

District to proceed with plans for new high school

The Green County Board of Education met in regular session Thursday, May 14. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the meeting was streamed Live on Facebook. During the meeting the board passed its 2020-2021 Tentative Budget totaling \$12.4 million of general fund monies. Green County Schools Director of Finance, Zachary Leftwich, commented on the budget. "There is a lot of uncertainty on what the next two years holds for school finance. COVID-19 could result in

state budget cuts which could then affect funding flowing to districts," he said. "Thanks to years of good management and our board's continued leadership, Green County Schools remains in good financial position and this conservative budget will help to prepare us for what may be coming in the years ahead." The board passed the 2020-2021 salary schedule. Previous versions of the senate and house budget bills had included 1% raises for school employees, but as revenue projections were adjusted rela-

tive to the COVID-19 pandemic, the raises were stripped from the final budget passed by the Kentucky Legislature. The salary schedules passed Thursday night included no district-wide raises. The board also passed a motion to petition the Kentucky Department of Education and Interim Commission Kevin Brown requesting for Green County Schools to assume authority for the management and control of the Green County Area Technology Center (ATC). Currently the ATC is a state-operated

facility with limited oversight available at the local level. If the petition is approved, the employees and programs of the ATC would fall under the direction of the Green County Board of Education. The board approved of the district's Local Planning Committee recommendation to make a "finding" on the District Facility Plan. When the facility plan was originally crafted it included no reference to building a new high school. Afterwards, the Kentucky Legislature awarded urgent needs

funding to the district to aide construction of a new high school. The finding recommended by the Local Planning Committee would allow the district to proceed with plans to construct the new high school. The board briefly went into closed session to discuss the evaluation of Superintendent William Hodges. Upon exiting closed session the board adopted an evaluation of Mr. Hodges that included exemplary remarks for all seven evaluation standards. COVID-19 resulted in numerous policy

changes needing to be made. The board adopted a revised Certified Evaluation Plan, revised Emergency Leave Policy, and revised Graduation Requirements that would only impact the 2019-2020 school year. In other items of action the board entered into an agreement with Cumberland Family Medical for 2020-2021 health services, authorized Superintendent Hodges to negotiate an agreement with the City of Greensburg for a School Resource Officer, and accepted bids for procurement of bus tires and batteries.

Ten or fewer can start gathering just before Memorial Day

Ban on travel expires also

BY MELISSA PATRICK
KY HEALTH NEWS

Gov. Andy Beshear has made May 22, the Friday before Memorial Day, the date that groups of 10 or fewer people can legally gather, instead of May 25, the holiday. He also said Kentucky's ban on travel to and from other states would expire the same day. "We realize that people are making plans for Memorial Day," Beshear said at his daily briefing. "And I trust that we can do

this right, that we can do this safely, and I'd much rather get out there with some good guidance and rules." He said he was comfortable moving up the dates because "I've got to live in the real world, just like everybody else," and said his goal was to try to get the best results, which is to put guidance in place to keep everyone safe that the maximum number of people will follow. "Remember, this is a virus where one person doing the wrong thing can spread it to a bunch of people doing the right thing," he said, encouraging people to follow guidance on the website, because "it will help protect you." He also encouraged people to gather outside whenever pos-

sible, and reminded them that unless it involves people who are part of your household, the six-foot social-distancing rule still stands. He advised against sharing plates and utensils, and to avoid buffets and potlucks or any situation that involves asking people to share food. He also reminded people to wash their hands frequently and to not touch their eyes, nose or mouth. And if the gathering involves close proximity, wear a mask. Parents should "plan ahead" for ways to entertain children that will allow them to remain six feet apart, Beshear said. For example, he said it would be better to play laser tag instead of basketball. He also advised any-

one 65 or older, or who has heart, lung or kidney disease, to avoid such gatherings. "So just plan ahead. Be smart. Know that this is out there and then just try to do the very best you can following all of these rules," he said. "I trust you. You've done a really good job thus far, just be really thoughtful in how you do it and how you go about it." The travel ban has been an important part of "flattening the curve" in the state, but now is the right time to drop it, Beshear said, because he is not seeing the same kind of exodus from hotspots that helped prompt the ban, and he is more comfortable about where some neighboring states are. He cautioned that if the state starts seeing a spike in cases, "We

may have to take some of these steps again." He encouraged people to remain careful about where they chose to travel, noting that the beach is still a

very dangerous place. "Remember, there are hundreds of cases in Western Kentucky related to a trip to the beach," he said, without giving details.

Election

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Absentee online: For this election, you can apply for an absentee ballot using the State Board of Elections online portal. This portal will be available starting May 22. The voter will enter information into the portal and submit it; the local clerk's office then mail the voter's ballot within 3 days. This will be the quickest option. **Voting on Election Day: PRECINCTS WILL NOT BE OPEN AND RESULTS WILL NOT BE SEPARATED BY PRECINCT.** "On Election Day,

June 23, the Courthouse, 203 West Court Street, will be the polling place for EVERYONE," Baker said. This polling location will still be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 23, but voting by absentee will be the best option. "We will have several machines set up so that hopefully we will keep everything flowing smoothly," she said. "If you have any questions, please call the office." "Thank you for your patience during this time; as always it's a pleasure to serve you."

Drama

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"She will be remembered for her enthusiasm." "Andrew Tucker, member of the ensemble for Mary Poppins; Burcham is a musical theater enthusiast and has been a part of the choir program for a number of years," Durham said, "He will be missed!" Kelly Turner is also a multi-year choir member. She was a part of the ensemble for Mary Poppins. "We wish her the very best!" Haley Johnson, one of the lead actresses, portrayed Winifred Banks in Mary Poppins. "Johnson took her role seriously and was always prepared and hard-working," said Durham. "Haley and

her work ethic have been a part of our choir program for many years and she leaves behind a spot that will be difficult to fill." Josie Pruitt was the title character, Mary Poppins. Choral Director Durham admitted that it's difficult to describe her, as she was much more than a student. "She has been a peer teacher for the past two years with the middle school chorus, and has been a leader in every sense of the word," said Durham. "Her drive and passion for music and the theater made her the perfect Mary. As she studies music in college I can't wait to see what other amazing thing she will accomplish."

The May meeting of the
James L. Pruitt VFW Post 5813
has been cancelled.



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