

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM  
2240 Southpark Drive  
Murfreesboro, TN 37128**

**JANUARY 23, 2025  
5:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Work Session: Pledge led by Katie Darby

**Board Meeting:** Pledge led by Katie Darby

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Recommended Motion - to approve the agenda as presented.**

**5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (TAB 1)**

**A. Minutes:** Board Meeting Minutes, January 9, 2025

**B. Nepotism:**

Hannah Derbabian – Custodian – Stewarts Creek High School

**C. Use of Facilities:**

**FACILITIES USE**

1/23/2025

**Fees**

Central Magnet

Midsouth Homeschool Athletic Conference,  
basketball championship games, gym,  
2/15/25, \$290

Oakland High

Chris Sailer Kicking, training, stadium,  
2/9/25 – 12/21/25, \$115 per hour

Oakland High

OnTopAthletics, football camp, stadium,  
5/10/25, \$345

Rock Springs Elementary

Royal Lao Classical Dancers of TN, dance lessons, gym & cafeteria, 1/26/25 – 5/18/25, \$36 per hour

Siegel Middle

Smyrna Magic Baseball, practice, sports field, 1/27/25 – 3/31/25, \$18 per hour

**No Fees**

Eagleville

Eagleville Youth Baseball & Softball, skills day, gym, 2/8/25, no fees

Stewartsboro Elementary

Tennessee Hustle Basketball, practice, gym, 3/17/25 – 5/30/25, no fees \*In-Kind Agreement

Stewarts Creek High

Stewarts Creek Youth Football and Cheerleading Association. stadium/track, 1/24/25 – 11/30/25, no fees, \*In-Kind Agreement

Note: Facility use prior to 1/23/25 has been granted pending Board action. A certificate of insurance with \$2,000,000.00 limits (\$1,000,000.00 if approved) is required by each user. Each group must forward any renewals of insurance to the Board on time; otherwise, approval is terminated at the end of the policy period. **All approvals are for no more than a 1-year period.**

**D. Non-Faculty Volunteer Coaches:**

**According to the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) guidelines, Board of Education approval is required to allow non-faculty volunteer coaches to participate in the school athletic programs.**

**The following non-faculty volunteer coaches are for the 2024-2025 school year:**

NAME	SCHOOL	SPORT
Judy, Alice	Stewarts Creek Middle	Band
Mabry, Tanner	Eagleville School	Baseball
Whitt, Brandon	Eagleville School	Softball
Bain, Tommy	Eagleville School	Softball
Housley, Shanya	Oakland High	Track
Sharif, Haneef	Rockvale High	Track

Ott, Brooklyn	Rockvale High	Softball
Mitchell, Charles	Stewarts Creek High	Baseball
Davis, Andrea	Stewarts Creek Middle	Track
Brown, Tra'Shaunda	Stewarts Creek Middle	Dance
Buxton, Morgan	Blackman Middle	Track

**E. Salary Supplements and Contract Payments:**

<b>Name-Certified</b>	<b>NTE Amt</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Funded By</b>	<b>Description</b>
Charles Barham	\$33.29/hour	Central Magnet	Outside Group / Use of Facilities	Site Supervision
Albert Kennedy	\$7,500.00	Oakland High	School Funds - Other Expense	Student Supervision
Brad Deas	\$1,500.00	Riverdale	School Funds - Boys & Girls Basketball	Announcer/Scorebook
David Limbaugh	\$1,500.00	Riverdale	School Funds - Boys & Girls Basketball	Announcer/Scorebook
Barry Marton	\$1,500.00	Riverdale	School Funds - Boys & Girls Basketball	Scoreboard Operator
Ashley Randolph	\$1,800.00	Riverdale	School Funds - Softball Boosters	Assistant Coach
<b>Name-Non-Certified</b>	<b>NTE Amt.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Funded By</b>	<b>Description</b>
Alice Judy	\$50/hour or \$25/lesson	Stewarts Creek Middle	SCM Music Boosters	Private Lessons & Sectionals/Masterclass
<b>Name-Classified</b>	<b>NTE Amt.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Funded By</b>	<b>Description</b>
Tracy Harris	Classified Overtime Rate	Blackman Middle	School Funds - Boys & Girls Basketball	Bookkeeper
Tracy Fox	\$1,000.00	Stewarts Creek Middle	School Funds - Athletics	Dance Team Assistant Coach
Tra'Shaunda Brown	\$1,000.00	Stewarts Creek Middle	School Funds - Athletics	Dance Team Coach

Bobby Wright III	\$1,500.00	Stewarts Creek Middle	School Funds - Girls Basketball	Assistant Coach
Robert Sanderson	Classified Overtime Rate	Whitworth Buchanan	School Funds or Outside Groups / Use of Facilities	Additional custodial work for the 2024 / 2025 school year

- 1 Approved previously for an amount \$500 or greater
- 2 Overtime rate for special events
- 3 Anticipate amounts over \$500 this school year
- 4 Amend prior approval
- 5 Less than \$500 but part of event total
- 6 Must have the approval of the Transportation Department
- 7 Classified Employee (with approved agreement)
- 8 Regular Rate - Part time employee

## F. BUSES

Lori Thomas, contractor of Bus #96 and #277 has requested to voluntarily transfer her contracts to husband, Dale Thomas.

Lori Thomas, contractor of Bus #32 requested to voluntarily terminate her contract with the Rutherford County Board of Education and waive the 60-day notice.

**Recommended Motion – to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

## 6. GUEST SPEAKER

Work Session: Jean Saunders of the American Heart Association to present to the Board with the Youth Heart Ambassador.

**Board Meeting:** Shane Wickwire, Executive Director for Springs Empower Academy to present an update to the Board.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT\*

*\*Public comment requests to address the Board must be provided in writing to the Director of Schools' office no later than noon (12:00 p.m.) on the day of the meeting by completing the Public Comment Form. Speakers will have three (3) minutes to speak.*

## 8. RUTHERFORD PROUD

Work Session: Communications Report

**Board Meeting:**

### 1. Strong Outstanding Staff Awards

The RCS Communications Department will recognize the winners of the Strong Outstanding Staff Awards for November and December. Representatives from Sonic drive-in will be on hand to help recognize the award winners.

### 2. Recognition of State Championship winners

The Rutherford County Athletics Department will present several athletic teams which have won state championships during the fall seasons.

**Oakland High School** 2024 Blue Cross Bowl State Champions - Head Coach Kevin Creasy

**Central Magnet** Boys HS State Championship Team - Head Coach Jay Windham

**Central Magnet** Boys MS State Championship Team - Head Coach Stuart Leach

**TMSAA held its first middle school wrestling state championships, and the first middle school girls' wrestling state championships in the nation in Knoxville.**

**The RCS students listed below made history by becoming the first state champions:**

75 - Aria Thephavong (Blackman) - STATE CHAMPION- Dalton-P. Cantrell Head Coach

84 - Ava Westenbarger (Blackman) - STATE CHAMPION

155 - Skye Hancock (Blackman) - STATE CHAMPION

128 - McKenzie Grove (Blackman) - STATE CHAMPION

145 - Alonna Hardwick (Stewarts Creek) - STATE CHAMPION- Phillip Nau Head Coach

#### **National FFA Award Winners**

Tyra Pilgrim and Emily Marshall with the CTE Department will recognize our winners from the National FFA Convention.

### **9. 2025-2029 RCS STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Director of Schools will present the updated RCS Strategic Plan for 2025-2029

**Recommended Motion – to approve the RCS Strategic Plan for 2025-2029 as presented.**

### **10. HUMAN RESOURCES (TAB 2)**

**I. New job descriptions for:** JROTC Senior Army Instructor (SAI) and Army Instructor (AI) JOB Descriptions.

**Recommended Motion – to approve the two new job descriptions for JROTC as presented.**

#### **II. 2024 - 2025 Tenure Recommendation**

The following teacher(s) meet the criteria for tenure in accordance with the tenure law:

- Holds a valid Tennessee teaching license.
- Has served Rutherford County Schools for five years (45-months minimum) within a seven-year period, the last two in a regular (not interim) position.
- Has demonstrated an overall performance of “above expectations” or “significantly above expectations” on the TEAM evaluation during the last two consecutive years of the five-year period.

- **Or** if held tenure under the previous guidelines, and returned to Rutherford County Schools, meets the two-year probationary period and tenure is reactivated.

