

# The <sup>CCPS</sup> BOARD REPORT

December 10, 2024

## → Kicking off 2025 in style...

The new year starts with a bang for CCPS as both the Preschool and the Cardinal Innovation Center will open to staff and students.

Ribbon cutting for the Cardinal Innovation Center behind RDC is set for Jan. 10th with the first day for students on Jan. 13th. "We did allow one week post holiday break to make sure we had everything ready to go so that those kids walk into pristine greatness," Superintendent Howard said.

The new Clark County Preschool Open House and Ribbon Cutting is set for Feb. 18th, with the first day for students set for Feb. 20th. "We could not be more excited for our little Cards," Mr. Howard said.

## → 'Leader for early childhood education'

CCPS will employ a Director of Early Learning to handle the growing services our district is offering. "We hope that this position streamlines and enhances the oversight of our ever-evolving and expanding daycare, preschool, and aftercare programs," said HR Director Tammy Parrish. "We just feel like by centralizing it under one director, our district can be a leader for early childhood education."

The position is being advertised now that Board approval is secured.

## → State-of-the-Art communication

The Cardinal Innovation Center will include a PA/audio system that the district hopes to eventually install in all the schools. The Board approved the comprehensive system at a cost of \$97,738.99 after extensive research revealed it increases safety and communication capabilities in numerous ways.

SEE Page 3 for more information.

## → ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING: TUESDAY, JAN. 7

## NOTABLE & QUOTABLE

Our students will have a first-class experience at the new Cardinal Innovation Center. Renovating an existing space has allowed us to add more pathways and provide fantastic opportunities. Credit to the Board of Education for making fiscally wise decisions when deciding the best way to make this center a reality. It's a huge win all the way around for Phoenix, CVA, STEM, and especially our students, and we're super excited.

-Superintendent Dustin Howard

## Sookie the Therapy Dog



Sookie the Conkwright Therapy Dog, joined Conkwright counselor Kari McGrath, Assistant Principal Ada Damron and Principal Megan Swart during the Instructional Spotlight session. Sookie greatly contributes to the school's focus on climate and culture.



Clark County Board of Education - The Board Report - December 10, 2024

Ashley Ritchie, Board Chair (District 5)  
Dora Hall, Vice Chair (District 2)

Billy Bennett (District 3)  
Ben Dorsey (District 4)  
Jennifer Simpkins (District 1)

CCPS  
Supt. Dustin Howard  
CAO/Asst. Supt. Kelly Fithen  
COO Brandon Watkins  
Full Admin Team

## → School Instructional Spotlight...

**SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT**



**CONKWRIGHT  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**





**ORTON GILLINGHAM**


- PHONICS TIME INCLUDED IN MASTER SCHEDULE
- IMPLEMENTED IN TIER I AND TIERED INSTRUCTION
- OG WALKTHROUGHS
- OG MENTORINGS
- OG VIDEOS

**KAGAN**


- KAGAN COACHES
- FORMS
- GOALS
- LESSON PLANS
- PLC'S, FACULTY MTGS

**SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT**



**CONKWRIGHT  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL**



BIG ROCKS

**Foundational Rocks:**


1. BEHAVIOR and SEL (BS):
  - a. COLTS EXPECTATIONS
  - b. LEADER TICKETS
  - c. SEL, MORNING MTGS, SOOKIE
  - d. COLTS CELEBRATIONS
  - e. PLC'S, MTSS MTGS
2. CULTURE (FAM):
  - a. COLTS TEAMS/CHALLENGES
  - b. KEEP, STOP, START
  - c. ANNOUNCEMENTS, SOCIAL MEDIA, THANKFUL NOTES, CARDS, EMAILS, BIRTHDAYS, SPECIAL TREATS

**Building Blocks:**


1. ACADEMICS (TIER 1):
  - a. KAGAN
  - b. OG
  - c. COMMON PLANNING
2. FAMILY/COMMUNITY RELATIONS (FCR):
  - a. CLUBS
  - b. WELCOME SQUAD
  - c. MENTORS
  - d. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AT COLTS CELEBRATIONS
  - e. MONTHLY EVENTS
  - f. POSITIVE PHONE CALLS

















## → District Instructional Spotlight...

**DISTRICT INSTRUCTIONAL SPOTLIGHT**



**GIFTED &  
TALENTED  
CLARK COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



- CURRENT PROGRAM STATUS
- EXPANDED SERVICES
- DEPTH & COMPLEXITY/ DIFFERENTIATION
- TEACHER SUPPORT & COLLABORATION

## Conkwright Elementary

Principal Megan Swart explained the school's Foundational Rocks of Behavior and Social Emotional Learning and Culture/Climate, along with the Big Rocks of Academics/Tier 1 Instruction and Family/Community Relations. Highlights:

- The important work of therapy dog Sookie
- A social emotional learning teacher incorporated into the related arts rotation
- All-school morning meetings every day to celebrate students and build unity
- Self-care Bingo cards for staff with gift card rewards
- Kagan Cooperative Learning focus in classrooms and teacher meetings
- Orton-Gillingham phonics instruction added into the master schedule
- Each student receiving at least one positive phone call home each semester

## Gifted and Talented Program

Michelle Cason, gifted and talented coordinator, told the Board the program has expanded significantly with the addition of a second teacher, Rachel Michel. G&T serves 596 K-12 students identified in one of several areas – creative and divergent thinking, general intellectual ability, leadership, language arts, math, science, social studies, visual art, dance, drama, and music. In addition, they support classroom teachers in developing differentiated learning opportunities.

