Available:			
Beginning General Fund Balance		\$	505,017.36
Estimated Revenues:			
Property Taxes		\$	541,000.00
Fines & Forfeits		\$	-
License & Permits		\$	690,500.00
Intra Government Transfer		\$	400,000.00
Total Other Revenue		\$	13,830.00
Total Estimated Revenues		\$	1,645,330.00
Total Resources Available for Appropriations		\$	2,150,347.36
Appropriations:			
General Government		\$	565,041.40
Fire Department		\$	75,000.00
General Maintenance	651	\$	6,000.00
Street Maintenance - Milling /Resurfacing	652	\$	325,000.00
City Truck / Maint. Vehicles	653	\$	105,000.00
Workers Lunch	654	\$	500.00
Post Office	655	\$	6,500.00
Fire House Maintenance	656	\$	2,500.00
Storm Drain Repairs	659	\$	30,000.00
Dam Restoration / Nature Par Projects	659	\$	400,000.00
	650	\$	65,000.00
Legal Services / City Attorney		\$	15,000.00
Engineering Fees		\$	15,000.00
Grant Co. PVA Taxroll		\$	9,000.00
Northern KY ADD		\$	1,650.00
Economic Development		\$	6,200.00
Information Technology		\$	16,000.00
Council Training & Other Expenses		\$	1,000.00
Total Appropriations		\$	1,644,391.40
Excess of Resources Over Appropriations		\$	938.60
Interfund Transfers		\$	-
Estimated General Fund Balance End of Fiscal Year		\$	505,955.96
Estimated Balance - All City Funds End of Fiscal Year		\$	4,770,202.17
Given the First Reading by the City Council of The City of Crittenden:			5/13/2025
Given the Second Reading and Adopted by the City Council of The City of Crittenden by the following vote:			6/10/2025
Joseph Dusing		Yes	
Michelle Bohman		Yes	
Bobby Tanner		Yes	
Bobby Newman		Yes	
Leo Saylor		Yes	
Ange Morris		Yes	
By: /s/ James Purcell			
James Purcell			
Mayor			
Attest: /s/ Shawn McHolland			
Shawn McHolland			
Crittenden City Clerk & Treasurer			