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>School/Location</b>
1	Tabitha Childs	ESL Teacher	Barfield Elementary
2	Jessica Schneider	3rd Grade Teacher	Brown's Chapel Elementary
3	Jessica Worley	2nd Grade Teacher	Brown's Chapel Elementary
4	Holly Craft	Kindergarten Teacher	Cedar Grove Elementary
5	Beth Onks	2nd Grade Teacher	Cedar Grove Elementary
6	Aleck Pitner	3rd Grade Teacher	Cedar Grove Elementary
7	Crystal Gay	5th Grade Teacher	Kittrell Elementary
8	Trista McBee	1st Grade Teacher	Kittrell Elementary
9	Brande Mitchell	Instructional Coach	LaVergne Lake Elementary
10	Erin Wells	Library Media Specialist	LaVergne Lake Elementary
11	Tara Wingler	ESL Teacher	LaVergne Lake Elementary
12	Amy Barrett	2nd Grade Teacher	McFadden Elementary
13	Jessica Pritchett	SpED Structured Setting Teacher	Plainview Elementary
14	Anna Sturm	Principal	Plainview Elementary
15	Mary Tripp	5th Grade Teacher	Rockvale Elementary
16	Alice Myers	3rd Grade Teacher	Rocky Fork Elementary
17	Brittany Schwegler	4th Grade Teacher	Rock Springs Elementary
18	Nicholas Mullins	Music Teacher	Stewarts Creek Elementary
19	Ebony Beech	School Counselor	Smyrna Elementary
20	Melinda Nichols Brown	1st Grade Teacher	Smyrna Elementary
21	Audrey Marlow	2nd Grade Teacher	Smyrna Elementary
22	Jessica Gleadall	Kindergarten Teacher	Walter Hill Elementary
23	Rachel Sanderson	ESL Teacher	Walter Hill / HP Campus
24	Lisa Tidwell	4th Grade Teacher	Walter Hill Elementary

25	Wendy Louise Adkins	8th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Blackman Middle
26	Louann Chapuis	7th Grade ELA Teacher	Blackman Middle
27	Thomas Ray Chestnut	Band Director	Blackman Middle
28	Evelyn Ann Heckman	ESL Teacher	Blackman Middle
29	Quentin D Mastin	7th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Blackman Middle
30	Harlee Elizabeth Morphis	ESL Teacher	Blackman Middle
31	Latasha Nicole Morrow	Behavior Interventionist	Blackman Middle
32	Julie Susanne Paul	6th Grade Science Teacher	Blackman Middle
33	Jennifer Marie Polston	6th Grade ELA Teacher	Blackman Middle
34	Breonica Antwanette Porter	Special Ed. Teacher	Blackman Middle
35	Sara Elizabeth Schwartzberg	6th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Blackman Middle
36	Paul Tyrone Smith Jr.	Assistant Principal	Blackman Middle
37	Brianna Danielle Stewart	Physical Education Teacher	Blackman Middle
38	Misha C Sweet	8th Grade Science Teacher	Blackman Middle
39	Alexandra Nicole Wilson	Special Ed. Teacher	Blackman Middle
40	Annie Hanh Reed	7th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Christiana Middle
41	Jasmine H Bethea	ELA Teacher	Daniel McKee Alternative
42	Rae Anne Clark Boutte	ELA Teacher	Daniel McKee Alternative
43	Travis Daniel Diate	STEM Teacher	LaVergne Middle
44	Jahmon C Drake	7th Grade Mathematics Teacher	LaVergne Middle
45	Brittany Graysen Grimes	7th Grade Science Teacher	LaVergne Middle
46	Jenna Nicole Jann	Theater Teacher	LaVergne Middle
47	Jaynece Erin Mohammed	Interventionist	LaVergne Middle
48	Vannie Joe Williamson Jr	Music Teacher	LaVergne Middle
49	Heather Lynn Egan	7th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Oakland Middle
50	Kayleigh Deanna Marie Lehr	7th Grade ELA Teacher	Oakland Middle
51	Gloria Renee McCarty	7th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Oakland Middle
52	Sasha Cummings Sloan	7th Grade Science Teacher	Oakland Middle
53	Elizabeth Ashley Talbot	Special Ed. Teacher	Oakland Middle
54	Brianna Shade Harrell	Keyboarding Teacher	Rock Springs Middle

55	Crystal Nicole Hutchins*	6th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Rock Springs Middle
56	Heatherly Boyd Benedict	7th Grade ELA Teacher	Rock Springs Middle
57	Kelli Lee Chambers	8th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Rock Springs Middle
58	Kelly Susan Johnson	Library/Media Specialist	Rock Springs Middle
59	Jacquelyn R Patterson	School Counselor	Rock Springs Middle
60	William Joshua Clifton	Special Ed. Teacher	Rocky Fork Middle School
61	Mary Elizabeth Eller	6th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Rocky Fork Middle School
62	Philip Kigaita	Band Director	Rocky Fork Middle School
63	Millie A Norwood	7th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Rocky Fork Middle School
64	Robin Terese Bollman*	Mathematics Teacher	Rockvale Middle
65	Danielle Nicole Clark*	Special Ed. Teacher	Rockvale Middle
66	Margaret Ellen McKinzie	8th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Siegel Middle
67	Alison Bowen Murphy	Instructional Coach	Siegel Middle
68	Jaron Pruitt	Special Education Teacher	Siegel Middle
69	Leah M Holloway	6th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Smyrna Middle
70	Kati Dawn Ingram	Physical Ed. Teacher	Smyrna Middle
71	Sue Ellen Lee	8th Grade ELA Teacher	Smyrna Middle
72	Tia Simone Morton	8th Grade Science Teacher	Smyrna Middle
73	Michael J Sbarra	8th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Smyrna Middle
74	Lakenya Diane Wade	Interventionist	Smyrna Middle
75	Lindsey Fly Strickland	Instructional Coach	Smyrna West Alternative
76	Sandra Anika Gardner	8th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Stewarts Creek Middle
77	Taylor Austin Peck	7th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Stewarts Creek Middle
78	Chaz Ryan Carothers	6th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Thurman Francis
79	William K Ayres	Instructional Coach	Whitworth Buchanan
80	Marcus Edward Lyons	School Counselor	Whitworth Buchanan
81	Kamilla Aloyse Richards	7th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Whitworth Buchanan
82	Kati Michelle Wright Davis	7th Grade Mathematics Teacher	Whitworth Buchanan



83	Luisa Elena Buzard	Spanish Teacher	Blackman High School
84	Emily Sumners Cravey	Biology Teacher	Blackman High School
85	LeAnne Deats	Art Teacher	Blackman High School
86	Sandra Annette Morgan	Special Ed. Teacher	Blackman High School
87	Yessenia Danne Pena	Special Ed. Teacher	Blackman High School
88	Isaiah N. Phillips	Driver's Ed Teacher	Blackman High School
89	Cory Daniel Walker	Economics Teacher	Blackman High School
90	Dr. Anna Marie Ralston	Special Education Coordinator	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
91	Linda Clark Dohnal	School Psychologist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
92	April J. Eubank	Spectrum Teacher	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
93	Sarah Lauren Goss	School Psychologist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
94	Amanda Jo Guy	Speech-Language Pathologist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
95	Holly Kaitlyn Hester	Social Worker	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
96	Janna L. Hood	Behavior Specialist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
97	Claire Mason Locke	Speech-Language Pathologist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
98	Karen L. Meador	Student Services	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
99	Kathryn Ann Buck Pursell	School Psychologist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
100	Jennifer L. Stiriz	Speech-Language Pathologist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
101	William Keith Sullivan	School Psychologist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
102	Mackenzie Paige Tatum	Social Worker	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
103	Melissa Weiland Tucker	Behavior Specialist	CO - Special Ed. Dept.
104	Shelley Colette Bracy	CTE - Culinary Arts Teacher	Siegel High School
105	Micah Matthew Baldree	Mathematics Teacher	Eagleville School
106	Brandon Kyle Bassham	Physical Ed. Teacher	Eagleville School
107	Aubrey Michelle Cain	SPED CDC Teacher	Eagleville School
108	Isaac Houston Haley	Biology Teacher	Eagleville School
109	Jennifer Rae Johns	Art Teacher	Eagleville School
110	Caleb James Keller	Mathematics Teacher	Eagleville School
111	Leigh Ann Nichols	6th Grade ELA Teacher	Eagleville School
112	Bridget Lynne Minor Cole	Biology Teacher	LaVergne High School

113	Elizabeth Joy Henkle	Environmental Science Teacher	LaVergne High School
114	Hannah Elizabeth Rodgers	Art Teacher	LaVergne High School
115	Justin Stanley Smith	Social Studies Teacher	LaVergne High School
116	Lucas A. Williams	Personal Finance Teacher	LaVergne High School
117	Adam Wortman	CTE - Criminal Justice Teacher	LaVergne High School
118	Andrew Nolan Chunn	Band Director	Oakland High School
119	James William Haynes	CTE - Construction Teacher	Oakland High School
120	Sharryl Leigh Norris	English Teacher	Oakland High School
121	Huijuk Choe	Mathematics Teacher	Riverdale High School
122	Allison Alanna Cole	Special Ed. Teacher	Riverdale High School
123	Bradford Jackson Deas	CTE - Business Teacher	Riverdale High School
124	Katherine Moseley Edwards	English Teacher	Riverdale High School
125	Ashley Elizabeth Fears	Special Ed. Teacher	Riverdale High School
126	Catherine I. Gospodarek	Mathematics Teacher	Riverdale High School
127	Crystal Lynn Hawkes	CTE - Health Science Teacher	Riverdale High School
128	Kenneth Frank Honeycutt	History Teacher	Riverdale High School
129	Ashley Taylor Randolph	Physical Ed. Teacher	Riverdale High School
130	Carolyn Alyssa Zsamboky	Special Ed. Teacher	Riverdale High School
131	Chase T. Cato	Assistant Principal	Rockvale High School
132	Christina Lynn Dawson	Spanish Teacher	Rockvale High School
133	Jonathan C. Dill	Mathematics Teacher	Rockvale High School
134	Joshua Caleb Ingram	Biology Teacher	Rockvale High School
135	Brett A. Jackson	CTE - IT Networking Teacher	Rockvale High School
136	Jason Kyle Knox	Chemistry Teacher	Rockvale High School
137	Cortnei Scott Lewis	English Teacher	Rockvale High School
138	Christopher Steven Marks	Choir/Music Teacher	Rockvale High School
139	Rachel Ray Nichols	CTE - Criminal Justice Teacher	Rockvale High School
140	Rebecca Michelle Phelps	Art Teacher	Rockvale High School
141	William Erol Triplett	Physics Teacher	Rockvale High School
142	Nicholas Eugene Wise	CTE - Business Teacher	Rockvale High School
143	Patricia G. Flowers	English Teacher	Siegel High School