With the focus this year on a gifted strategy known as depth and complexity, RDC social studies teacher Wyatt Owens spoke to the Board about how these teaching techniques have boosted academic proficiency in all his students.



## → Other Board actions...

In other business:

- The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Resolution Therapy Practice to provide school-based therapeutic services to our students.
- A Wide Area Network Fiber Lease Agreement with Spectrum was approved that is less than the district is currently paying for same amount of speed and bandwidth.
- The 2025-2026 Board organizational meeting is set for January 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
- Several Board members recently attended the Kentucky School Boards Association Conference, earned required hours, and brought back a lot of good information.
- The Board approved the Financial Report, authorized payment of salaries and bills, and approved numerous routine and consent agenda items. [View Agenda](#)

## → Elite PA/audio system at CIC

The Cardinal Innovation Center’s PA/audio system offers the following state-of-the-art features:

- A teacher microphone system with a personal duress button that alerts the front office in the case of emergency
- An elite audio component that projects what the teacher is saying into overhead speakers
- The option to translate messages into different languages
- A digital, network-based paging and intercom system that allows communication with individual rooms
- The ability to have a different bell schedule in different areas of a school

The system at Phoenix can be purchased with existing funds, and CAO Brandon Watkins told the Board the new District Facilities Plan includes a recommendation to eventually install the system in all schools. CCPS directors have spent months researching systems and visited a district that is installing it district wide.

## → Superintendent’s Report...

Superintendent Howard expressed appreciation and presented certificates to Billy Bennett and Jennifer Simpkins, the Board’s two outgoing members.

“The entirety of our community needs to understand that Board members don’t get paid that much, especially not for the amount of work, time, and effort put in. It’s not just attending meetings. They are checking emails and going through all documents prior to each meeting. We upload every document, every agreement, and every dollar spent in the budget, and they study that for a week so that they’re prepared when they come to the meetings. They’re actively engaged in our processes and decisions.

“The biggest compliment I could give Mr. Billy Bennett and Ms. Jennifer Simpkins is that they’re in it for the right reasons – they love our kids. They truly want Clark County Public Schools to be wonderful and our kids to have better than what they had when they were coming through here. It just means the world to me that you all have put the time in, so thank you.”



**Billy Bennett**



**Jennifer Simpkins**







## Board Recognitions

# Your Greatness Shows...

Five GRC students and a 2024 graduate who have completed the first-ever medical interpreter co-op were honored by the Board.

The groundbreaking program is coordinated by our fabulous partner, the Clark

County Equity Coalition. Congratulations to Betsy Amador, Noemy Garcia DeLeon, Ian Martinez Perez, Marina Martinez Perez (2024 graduate), Jamie Huerta Mata, and Sarai Rodriguez.

The students stayed after school for nine days, toured University of Kentucky Hospital, shadowed with professional medical interpreters, completed the interpreter program, and have taken the language program efficiency test. When they graduate from GRC in May, they will be qualified as entry-level medical interpreters.

"This is the first program in a high school like this in the nation that we are aware of, and we're very excited to honor these students," said program coordinator Donna Carter from the Equity Coalition. Each student received a new laptop donated by Toyota.



GRC senior Jones Howard was recognized for being a National Merit Semifinalist, a distinguished honor earned by only a select few students in the United States.

Semifinalists must score in the top 1% on the elite PSAT test.

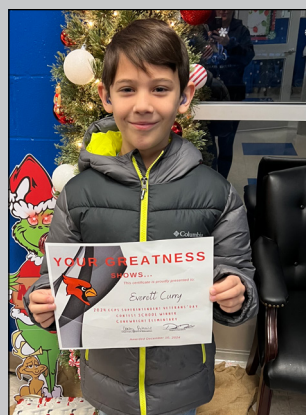
Congratulations, Jones!



The JROTC Female Raiders were honored for their overall Kentucky state championship in the National Raider Challenge at Fort Knox. Members of the team are: Alyssa Fish, Penelope McIntosh, Amithy Salcido, Addison Salcido, Rori Cooper, Jessica Kidd, Aaliyah Graham, Kira Conley, Tara Daniels (captain), Adisen Willoughby, Makenna Roszel, Alex VonBehren, Glenmy Mejia, and Valeria Martinez. Pictured with the girls is MSG Larry Lee.



The Sonoco Corporation sponsored club T-shirts for Conkwright Elementary. Thank you, Sonoco, and representative Priscilla Rogers (pictured with Conkwright Principal Megan Swart and Assistant Principal Ada Damron).



Everett Curry from Conkwright Elementary was recognized as the school winner of the Superintendent's Veterans Day Art Contest.

His print will hang in the Central Office foyer for the next year.

Congratulations, Everett!

