

Williamsburg school board reports no errors for 2025-26 tentative budget

Macee Swafford Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG — The Williamsburg Board of Education convened for their monthly meeting this past Thursday.

Superintendent Tabettha Housekeeper started off the meeting by acknowledging the uncertainty and hardships the school has had to face this year.

“It’s been a hard year. We started off the year with the interstate shooting, we are ending the year with tornado damage, and we have had to amend our calendar,” Housekeeper said. “I want to send everybody off for the summer with some good.”

To follow up with the good, the Williamsburg City School Facebook page posted senior shout outs after the meeting. These shoutouts highlighted the future plans of graduating seniors, such as what they plan on studying in college, and even one student that will be coming back to work at the school while they do classes online through their prospective college.

WEA (Whitley Education Association) Representative Aaron Brock gave his monthly updates, and couldn’t agree more with Housekeeper on the unexpected moments throughout the year.

“None of us know how to explain it because it has been one unexpected, and unexplainable thing after the other,” said Brock.

Brock also thanked Supt. Housekeeper for all her work that she has done throughout these difficult times and the support she has given the staff.

“We had no interruptions during testing. It was a breeze on my end, and attendance was great from what I know,” Brock said as he spoke on one of the great periods of the year.

Finance Officer Dalton Smith was next to update the board, and was very excited to present the 2025-26 fiscal year budget.

“Last year, we submitted it pretty late,” Smith said. “But this year we started working on the salary portion about a month ago, and for the last two weeks I have been diligently going through every guide KDE has provided.”

Smith was happy to report that the 2026 tentative budget has no errors after running it through a test.

This was a great accomplishment for the board, as the deadline to submit the FY2026 tentative budget is May 30, and it was submitted on May 21.

“Last year, it was submitted two months after the deadline,” Supt. Housekeeper said. “We are 10 days early, it’s a very big deal.”

Chair Kim White asked for a motion to approve “this excellent action item,” and with a motion, it was approved unanimously.

In other business, approval of the 2025 fiscal year capital funds request final draft was also discussed. This would allow Finance Officer Smith to request funds that are owed to the school through capital projects.

“We have had some funds left over from the previous year that we did not use. We have about \$200,000 that hopefully can renovate the gym, and get new bleachers,” Smith said.

The money can also be used for property insurance as well.

The board thanked Smith, and the motion to approve the 2025 capital funds request was approved unanimously.

Scholarships, awards presented by Knox County Board of Education



Amelia Posada, right, was recognized as a finalist in the Student Technology Leadership Program competition for Digital Storytelling. Also pictured is Supt. Jeremy Ledford, shaking Posada’s hand. | PHOTO BY MACEE SWAFFORD

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer

KNOX COUNTY — The Knox County Board

of Education recognized scholarship recipients this past Thursday at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

The meeting began with a call to order, followed by a moment of silence led by Pastor Justin Morris of Lynn Camp Baptist Church.

Superintendent Jeremy Ledford started out with the first recognition of the evening by introducing student Amelia Posada, award winner of the Student Technology Leadership Program competition.

“We are proud that Amelia was not only able to advance through the regional level competitions, but to actually make it as a finalist at the state and actually win second in the middle school digital storytelling division,” Ledford said.

He continued by congratulating Posada, and expressed how proud the board was of her accomplishments.

Next, a series of scholarships were handed out to student recipients.

“All these scholarships are unique, as the names are actually from educators in Knox County Schools,” said District Communications Director Frank Shelton.

For the 7th year of doing a board member scholarship, Daniel Hinkle was the student to receive the award this year. He was presented

the scholarship by member Kevin Hinkle.

This board scholarship is presented to students who are going into a career occupation, such as a trade, right out of high school. Daniel is attending Southeast Community College to become a diesel mechanic, and is the first of his family to go to college.

The James H. Hampton Scholarship, named after a former superintendent of Knox County schools, was presented to Haylee Washam, a student at Knox Central High School. The Hampton family has established this scholarship to rotate between Lynn Camp and Knox Central.

The James B. Hampton Scholarship was awarded to Reagan Black. Named after an educator in the Hampton family, this scholarship is awarded to students who live in the Flat Lick and the Artemus area.

Lastly, the Clinton B.

SEE AWARDS, PAGE 3

VFW offers aid and comfort in wake of tornado



Dustin Barnett, right, and another member of the VFW set up at the London-Corbin Airport. | PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF KY-VFW FACEBOOK PAGE

BY MACEE SWAFFORD
Staff Writer

LONDON — In the aftermath of the devastating tornado that tore through London and Laurel County, local members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have stepped in to provide support, resources, and relief to those impacted by the devastation.

A member of the VFW from Corbin, Dustin Barnett, said that he didn’t hesitate once the news of the devastation had struck.

“My wife woke me up, and I threw stuff into my vehicle and went straight to Sunshine Hills,” said Barnett.

Sunshine Hills was one of the subdivisions directly in the storm’s

path, where numerous homes were leveled and

several lives were tragically lost in its wake.

Barnett has been on the ground since day one of the destruction, and has been one of the driving forces that has coordinated efforts to support the community of London and Laurel County in the wake of the EF-4 disaster. From organizing supply drives, clearing debris, and personally helping families in need — his work has not gone unnoticed.

A member of the VFW from Grayson County said that the

leveling and destruction was unlike anything he had seen before.

“I’ve been in combat zones that have been cleaner than this,” he described.

The Grayson County
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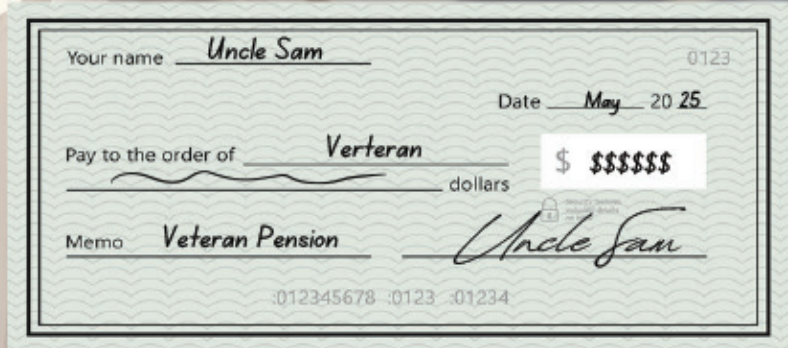
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