144	Alexandra M. Hoover	Mathematics Teacher	Siegel High School
145	Lauren Elizabeth Moore	CTE - Business Teacher	Siegel High School
146	Sarah Connifey Bailey*	Physical Ed. Teacher	Smyrna High School
147	Kaitlyn Stephanie Bell	English Teacher	Smyrna High School
148	William David Ingram	CTE - Culinary Arts Teacher	Smyrna High School
149	Bryan Enrique Mendoza	ESL Teacher	Smyrna High School
150	Briana Alexis Mosley	CTE - Agriculture Teacher	Smyrna High School
151	Courtney Lynn Pruitt	CTE - Health Science Teacher	Smyrna High School
152	Corey Stephen Stockwell	CTE - Culinary Arts Teacher	Smyrna High School
153	Jonathan L. Anderson	Mathematics Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
154	Kurt Wright Bissinger	Spanish Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
155	Terra Hudson Carter	English Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
156	Benjamin Paul Caudill	Mathematics Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
157	Leslie T. Greer*	Economics Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
158	Elizabeth Turpin Hamby	ESL Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
159	Madison Nichole Kelley	Physical Science Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
160	Mandy Chere King	CTE - Agriculture Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
161	Fulgence Matakanyanga Letema	Biology Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
162	Aaron Christopher Losee	Special Ed. Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
163	Monica L. McKinny	History Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School
164	Stephanie L. Oakes	School Counselor	Stewarts Creek High School
165	Cynthia Michelle Smith	Instructional Coach	Stewarts Creek High School
166	Jon A. Wahl	Physics Teacher	Stewarts Creek High School

\*Reinstating tenure

**Recommended Motion – to approve the recommendation of the Director of Schools to award tenure to the teachers who meet the criteria for 2024-2025 as presented.**

## **11. LEGAL (TAB 3)**

### **I. Transfer Student Under Discipline (1)**

The Board has been requested to admit a transfer student from another school system under discipline. The student was remanded for assault of another student.

According to Policy 6.318, the Board may deny admissions of any student (except those in state

custody) when a student transfers from another school system while under suspension or expulsion.

Director of Schools' Recommendation: Deny.

**Recommended Motion - to admit or deny the admission of this Transfer Student Under Discipline as presented.**

## **II. Transfer Student Under Discipline (2)**

The Board has been requested to admit a transfer student from another school system under discipline. The student was expelled for reckless endangerment (bringing and using taser at school).

According to Policy 6.318, the Board may deny admissions of any student (except those in state custody) when a student transfers from another school system while under suspension or expulsion.

Director of Schools' Recommendation: Deny.

**Recommended Motion - to admit or deny the admission of this Transfer Student Under Discipline as presented.**

## **12. SECURITY SOFTWARE**

**Recommended Motion – to approve the bid for security software as presented.**

## **13. FINANCIAL MATTERS (TAB 4)**

### **I. Fund 141 Fund Balance Amendment**

This budget amendment cleans up expenditure line items at mid-year. On the revenue side, the budget is amended to reflect state grant allocations not included in original budget. On the expenditure side the larger items of this clean up amendment reflect the increase in cost of school maintenance supplies and parts, instructional/support supplies and materials, security, cybersecurity, maintenance contracted services/equipment, transportation equipment, and elementary school start-up funds. This amendment has a net increase of both current year revenue and expenditures of \$1,370,000 with no use of fund balance.

**Recommended motion – to amend Fund 141 to clean up expenditure line items for a net increase of \$1,370,000 in both revenue and expenditure lines.**

### **II. Fund 177 Fund Balance & Expenditure Approval**

This amendment moves funds from account 34685-Committed for Capital Projects to account 91300-335-Maintenance & Repair Services-Buildings in the amount of \$200,000. The movement of this money from fund balance will go to replace Stewarts Creek High auxiliary gym floor which was damaged due to a break in a water main in an adjacent mechanical room. It was determined by the Engineering Dept. that the floor is not repairable and will need to be replaced.

**Recommended Motion – to amend the 2024/25 Capital Projects Budget, Fund 177, by reducing account 34685-Committed for Capital Projects and by increasing account 91300-335-Maintenance and Repair Services–Buildings in the amount of \$200,000 as presented.**

#### **14. ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION (TAB 5)**

I.       Stewarts Creek High Auxiliary Gym Floor Replacement: On October 19, 2024, A 6” main in the mechanical room of SCHS failed. The water made its way to the Auxiliary Gym. Since that time Engineering and Maintenance has been working to dry out the area to determine if the floor can be saved. At this time, it has been determined the floor cannot be saved. Engineering and Construction is requesting to utilize \$200,000.00 from fund 177 fund balance to replace the floor.

**Recommended Motion - to approve using \$200,000.00 from fund 177 fund balance to replace the SCHS Auxiliary Gym floor, as presented.**

II.       Whitworth Buchanan Basketball Locker Request: Principal April Sneed is requesting to replace the existing basketball lockers. The cost for the project is \$2,800.00 for materials only with the labor being donated. The request is at no cost to the Board. Engineering and Construction has reviewed this request and has no objection.

**Recommended Motion - to approve the locker replacement request as presented.**

#### **III.    Rock Springs Elementary and Waldron Road Alignment Project**

Update for the Board

#### **15. RESOLUTION (TAB 6)**

Resolution to Expedite Closing Border and For Additional Title III Funding

**Recommended Motion – to approve this resolution as presented.**

#### **16. BOOK REVIEW (TAB 7)**

**Internal reviews for the following titles have been completed:**

*Forever* by Judy Blume

*Glass* by Ellen Hopkins

*Grown* by Tiffany Jackson

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

*Smoke* by Ellen Hopkins

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Female of the Species* by Mindy McGinnis

*The Kite Runner* (Graphic Novel) by Khaled Hosseini

*Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher

**17. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**18. DIRECTOR’S UPDATE**

**19. TENNESSEE LEGISLATIVE NETWORK (TLN) UPDATE**

**20. FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK (FRN) UPDATE**

**21. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
**2240 Southpark Drive**  
**Murfreesboro, TN 37128**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2025**

**Board Members Present**

Claire Maxwell, Board Chair  
Frances Rosales, Vice-Chair  
Caleb Tidwell  
Katie Darby  
Tammy Sharp  
Butch Vaughn  
Stan Vaught  
Dr. James Sullivan, Director of Schools

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board Chair Claire Maxwell called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Work Session: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Frances Rosales

Board Meeting: Frances Rosales introduced Blackman Middle School's Principal Dr. Jessica Jackson and Student Council/Beta Club students Ella Agyemang, Zoe Diaz, Carley Scott, Michael Harden, Claudia Press, and Ryan Mau to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A Moment of Silence was observed for Mr. Keith Reed, one of Central Magnet's Custodian, who recently passed unexpectedly. Please keep his family in your thoughts.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Caleb Tidwell and seconded by Katie Darby, to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Vote: All yes**  
**Motion passes.**

**5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (TAB 1)**

**A. Minutes:** Board Meeting Minutes, December 5, 2024

**Minutes:** Special Called Meeting Minutes, December 17, 2024

**B. Bids:**

Bid #3784 - Kitchen Equipment,  
Bid #3785 - Septic Tank Pumping,  
RFP #24-04 - CTE Mobile Learning Labs  
Request for Purchase of a Golf Cart for Siegel High

**C. Nepotism**

Katie Armstrong – SPED EA – Brown’s Chapel Elementary School

**D. Use of Facilities:**

**FACILITIES USE**

1/9/2025

**Fees**

Barfield Elementary	RockOnMusic dba FineArtsMatter, music classes, classrooms, 2/3/25 – 5/1/25, \$15 per day per room
Barfield Elementary	Savannah Ridge Homeowners Association, meeting, gym, 1/27/25, \$18 per hour
Kittrell Elementary	Jack City Softball, practice, sports field, 1/5/25 – 2/9/25, \$18 per hour, *retro review
LaVergne Middle	Crossland Church, Sunday service, cafeteria, 1/5/25 – 12/28/25, \$18 per hour, *retro review
Oakland Middle	Dance Classics, recital, band & chorus rooms & auditorium, 5/29/25 – 5/31/25, \$945
Plainview Elementary	Top Notch Basketball, practice, gym, 1/12/25 – 5/28/25, \$18 per hour
Rockvale Elementary	TN Ignite Basketball Club, practice, gym, 1/15/25 – 7/31/25, \$18 per hour
Siegel High	APEX Dance Center, practice, gym, 1/3/25 – 1/4/25, \$290 per day, *retro review
Wilson Elementary	RockonMusic dba FineArtsMatter, music classes, classrooms, 2/5/25 – 5/2/25, \$15 per day per room

**No Fees**



Barfield Elementary

Girl Scout Troop #1588, meetings, classroom,  
library & cafeteria, 1/8/25 – 5/31/25, no fees

