

# The Booneville Sentinel



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Thursday  
January 22, 2026

Vol. 48 No. 49



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606-464-2444

Mailing address: PO Box 129 Booneville KY 41314

## OC Schools Recognize "School Board Appreciation Month"

The Owsley County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. Board Chairperson Joyce Campbell called the meeting to order. All board members were present. A motion was made and carried to Review/Approve the Agenda as it was presented. A motion was made and carried to Review/Approve the Board Meeting Minutes for the December 9, 2025 Regular Meeting and the January 6, 2026 Special Board Meeting. January has been named as the Kentucky School Board Appreciation Month. Owsley County Judge Executive Zeke Little put a Proclamation in the newspaper honoring the members of the Owsley County Board of Education: Joyce Campbell, Fannie Couch, Andra Debord, Kim Campbell and Deron Mays.

Autumn Herald, Finance Director/Treasurer, gave the monthly Financial Report including the Payrolls, Claims, and Start/Early Head Start Financial Report and Food Services Financial Report. A motion was made and carried to approve the Financial Report. A motion was made and carried to approve the Notice of Federal Interest to be filed with the County Clerk's Office. This needs to be done every year (until 2039) because we used over a million dollars for upgrades done to our schools using federal monies.

The Draft Budget was presented to the board pursuant to KRS 160.470 (6)(a). Autumn explained that she uses this year's budget until May. That is when we need to have our budget for next year finalized. A motion was made and carried to approve the Draft Budget. A motion was made and carried to approve the KETS 1st Offer of Assistance in the amount of \$6,383.00 to be escrowed. "When we receive KETS money, we usually escrow it for three years. Then we draw it down at that time. But it is never enough to cover the technology or our district," explained Autumn. A motion was made and carried to approve the Superintendent's Travel for December, 2025 and January 2026. There is none at this time.

Charlie Davidson stated, "right now, we are holding at around 92% attendance. This is where we have stayed pretty much after the first month of school. We are about 2% higher than we were this time last year. If we keep this up, we should end up with a pretty good gain for this year at the end of the year. This month has been really good. We have 297 students at the elementary school and we have 281 students at the middle/high school which gives us a total of 578 students. We also have 20 in virtual school. We don't have any students in Alternative School." A motion was made and carried to approve the CDIP-Phase III District Improvement Plan. A motion was made and carried to approve the following Consent Items: review SBDM Reports (OCES, OCHS); approve Donations for Cheerleaders (Farm-

ers State Bank - \$1,000.00, Sheila Mays - \$1,000.00, Ball Custom Builders - \$2,000.00, Family Practice Clinic - \$1,500.00 and Dr. Stephen Mularz - \$1,500.00; approve 2026-2028 Family Resource & Youth Service Centers School District Assurance Certification; approve 2025-2026 Visually Impaired Contract (Crystal Moore Tel-Practitioner); approve advertisement for Bids/Information and Pricing for Early Head Start/Head Start Playgrounds Equipment; approve Facility Use Request (Owsley County Sportsman Club - OCHS Cafeteria - April 11, 2026 - Back up date April 18th if April 11th is not available); approve Overnight/Out of State Trip (Region IV Annual Conference - February 9-12, 2026 in Atlanta, Georgia for Pam Chandler and Sheila Thomas).

The departments had sent a copy of their reports to Betty Jo Neeley and she included them in the packets of the board members. Superintendent Gary Cornett told the board that KHSAA changed the rules and now you have to have a shot clock on the scoreboards. Our scoreboards are now obsolete. When we bought them, they were \$12,000.00 and now they are over \$20,000.00. "I have talked to Angie at the bank and they are gonna get us two new scoreboards plus the shot clock, lights and all that. I am going to order all of it tomorrow. If you see the people from the bank out, thank them. That is a pretty significant donation. Also, the guy from Trace Creek, Sam Howard, called me a couple of weeks ago. They did a fundraiser and included our school district in it. They are going to be providing three \$2,500 scholarships for our vocational students (going to lineman school, nursing or something that is vocational) this year. He wants the criteria to include work ethic, attendance, etc."

Brett Burns, Technology Director, gave a short report. "I just wanted to take a minute to brag on our Data Seam kids. We now have three apprentices at the high school, two of them are in their first year and their primary concern is Chrome books. They do Chrome book repairs. This is Dalton's second year. They are good kids and they are working hard. This has been a good program." The board acknowledged the Personnel Action Report by the Superintendent. This includes employing Megan Gibson as a Certified Substitute Teacher and the resignation of Robert Smith as Middle School Boys Basketball Head Coach.



## OC Owls play a hard-fought matchup against LC Bobcats Friday Night in Lee County

The Owsley County Owls traveled to Lee County on Friday night, January 16, to take on the Lee County Bobcats in a hard-fought matchup. Both teams battled throughout the contest, with the Bobcats defending their home court and the Owls applying steady pressure on both ends of the floor. The game remained competitive, but Owsley County was able to execute down the stretch, pulling away in the final minutes. When the final buzzer sounded, the Owls secured a 68-62 victory over the Bobcats, earning an important road win. Despite the loss, Lee County showed determination and kept the game within reach until late, while Owsley County's balanced effort proved to be the difference. Lee County will look to regroup as they prepare for their next matchup, while Owsley County carries momentum forward following the win.

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## Owsley County Lady Owls has a convincing road victory in Lee County

The Owsley County Lady Owls traveled to Beattyville on Friday night, January 16, to take on the Lee County Lady Kats at Heber Dunaway Gymnasium, and came away with a convincing road victory. Owsley County set the tone early and maintained control throughout the contest, using strong defense and balanced scoring to pull away from the Lady Kats. Lee County struggled to find an offensive rhythm against the Lady Owls' pressure, while Owsley County steadily extended its lead as the game progressed. Despite the home-court advantage, the Lady Kats were unable to slow the momentum of the visiting team. Owsley County continued to execute on both ends of the floor, securing a 65-35 win over Lee County. The loss sends the Lady Kats back to work as they look to regroup and prepare for their next matchup, while the Lady Owls head home with a solid road win.

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## OC Lady Owls Hosts Estill

The Owsley County Lady Owls hosted Estill County on their home court Tuesday, January 20th, but were unable to keep pace, falling 57-23. Despite the loss, the Lady Owls showed determination throughout the contest, working to execute their game plan against a tough Estill County squad. Estill established control early and maintained steady pressure on both ends of the floor, building a lead that proved difficult for Owsley County to overcome. The Lady Owls continued to compete until the final buzzer, gaining valuable experience as they move forward in the season. Owsley County will look to build on the positives from the matchup as they prepare for upcoming games. More local sports coverage is located on our website at [www.boonevillesentinel.com](http://www.boonevillesentinel.com) Photos by Iacono Imagery



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## Owls Defend the Palace with Convincing Win Over Estill

The Owsley County Owls protected their home court Tuesday night, January 20, with a strong 64-50 victory over Estill County at the "Palace." Playing in front of a supportive home crowd, the Owls set the tone early and maintained control throughout the contest. Owsley County's balanced offensive attack and disciplined defense proved to be the difference, as the Owls limited Estill's scoring opportunities while capitalizing on key possessions. The win adds another highlight to the Owls' season and reinforces the Palace as a tough place for visiting teams to play. Owsley County will look to build on the momentum as they continue their schedule in the coming weeks.



**Right: Chase Pryse was recognized for his 500th rebound on Tuesday, January 20th at the "Palace." L to R: OC Owls Head Coach Tyson Gross and OC Owl Chase Pryse.**

Photo by Iacono Imagery