LaVergne Middle

City of LaVergne, MLK ceremony,  
auditorium, 1/20/25, no fees

Note: Facility use prior to 1/9/25 has been granted pending Board action. A certificate of insurance with \$2,000,000.00 limits (\$1,000,000.00 if approved) is required by each user. Each group must forward any renewals of insurance to the Board on time; otherwise, approval is terminated at the end of the policy period. **All approvals are for no more than a 1-year period.**

**E. Salary Supplements and Contract Payments:**

<b>Name-Certified</b>	<b>NTE Amt.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Funded By</b>	<b>Description</b>
Yolanda Flagg	\$400.00	Blackman High	School Funds - Heat Halftimers	Coach
Amber Myers	\$1,500.00	Blackman Middle	School Funds - Dance Team	Dance Team Coach
Kristen Poplar	\$1,500.00	Blackman Middle	School Funds - Dance Team	Dance Team Coach
Laurie Smithson	\$2,000.00	Central Magnet	School Funds - Security	HS Gym Supervision
Brayan Bunyi	\$625.00	LaVergne Middle	School Funds - Basketball	Scorekeeper
Cheryl Willis	\$625.00	LaVergne Middle	School Funds - Basketball	Bookkeeper
Dallas Erdman	\$800.00	Oakland High	School Funds - Football	Supervision at Ball Games
Carol Keener	\$600.00	Oakland High	School Funds - Football	Supervision at Ball Games
Jesse Messick	\$900.00	Oakland High	School Funds - Football	Supervision at Ball Games
Brandon Nolen	\$800.00	Oakland High	School Funds - Football	Supervision at Ball Games
Lisa Tate	\$1,500.00	Oakland High	School Funds - Football	Supervisor for Gate
Joe Potillor, Jr	\$530.00	Riverdale	School Funds - Football	Gate Worker
Brent Whitlock	\$6,000.00	Riverdale	School Funds - Baseball	Assistant Coach & Driving
Rachel Deml	\$11,000.00	Siegel High	Outside Group / Use of Facilities	Building Supervisor - Fellowship Bible church of Rutherford County
Benjamin Caudill	\$10,000.00	Stewarts Creek High	School Funds - Football	Head Coach

Reggy Skelton	\$750.00	Whitworth Buchanan	School Funds - Boys & Girls Basketball	Announcer/Timekeeper
Tanya Webb	\$2,500.00	Whitworth Buchanan	School Funds - Boys & Girls Basketball & Tournaments	Basketball Bookkeeper
<b>Name-Non Faculty</b>	<b>NTE Amt.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Funded By</b>	<b>Description</b>
Anniston Bean	\$800.00	Blackman Middle	School Funds - Dance Team	Choreography for Competition Routine
Chasity Cook	\$1,800.00	Blackman Middle	School Funds - Girls Basketball	Assistant Coach
Elisa Peterkin	\$1,500.00	Blackman Middle	School Funds - Girls Basketball	Assistant Coach
Eric Smith	\$25/lesson	Oakland Middle	School Funds - Band	Lessons
Noah Friedman	\$500.00	Riverdale	Band Boosters	Rehearsals, Marching Rehearsals, Performances
Rachel Friedman	\$500.00	Riverdale	Band Boosters	Rehearsals, Marching Rehearsals, Performances
Alexander Ryan	\$25/lesson	Riverdale	School Funds - Band	Lessons & Sectionals
Muhammad Malik	\$1,500.00	Siegel High	School Funds - Tennis	Assistant Coach
<b>Name-Classified</b>	<b>NTE Amt.</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Funded By</b>	<b>Description</b>
Jonathan Wynn	\$1,000.00	Blackman High	School Funds - Football	Assistant Coach
Lucinda Wine	Overtime Classified Rate	Christiana Middle	Outside Group / Use of Facilities	Custodial Work
Vonce Henderson	\$2,000.00	Oakland High	Oakland Endzone Club	Assistant Football Coach
LaShonda Gooch	Overtime Classified Rate	Stewarts Creek Middle	Boys & Girls Basketball & Tournaments	Custodial Work

1. Approved previously for an amount \$500 or greater
2. Overtime rate for special events
3. Anticipate amounts over \$500 this school year
4. Amend prior approval
5. Less than \$500 but part of event total
6. Must have the approval of the Transportation Department
7. Classified Employee (with approved agreement)
8. Regular Rate - Part time employee

#### **F. Non-Faculty Volunteer Coaches:**

**According to the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) guidelines, Board of Education approval is required to allow non-faculty volunteer coaches to participate in the school athletic programs.**

**The following non-faculty volunteer coaches are for the 2024-2025 school year:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>SPORT</b>
Marlow, Jacob	Stewarts Creek Middle School	Band
Isbell, Michael	Blackman High	Track
Watts, Joseph	Blackman High	Track
Wright, Jaclyn	Blackman High	Girls Track
Lannom, Joe	Blackman Middle	Bowling
Arnold, Andrew	Central Magnet	Baseball
Jones, Benjamin	Central Magnet	MS Boys Soccer
Huling, Dallas	Oakland High	Wrestling
Souvannaraj, Maddox	Oakland High	Boys Soccer
Conner, Hailey	Rock Springs Middle	Softball
Brown, Ariel	Stewarts Creek Middle	Softball
Davis, Andrea	Stewarts Creek Middle	Track
Hickman, Jonathan	Whitworth Buchanan	Baseball

**Motion made by Butch Vaughn and seconded by Frances Rosales, to approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

#### **6. GUEST SPEAKER**

Work Session: Representative Mike Sparks presented his proposal for lowering the age requirement that a person can drive a school bus.

#### **7. PUBLIC COMMENT\***

1. Lindsay Schultz – Business owner and parent in Rutherford County. Continues to have concerns with the banning of books. She shared her bigger concern is with the heating and mold at one of our schools. She also mentioned her discontent with certain board members disinterest when public comments are made.
2. Daphne Gamble – Spoke about the history of the Miller's Test and encouraged the Board to follow the librarians' recommendations regarding retaining or removing books.

3. Elizabeth Shepherd – Ms. Sheperd is a public-school librarian and parent. She thanked Dr. Chastain, Kaitlyn Benavides, staff and all the librarians for their phenomenal book review process and hard work. She hopes the board members stand by recommendations the librarians have given them.
4. Bryan Schuster – Mr. Schuster opened in prayer. He asked members of the audience to stand for their children’s purity.
5. Heather Cook – Ms. Cook shared scripture and her thoughts regarding books children read.

*\*Public comment requests to address the Board must be provided in writing to the Director of Schools' office no later than noon (12:00 p.m.) on the day of the meeting by completing the Public Comment Form. Speakers will have three (3) minutes to speak.*

## **8. LEGAL (TAB 2)**

### **Transfer Student Under Discipline (1)**

The Board has been requested to admit a transfer student from another school system under discipline. The student was expelled for intentional/repeated harassment of school staff.

According to Policy 6.318, the Board may deny admissions of any student (except those in state custody) when a student transfers from another school system while under suspension or expulsion.

Director of Schools’ Recommendation: Deny.

**Motion made by Butch Vaughn and seconded by Frances Rosales, to deny the admission of this Transfer Student Under Discipline as presented.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

## **9. HUMAN RESOURCES**

Request for one additional Nursing staff: due to increasing medical procedures at one of our larger high schools, the Health Services Department is requesting one new School Nurse position.

**Motion made by Caleb Tidwell and seconded by Butch Vaughn, to approve one additional School Nurse position to cover increasing medical needs.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

## **10. ANNUAL AGENDA (TAB 3)**

TSBA’s Board of Distinction Program recognizes school boards for their work. School boards that seek this designation must meet specified requirements in four key areas: planning, policy, promotion, and board development. One of the requirements is an annual review and maintenance of the entire policy manual.

## 11. CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Dr. Jeff McCann	Coordinator of Choice and Charter Schools, Rutherford County Schools
Trey Lee	Chief Operations Officer, Rutherford County Schools
Dr. Mark Gullion	Federal Programs Coordinator, Rutherford County Schools
Dr. Annie Ralston	Special Education Coordinator, Rutherford County Schools
Shannon Caywood	Special Projects Accountant, Rutherford County Schools
Dr. Larissa Westerfield	Coordinator of Teaching and Learning, Rutherford County Schools
Dr. Season Epps	K-5 Mathematics Specialist, Rutherford County Schools
Lisa Kegler	K-5 ELA Specialist, Rutherford County Schools
Angela Barnes	Principal, Wilson Elementary School
Ynetia Campbell	Principal, Kittrell Elementary School
Julia McKenna	Parent Representative
Emily Madison	Parent Representative
Frances Rosales	Rutherford County School Board Member

Work Session: New Charter School applications are due by February 3, 2025.

**Motion made by Frances Rosales and seconded by Tammy Sharp, to approve the 2025 Charter Review Committee as presented.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

## 12. ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION (TAB 4)

I. Poplar Hill Elementary Grading Change Order #2: Engineering and Construction has agreed to the final Grading change request for Demo Plus Construction. Per our letter dated August 7, 2024, change order #2 is to be for \$35,850.00. This will complete the grading package contract for Bid # 3711.

**Motion made by Butch Vaughn and seconded by Caleb Tidwell, to approve the change order #2, for Demo Plus, as request and presented.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

II. Eagleville Soccer Field Work Request: Principal Tim Pedigo is requesting to regrade the property adjacent to the school for a soccer field. The grading process equipment and labor is being donated and the school will be responsible for the cost of the fuel needed. Estimated cost is \$2,000.00. As part of the project the school will begin to raise funds for an irrigation system and the cost for the appropriate 2" tap/Meter and the \$30,000.00 estimated for the field system. This work will require to have TDEC approval. The request is at no cost to the Board. Engineering and Construction has reviewed this request and has no objection.

**Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Katie Darby, to approve the Eagleville Soccer Field request as presented.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

III. LaVergne High School Nutrition Painting Project: The School Nutrition department has been reviewing options to upgrade the appearance of the cafeteria serving line areas for a couple years. Currently, they are requesting to begin a school serving line project with LHS as the first one. The cost for this project is \$45,200.75 and will come from the fund balance and will not require additional funds. The Engineering and Construction department has reviewed the request and has no objection.

**Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Tammy Sharp, to approve the School Nutrition request for LHS as presented.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

IV. Daniel-McKee Exterior and Interior Mural Paint Request: Principal Nicole Stirbens is requesting to allow the Experience Community Church to clean and paint the exterior of the building and paint the entry area murals in the interior. The total cost for the request is \$19,300.00 and is being funded by the church at no cost to the Board. Engineering and Construction has reviewed the request and has no objection.

**Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Butch Vaughn, to approve the Daniel-McKee paint request as presented.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

### **13. RESOLUTIONS (TAB 5)**

I. Fast Growth Stipends

**Motion made by Caleb Tidwell and seconded by Tammy Sharp, to approve the Resolution Fully Funding Fast Growth Stipends and Fast Growth Infrastructure in The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (TISA) Funding Formula.**

**Vote: All yes  
Motion passes.**

II. House Bill 22 Public Comment Amendment

**Motion made by Katie Darby and seconded by Caleb Tidwell, to approve the Resolution Supporting HB 0022 Regarding Mandatory Public Comment Periods at Meetings of Governing Bodies.**

**Vote: All yes  
Motion passes.**

**14. BUS CONTRACT**

Work Session - Discussion held regarding:

- Expiration of the current bus contract of June 30, 2025
- New state law requires bus contractors to purchase their own liability insurance to insure themselves, school system and county
- Fuel index for diesel fuel, gasoline & possibly propane
- Implementation of an infraction system for reoccurring incidents
- State statute bus contract up to a maximum of 4 years
- Seat/mileage rate increase considerations

Board members agreed to “gavel back in” after adjournment to meet with the bus drivers in the audience.

Board Meeting - Caleb Tidwell requested the Board circle back and continue discussions in February.

**15. LIBRARY BOOKS (TAB 6)**

An overview of the review process, recommendations, and a list of books that were submitted but are not in our District libraries.

Internal reviews for the following titles have been completed.

**1. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Saenz by Benjamin Alire**

**Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Saenz by Benjamin Alire upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades and up only, excluding 8<sup>th</sup> grade.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Stan Vaught – Yes**  
**Butch Vaughn – No**  
**Katie Darby – No**  
**Tammy Sharp – No**  
**Caleb Tidwell – No**  
**Frances Rosales – Yes**  
**Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority**  
**Motion fails.**

**2. *Heroine* by Mindy McGuinness**

**Motion made by Stan Vaught seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Heroine* by Mindy McGuinness upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades only.**

**Amendment Motion made by Frances Rosales seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Heroine* by Mindy McGuinness upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades only, with parental consent but with opt in.**

**Roll Call Vote to Amend Motion:**

**Tammy Sharp – Yes**  
**Stan Vaught – Pass**  
**Frances Rosales – Yes**  
**Butch Vaughn – No**  
**Caleb Tidwell – Yes**  
**Katie Darby – Yes**  
**Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority**  
**Motion passes.**

**Motion made by Frances Rosales seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Heroine* by Mindy McGuinness upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades only, with parental consent and opt in.**

**Caleb Tidwell – Yes**  
**Frances Rosales – Yes**  
**Tammy Sharp – Yes**



**Stan Vaught – Yes**  
**Butch Vaughn – No**  
**Katie Darby – Yes**  
**Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority**  
**Motion passes.**

**3. *I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez**

**Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *I am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sanchez upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades only.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Katie Darby – No**  
**Stan Vaught – Yes**  
**Frances Rosales – Yes**  
**Butch Vaughn – No**  
**Caleb Tidwell – No**  
**Tammy Sharp – No**  
**Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority**  
**Motion fails.**

**4. *Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater**

**Motion made by Caleb Tidwell and seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades, excluding 8th grade.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Frances Rosales – No**  
**Butch Vaughn – No**  
**Caleb Tidwell – Yes**  
**Tammy Sharp – Yes**  
**Stan Vaught – Yes**  
**Katie Darby – Yes**  
**Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority**  
**Motion passes.**

**5. *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han**

**Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades, excluding middle school.**

**Amendment Motion made by Frances Rosales and seconded by Caleb Tidwell, to retain *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades with parental consent, excluding middle school.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Katie Darby – Yes  
Frances Rosales – Yes  
Stan Vaught – Pass  
Butch Vaughn – No  
Caleb Tidwell – Yes  
Tammy Sharp – Yes  
Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority  
Motion passes.**

**Motion made by Frances Rosales and seconded by Caleb Tidwell, to retain *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades with parental consent, excluding middle school.**

**Tammy Sharp – Yes  
Stan Vaught – Yes  
Frances Rosales – Yes  
Butch Vaughn – No  
Caleb Tidwell – Yes  
Katie Darby – Yes  
Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority  
Motion passes.**

**6. *Looking for Alaska* by John Green**

**Motion made by Caleb Tidwell and seconded by Frances Rosales, to remove *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Katie Darby – Yes  
Frances Rosales – Yes  
Stan Vaught – No  
Butch Vaughn – Yes  
Caleb Tidwell – Yes  
Tammy Sharp – Yes  
Claire Maxwell – No**

**Vote: Majority  
Motion passes.**

**7. *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas**

**Motion made by Butch Vaughn and seconded by Tammy Sharp, to remove *Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Stan Vaught – No  
Butch Vaughn – Yes  
Katie Darby – Yes  
Tammy Sharp – Yes  
Caleb Tidwell – Yes  
Frances Rosales – Yes  
Claire Maxwell – No**

**Vote: Majority  
Motion passes.**

**8. *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson**

**Motion made to remove *Concrete Rose* by Tiffany D. Jackson by Butch Vaughn and seconded by Tammy Sharp to remove *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson.**

**Caleb Tidwell - No  
Frances Rosales - No  
Tammy Sharp - No  
Stan Vaught - No  
Butch Vaughn - Yes  
Katie Darby - No  
Claire Maxwell – No**

**Vote: Majority  
Motion fails.**

**Amendment Motion made by Caleb Tidwell and seconded by Frances Rosales to retain *Monday's Not Coming* by Tiffany D. Jackson for 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades only, with parental opt in.**

**Stan Vaught - Pass  
Butch Vaughn - Pass  
Katie Darby - Yes  
Tammy Sharp - Yes  
Caleb Tidwell - Yes  
Frances Rosales - Yes  
Claire Maxwell - Yes**

**Vote: Majority  
Motion passes.**

**9. *Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead\***

**Motion made by Butch Vaughn to remove *Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead.**

**Motion failed for lack of second.**

**Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades only.**

**Amendment Motion made by Frances Rosales and seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades 9-12 only, with parental consent.**

**Amendment Motion Roll Call Vote:**

**Caleb Tidwell – No  
Frances Rosales – Yes  
Tammy Sharp – No  
Stan Vaught – Pass  
Butch Vaughn – No  
Katie Darby – No  
Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: Majority  
Motion fails.**

**Return to original Motion made by Stan Vaught and seconded by Claire Maxwell, to retain *Vampire Academy* by Richelle Mead upon recommendation from media specialists for high school grades only.**

**Katie Darby – Yes**  
**Stan Vaught – Yes**  
**Frances Rosales – Pass**  
**Butch Vaughn – No**  
**Caleb Tidwell – No**  
**Tammy Sharp – No**  
**Claire Maxwell – Yes**

**Vote: 3 - Yes, 3 - No, 1 - Pass**  
**Motion fails.**

**10. *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell\***

**Motion made by Butch Vaughn and seconded by Caleb Tidwell to remove *Eleanor and Park* by Rainbow Rowell.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Katie Darby – Yes**  
**Stan Vaught – No**  
**Frances Rosales – No**  
**Butch Vaughn – Yes**  
**Caleb Tidwell – Yes**  
**Tammy Sharp – Yes**  
**Claire Maxwell – No**

**Vote: Majority**  
**Motion passes.**

*Claire Maxwell called a recess from 7:11pm to 7:17pm.*

\*FYI - Reviews for these two titles were completed ahead of schedule and were not listed in the email to the board on the 20th.

The following titles were challenged but are not located in any district libraries:

- *101 Questions about Reproduction*
- *Acceptance: A Memoir*
- *Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama*
- *Blazed*
- *Deogratias: A Tale of Rwanda*
- *Forever for a Year*
- *High School* by Tegan and Sara
- *I Never* by Laura Hooper
- *Our Own Private Universe*
- *Push* by Sapphire
- *Strange Truth*
- *The Almost Moon*

- *The Handsome Girl and Her Beautiful Boy*
- *We are the Ants*
- *YOLO*
- *From Blood and Ash*

## 16. FINANCIAL REPORT

Work Session: Dr. Sullivan stated of our current balanced budget of \$538-million-dollar budget, \$4.8 million (74%) is salary & benefits (excluding health benefits), \$50,079,000.00 (> 9%) is health insurance, and \$27,169,404.00 (5%) is transportation/bus contractors. Note: TISA does not provide funding for transportation. Additionally, \$20.5 million (3.8%) is utilities, a little over \$3.5 million is trustee (<1/2%), \$4.5 million (<1%) is instruction, \$5.4 million is substitutes, \$526,000 is workers compensation, under \$1 million is legal, and additional costs for custodial supplies for and liability insurance. He points out that there aren't any additional items that can be cut in the budget. There are changes in FY 25/26 in the state's revenue that will impact us; (1) A positive impact - a 3% increase in TISA allocations, and (2) A change in coding for economically disadvantaged which means we are going to lose \$3-\$5 million of what we received this year. We need to meet the 2.5% raise (\$50,000 Governor required threshold), open Poplar Hill School and transfer and replace positions which estimates \$2 million dollars, our property and casualty went up \$700,000 last fiscal year and it is expected to go up again this year. It is estimated to be to be \$15-\$20 million dollars in the hole moving into FY 25/26 without additional revenue.

Board Meeting- Provided a 24/25 Overall Budget handout to Board members to further illustrate what was discussed at Tuesday's Board work session.

## 17. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Dr. Sullivan:

Announced all schools and Central Office will be closed tomorrow, and no extracurricular activities will be held. More information will follow regarding weekend events and Monday's school attendance as weather permits.

Thanked Commissioner Harris and the Budget Committee for allocating \$7,500.00 for the Stewarts Creek High School Band towards their fundraising efforts in performing at the inauguration of the new president. Additionally, Dr. Sullivan thanked Dr. Martin and Mr. Runion for attending tonight's Budget, Finance & Investment Meeting to accept the grant on behalf of SCH band.

**Motion made by Tammy Sharp and seconded by Katie Darby, to fund the remaining balance for Stewarts Creek High to attend the inauguration.**

**Vote: All yes**

**Motion passes.**

He also spoke about the amazing partnership RCS has with Motlow State Community College. A handout was given to the Board highlighting Rutherford County Schools Dual Enrollment program.

## **18. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Frances Rosales thanked all the governing bodies that have donated towards the fundraising efforts of Stewarts Creek High School, so they are able to attend the inauguration of the in-coming President.

Tammy Sharp asked about exploring the space where Dillard's is located as a potential place for RCS/Motlow? Dr. Sullivan said that space has been looked at in the past and at this time, it is not financially possible. Ms. Sharp also thanked Smyrna Ready Mix for their generous donation of \$10,000.00 to SCH band.

Butch Vaughn asked that students consider enrolling in their school's band program to experience all the wonderful opportunities band has to offer.

Caleb Tidwell also shared his appreciation with the partnership RCS has formed with Motlow.

Stan proposed to add "Public Comments" as a topic of discussion at next month's agenda and proposed to hear Public Comments at the board work sessions at a specific time (i.e. 6:30 pm) to allow parents, teachers, etc....enough time to get to Central Office. Dr. Sullivan said since there will soon be a change in state law, he asked it also to be discussed at the upcoming Policy Committee Meeting.

## **19. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Katie Darby and seconded by Clarie Maxwell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.**

### **Approval of Agenda Minutes**

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**Claire Maxwell, RCS BOE Chairman**

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**Date**

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**Dr. James Sullivan, RCS Director of Schools**

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**Date**

**Rutherford County School Board Meetings and exact conversations are recorded and may be found at the following link:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7CB325821E536E8D>. Board Meeting minutes are provided as a supplement to the recording.**

## Transportation

Pursuant to Section 8.1 of the Rutherford County Board of Education Bus Contract, the Transportation Department has received a letter from Lori Thomas, contractor of bus #96 and #277, requesting voluntary transfer of her contracts with the Rutherford County Board of Education. She has requested the contracts be transferred to her husband Dale Thomas. The request is due to her current medical condition. Dale Thomas is in good standing with the Transportation Department. The Transportation Department is prepared to award this contract to Dale Thomas if approved.

Recommend Approval – motion to approve voluntary transfer of the Bus Contract #96 and 277 to Dale Thomas.



Lori Thomas<loradale@aol.com>

To:



Wanda Barnett

Tue 1/7/2025 2:23 PM

**EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

Rutherford County Board of Education

I Lori Thomas, want to turn my school bus contracts over to my husband, Dale Thomas. Routes 96 and 277. Dale drives bus #277 and has been a driver for Rutherford County Schools for 6 years.

I am asking for this transfer of contracts due to my medical conditions. I am no longer able to pass a DOT and drive a school bus.

Thank you!

Lori Thomas

(615)904-4163

Loradale@aol.com

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

## Transportation

Pursuant to Section 8.1 of the Rutherford County Board of Education Bus Contract, the Transportation Department has received a letter dated January 6, 2025, from Lori Thomas contractor of bus #32, requesting voluntary termination of her contract with the Board and waive the 60-day notice. The Transportation Department is prepared to award this contract to the next potential contractor on the appropriate contractor list.

Recommend Approval – motion to approve voluntary termination of the Bus Contract #32 from Lori Thomas.



Outlook

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## Bus route 32

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From Lori Thomas <loradale@aol.com>

Date Mon 1/6/2025 2:47 PM

To Wanda Barnett <barnettw@rcschools.net>

**EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.**

I, Lori Thomas,(DALT Transportation) am relinquishing route # 32 and am requesting to waive my 60 day notice for such bus route.

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

# **RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title:** JROTC- Senior Army Instructor (SAI): (School Name)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL JROTC APPLICANTS:** In accordance with Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1402.5 and Army Directive 2014-23, *Child Care National Agency Check and Inquiries (CNACI)* background investigations **are now required** for all individuals who have regular contact with children under 18 years of age. As a result of this Army Directive, the CNACI clearance is now incorporated into the JROTC Instructor Certification process. Due to the extended time involved to obtain Certification from Cadet Command, Rutherford County Board of Education strongly encourages potential candidates interested in serving as JROTC Instructors to visit the US Army Junior ROTC webpage at [www.usarmyjrotc.com](http://www.usarmyjrotc.com) to review the employment process.

**Terms of Employment:** Eleven Months

**Immediate Supervisors:** High School Principal, JROTC Director of Army Instruction (DAI)

**Position Description:** Under the general direction of the high school principal and DAI, teach and provide administrative and logistical support and direction for the entire JROTC program within the high school.

**Essential Duties:**

- Reviews, studies, and comprehends subject content contained in Cadet Command Program of Instruction (POI) and other required POIs to ensure that academic instruction presented accomplishes learning objectives.
- Ensures qualification in extra-curricular, high risk and adventure training activities in order to accomplish training objectives safely using personal experience, applicable Army field manuals, handbooks, other associated training materials and personal "hands-on" training as required.
- Studies and comprehends conditions/requirements to effectively coach active, competitive teams using personal experience, applicable Army field manuals, associated training materials and personal "hands-on" training as required.
- To maintain favorable representation of the JROTC Program and the Army in daily contact with the academic and civilian community sets the example regarding personal appearance, to include the wearing of prescribed uniforms. Demonstrates the professional ability to challenge, motivate and positively influence young men and women to develop their leadership ability, self-reliance, self-confidence, responsiveness to constituted authority, moral attributes and attributes of good citizenship and patriotism.

- Review weekly training schedules and prepare for periods of instruction in advance of schedule. Using procedure, instructional reference materials and instructional audio-visual aids indicated in the lesson plans presents periods of instruction in accordance with lesson plans to ensure that lesson objectives are understood by the cadets. Administers examinations and quizzes to determine if learning objectives are met.
- Participates in fund raising projects as approved by the high school principal.
- Informs the principal of projected duty hour absences, and as expeditiously as possible, notifies the principal when illness prevents reporting for a duty day.
- Maintains presence in classroom and outside training areas to insure the maintenance of discipline and continual safety of cadets. To conduct safe training and protect the physical well being of the cadets insures qualification in high risk and adventure training techniques.
- Continually assesses own personal instructional technique and ability to ensure that the best instruction possible is presented using personal teaching experience, and through observation of other instructors' presentations.
- To provide for an active, competitive, extra-curricular activity using available training material and personal experience performs duties of team coach. when directed by the Senior Army Instructor.
- Performs administrative and Secondary Hand Receipt Holder (SHRH) duties as directed by the Military Property Book Officer.
- To fulfill additional duties commensurate with those of other teacher faculty members provides support to the School Administration as requested, and as approved by the principal. Senior Army Instructor.
- Be willing to perform training and evaluation to receive a Class C license with a "P" endorsement.
- Perform other tasks and assume other duties assigned by the principal and DAI. immediate supervisor.

### **Qualifications:**

- Must be a Captain (0-3) through Colonel (0-6), W-2 through W-5, with a minimum of ten years cumulative honorable service with no more than five years of separation time. ARNG and USAR (Actively Serving/TPU)- will fall under the same requirements mentioned above. In addition, Letter of Recommendation from current Commander and current DA Form 5016 or NGB 23A, is required.
- Or be a retired service member of the United States Army in the grade of Captain (0-3) through Colonel (0-6), or W-2 through W-5, and meet Certification Requirements

prescribed in Cadet Command Regulation (CCR) 145-2, and not have been retired more than five (5) years at the time of initial employment in a JROTC position.

- All candidates must meet the retention medical fitness standards and height/weight standards as prescribed in AR 40-501 and CCR 145-2.
- Must have a Pre- Qualification Memorandum from U.S. Army Cadet Command to apply for a JROTC Instructor position.
- Meet all health and background check requirements.

**Demonstrated Knowledge and Abilities:**

- Demonstrated leadership, instructional, administration, and management abilities.

**Evaluation:**

- Conducted by the school Principal and the Director of Army Instruction (DAI) in accordance with the provisions of the Rutherford County Board of Education policy on the evaluation of certified/classified personnel and Cadet Command Regulation 145-2.

(Proposed: January 2025)

# **RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

**Job Title:** JROTC-Army Instructor (AI): (School Name)

**IMPORTANT NOTICETO ALL JROTC APPLICANTS:** In accordance with Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1402.5 and Army Directive 2014-23, *Child Care National Agency Check and Inquiries (CNACI)* background investigations **are now required** for all individuals who have regular contact with children under 18 years of age. As a result of this Army Directive, the CNACI clearance is now incorporated into the JROTC Instructor Certification process. Due to the extended time involved to obtain Certification from Cadet Command, Rutherford County Board of Education strongly encourages potential candidates interested in serving as JROTC Instructors to visit the US Army Junior ROTC webpage at [www.usarmyjrotc.com](http://www.usarmyjrotc.com) to review the employment process.

**Terms of Employment:** Eleven Months

**Immediate Supervisors:** High School Principal, JROTC Senior Army Instruction (SAI), JROTC Director of Army Instruction (DAI)

**Position Description:** Under the general direction of the Senior Army Instruction, teach and provide administrative and logistical support and direction for the entire JROTC program within the high school.

**Essential Duties:**

- Reviews, studies, and comprehends subject content contained in Cadet Command Program of Instruction (POI) and other required POIs to ensure that academic instruction presented accomplishes learning objectives.
- Ensures qualification in extra-curricular, high risk and adventure training activities in order to accomplish training objectives safely using personal experience, applicable Army field manuals, handbooks, other associated training materials and personal "hands-on" training as required.
- Studies and comprehends conditions/requirements to effectively coach active, competitive teams using personal experience, applicable Army field manuals, associated training materials and personal "hands-on" training as required.
- To maintain favorable representation of the JROTC Program and the Army in daily contact with the academic and civilian community. Sets the example regarding personal appearance, to include the wearing of prescribed uniforms. Demonstrates the professional ability to challenge, motivate, and positively influence young men and women to develop their leadership ability, self-reliance, self-confidence, responsiveness to constituted authority, moral attributes and attributes of good citizenship and patriotism.

- Review weekly training schedules and prepare for periods of instruction in advance of schedule. Using procedure, instructional reference materials and instructional audio-visual aids indicated in the lesson plans presents periods of instruction in accordance with lesson plans to ensure that lesson objectives are understood by the cadets. Administers examinations and quizzes to determine if learning objectives are met.
- Participates in fund raising projects as approved by the Senior Army Instructor.
- Informs the Senior Army Instructor (SAI) of projected duty hour absences, and as expeditiously as possible, notifies the SAI when illness prevents reporting for a duty day.
- Maintains presence in classroom and outside training areas to insure the maintenance of discipline and continual safety of cadets. To conduct safe training and protect the physical well being of the cadets insures qualification in high risk and adventure training techniques.
- Continually assesses own personal instructional technique and ability to insure that the best instruction possible is presented using personal teaching experience, and through observation of other instructors' presentations.
- To provide for an active, competitive, extra-curricular activity using available training material and personal experience performs duties of team coach when directed by the Senior Army Instructor.
- Performs administrative and Secondary Hand Receipt Holder (SHRH) duties as directed by the Military Property Book Officer.
- To fulfill additional duties commensurate with those of other teacher faculty members provides support to the School Administration as requested, and as approved by the Senior Army Instructor.
- Be willing to perform training and evaluation to receive a Class C license with a "P" endorsement.
- Perform other tasks and assume other duties assigned by the immediate supervisor.

### **Qualifications:**

- Must be a Staff Sergeant or above, W-1 through CW-4, with a minimum of ten years of honorable active-duty service with no more than five years of separation time.
- Or be a retired service member of the United States Army in the grade of W-1 through CW4, or E6 through E9 and meet Certification Requirements prescribed in Cadet Command Regulation (CCR) 145-2, and not have been retired more than five (5) years at the time of initial employment in a JROTC position.



- All candidates must meet the retention medical fitness standards and height/weight standards as prescribed in AR 40-501 and CCR 145-2.
- Must have a Pre- Qualification Memorandum from U.S. Army Cadet Command to apply for a JROTC Instructor position.
- Meet all health and background check requirements.

**Demonstrated Knowledge and Abilities:**

- Demonstrated leadership, instructional, administration and management abilities.

**Evaluation:**

- Conducted by the school Principal and the Director of Army Instruction (DAI) in accordance with the provisions of the Rutherford County Board of Education policy on the evaluation of certified/classified personnel and Cadet Command Regulation 145-2.

(Proposed: January 2025)

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2025  
TO: Dr. James Sullivan, Director of Schools  
FROM: Monika B. Ridley, General Counsel  
RE: Transfer Student Under Discipline (1)

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The Board has been requested to admit a transfer student from another school system under discipline. The student was remanded for assault of another student.

According to Policy 6.318, the Board may deny admissions of any student (except those in state custody) when a student transfers from another school system while under suspension or expulsion.

Director of Schools' Recommendation: Deny.

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2025  
TO: Dr. James Sullivan, Director of Schools  
FROM: Monika B. Ridley, General Counsel  
RE: Transfer Student Under Discipline (2)

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The Board has been requested to admit a transfer student from another school system under discipline. The student was expelled for reckless endangerment (bringing and using taser at school).

According to Policy 6.318, the Board may deny admissions of any student (except those in state custody) when a student transfers from another school system while under suspension or expulsion.

Director of Schools' Recommendation: Deny.

## Fund 141 - General Purpose School

## Budget Amendment # 5

## Mid-Year Cleanup

Function	Object	Description	2025 Budget	Decreases	Increases	Amended Budget
44570		Contributions & Gifts	60,000		45,000	105,000
46515		Early Childhood Education	0		1,325,000	1,325,000
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Operating Transfers</b>			<b>553,502,708</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,370,000</b>	<b>554,872,708</b>

Function	Object	Description	2025 Budget	Increases	Decreases	Amended Budget
71100	399	Reg Education Prg - Elem/Sec - Other Contracted Services	2,922,327	7,500		2,929,827
71100	599	Reg Education Prg - Elem/Sec - Other Charges	50,000	20,000		70,000
<b>71100 Total</b>			<b>278,081,515</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>278,109,015</b>
71150	790	Alternative Instruction - Other Equipment	40,000		10,000	30,000
<b>71150 Total</b>			<b>3,573,561</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>3,563,561</b>
71200	171	Special Education Program - Speech Pathologist	2,870,157	63,716		2,933,873
71200	201	Special Education Program - Social Security	1,925,989	3,950		1,929,939
71200	204	Special Education Program - Pensions	2,688,905	5,537		2,694,442
71200	212	Special Education Program - Employer Medicare	450,233	924		451,157
71200	429	Special Education Program - Instructional Supp & Mat	150,000	42,000		192,000
71200	499	Special Education Program - Other Supplies And Materials	120,000		42,000	78,000
<b>71200 Total</b>			<b>46,598,349</b>	<b>116,127</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>46,672,476</b>
71300	429	Career and Technical Education Program -Instructional Supp & Mat	627,800		25,000	602,800
71300	449	Career and Technical Education Program -Textbooks	334,000	25,000		359,000
<b>71300 Total</b>			<b>28,757,016</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>28,757,016</b>
72120	355	Health Services - Travel	17,200		1,000	16,200
72120	499	Health Services - Other Supplies And Materials	94,000		10,000	84,000
72120	524	Health Services - In Service/Staff Development	15,000	21,000		36,000
72120	735	Health Services - Health Equipment	91,000		10,000	81,000
<b>72120 Total</b>			<b>6,417,698</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>6,417,698</b>
72130	171	Other Student Support - Speech Pathologist	63,716		63,716	0
72130	201	Other Student Support - Social Security	865,660		3,950	861,710
72130	204	Other Student Support - Pensions	1,028,175		5,537	1,022,638
72130	212	Other Student Support - Employer Medicare	202,453		924	201,529
72130	309	Other Student Support - Contracts W/Government Agencies	320,000	400,000		720,000
72130	399	Other Student Support - Other Contracted Services	121,322	50,000		171,322
72130	499	Other Student Support - Other Supplies And Materials	71,569	75,000		146,569
72130	599	Other Student Support - Other Charges	0	25,000		25,000
<b>72130 Total</b>			<b>18,656,679</b>	<b>550,000</b>	<b>74,127</b>	<b>19,132,552</b>
72210	432	Regular Instruction Program - Library Books	245,000	30,000		275,000
72210	499	Regular Instruction Program - Other Supplies And Materials	200,000		30,000	170,000
72210	790	Regular Instruction Program - Other Equipment	100,000	105,000		205,000
<b>72210 Total</b>			<b>15,749,245</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>15,854,245</b>
72215	207	Alternative Instruction Prg - Medical Insurance	10,100	90,900		101,000
72215	399	Alternative Instruction Prg - Other Contracted Services	4,500	2,000		6,500
72215	499	Alternative Instruction Prg - Other Supplies And Materials	30,000	1,000		31,000
<b>72215 Total</b>			<b>1,849,608</b>	<b>93,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,943,508</b>
72230	524	Career and Technical Education Program - In Service/Staff Developme	105,550	15,000		120,550
72230	790	Career and Technical Education Program - Other Equipment	40,000		15,000	25,000
<b>72230 Total</b>			<b>778,039</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>778,039</b>
72250	336	Technology - Maint. & Repair Serv. - Equip.	5,000		2,000	3,000
72250	399	Technology - Other Contracted Services	1,000,000	302,000		1,302,000
72250	524	Technology - In Service/Staff Development	15,000	70,000		85,000
72250	790	Technology - Other Equipment	1,300,000		40,000	1,260,000
<b>72250 Total</b>			<b>6,422,363</b>	<b>372,000</b>	<b>42,000</b>	<b>6,752,363</b>
72310	399	Board Of Education - Other Contracted Services	10,000			10,000
72310	533	Board Of Education - Criminal Investigation Of Applicants-Tbi	100,000	75,000		175,000
<b>72310 Total</b>			<b>8,379,779</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,454,779</b>
72320	320	Director Of Schools - Dues And Memberships	15,700	5,000		20,700
<b>72320 Total</b>			<b>1,849,654</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,854,654</b>
72410	320	Office Of The Principal - Dues And Memberships	50,000		1,400	48,600
72410	399	Office Of The Principal - Other Contracted Services	250,000	75,000		325,000
72410	599	Office Of The Principal - Other Charges	350,000	45,000		395,000
<b>72410 Total</b>			<b>32,349,927</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>32,468,527</b>
72510	399	Fiscal Services - Other Contracted Services	175,000		15,000	160,000
72510	701	Fiscal Services - Administration Equipment	15,000	15,000		30,000
<b>72510 Total</b>			<b>2,149,546</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>2,149,546</b>
72520	499	Human Resources/Personnel - Other Supplies And Materials	20,000	10,000		30,000
72520	524	Human Resources/Personnel - In Service/Staff Development	10,000	5,000		15,000
<b>72520 Total</b>			<b>1,986,416</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,001,416</b>
72610	399	Operation Of Plant - Other Contracted Services	1,610,100		75,000	1,535,100
72610	720	Operation Of Plant - Plant Operation Equipment	2,904,900		50,000	2,854,900
<b>72610 Total</b>			<b>39,376,789</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>39,251,789</b>
72620	329	Maintenance Of Plant - Laundry Service	35,000	10,000		45,000
72620	335	Maintenance Of Plant - Maint. & Repair Serv. - Bldgs.	900,000		10,000	890,000
72620	336	Maintenance Of Plant - Maint. & Repair Serv. - Equip.	150,000		15,000	135,000
72620	701	Maintenance Of Plant - Administration Equipment	997,605	100,000		1,097,605

72620	717	Maintenance Of Plant - Maintenance Equipment	200,000		50,000	150,000
<b>72620 Total</b>			<b>12,811,861</b>	110,000	75,000	<b>12,846,861</b>
72710	729	Transportation - Transportation Equipment	279,394	150,000		429,394
<b>72710 Total</b>			<b>30,492,030</b>	150,000	0	<b>30,642,030</b>
			<b>570,611,721</b>	1,845,527	475,527	<b>571,981,721</b>

1,370,000

This budget amendment cleans up expenditure line items at mid-year. On the revenue side, the budget is amended to reflect state grant allocations not included in original budget. On the expenditure side the larger items of this clean up amendment reflect the increase in cost of school maintenance supplies and parts, instructional/support supplies and materials, security, cybersecurity, maintenance contracted services/equipment, transportation equipment, and elementary school start-up funds. This amendment has a net increase of both current year revenue and expenditures of \$1,370,000 with no use of fund balance.

**Recommended Motion:**

To amend Fund 141 to clean up expenditure line items for a net increase of \$1,370,000 in both revenue and expenditure lines.

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Dr. James Sullivan, Director of Schools

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Date

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Claire Maxwell, Chairman of the Board

Rutherford County Schools  
2024/25 Fund 177 Budget  
Major Capital Projects  
Budget Amendment

		Amendment #2		
		<i>Capital Projects</i>		
Object	Description	Original	Decrease	Increase
34685	Comm for Capital Proj.	6,318,670	200,000	6,118,670
Object	Description	Original Budget	Increase	Decrease
335	Maint. & Repair Serv. - Bldgs.	20,552,525	200,000	20,752,525
	Total Education Capital Projects	20,552,525	200,000	-
	Total Expenditures	20,977,525	200,000	-
		(2,000,000)		

This amendment moves funds from account 34685-Committed for Capital Projects to account 91300-335-Maintenance & Repair Services-Buildings in the amount of \$200,000. The movement of this money from fund balance will go to replace Stewarts Creek High auxiliary gym floor which was damaged due to a break in a water main in an adjacent mechanical room. It was determined by the Engineering Dept. that the floor is not repairable and will need to be replaced.

**Recommended motion** – to amend the 2024/25 Capital Projects Budget, Fund 177, by reducing account 34685-Committed for Capital Projects and by increasing account 91300-335-Maintenance and Repair Services–Buildings in the amount of \$200,000 as presented.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Schools

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of the Board



Nov 06, 2024

Bryan Yarbrough  
Rutherford County Schools  
2240 Southpark Dr., Murfreesboro, TN 37128  
[yarbroughb@rcschools.net](mailto:yarbroughb@rcschools.net)

Dear Bryan,

We are pleased to submit the following quotation for the replacement of the hardwood sports flooring system approximately 8,960 square feet in the **AUX GYM** at **STEWARTS CREEK HIGH SCHOOL**. This quotation is based on performance according to the following specifications.

#### **SPECIFICATIONS**

The existing floor seems to be  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood over  $\frac{1}{2}$ " carpet padding, with 25/32" x 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ " 2nd & better maple nailed to the top. We propose to tear out the existing flooring and install a new Praters Fixed Resilient, wood sleeper and subfloor system consisting generally of 12mm resilient pads, plywood sleepers, one layer of 15/32" thick, 4' X 8' CDX rated sheathing and steel anchors will be installed over a 6-mil polyethylene moisture barrier. 25/32" x 2  $\frac{1}{4}$ ", 2nd & better grade northern hard maple will be nailed approximately 16" on center.

Upon proper installation, the floor will be sanded until smooth using coarse, medium, and fine sandpaper, then rotary sanded or "screened" to remove all drum sander marks. The floor will then be sealed with TWO coats of Bona DTS, in preparation for the painting of game lines & logos as outlined below using Bona SuperSport game lines paint. Following the painting, THREE coats of WATER-based gym floor finish will be applied to the entire court surface.

After the finishing of the floor, a 4" x 3" black vent cover base will be installed at the perimeter of the gymnasium floor and 6" aluminum saddle thresholds will be installed at each gymnasium doorway. Custom wood thresholds, ADA ramps, and other styles of transitions differing from the aluminum thresholds described above will be priced separately. During this project we will detach, move & reattach the existing bleacher system to accommodate new flooring underneath. We will also route & install (6) new volleyball lids, and raise the goals as necessary to accommodate the new floor height.

The total price for this project is **\$193,462.00**

Remove 8,960 sqft of existing flooring system	\$15,680.00
Install new flooring system	\$134,400.00
Sand, Seal, Paint & Finish	\$13,440.00
Paint 3' x 3' Border	\$950.00
Paint (1) Main Basketball Game Lines	\$600.00



Paint (1) Main Volleyball Game Lines	\$400.00
Paint (2) Cross Court Basketball Game Lines	\$1,200.00
Paint (2) Cross Court Volleyball Game Lines	\$800.00
Detach, Move & Reattach Bleachers	\$7,000.00
Route & Install (3) New Sets of Volleyball Lids	\$7,500.00
Install Thresholds	\$3,500.00
Install 384 Linear Feet of Vent Cove Base	\$4,992.00
Raise Goals ***If needed	\$3,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$193,462.00</b>

*(Price includes all labor and materials)*

***mn**\*Any additional game lines, logos, and lettering or any and all other painting or staining not explicitly stated and quoted above are not included in this price. We will price additional graphics as needed.*

## **REMOVAL**

*\*This price does not include bleacher removal; we can price this add on if needed. This price does not include volleyball inserts or lids, if required we can provide pricing.*

**Payment Terms:** A payment of 60% of the total amount of this project will be due upon the delivery of maple hardwood flooring and subfloor materials to the job site. A payment of 20% of the total amount of this project will be due after the installation of the court is complete and the floor is ready for sanding. This is typically 2-3 weeks after the delivery of the maple hardwood flooring and subfloor materials. The final payment of 20% of the total amount of this project will be due upon completion of the project. The above pricing is guaranteed for 6 months from the date of this quotation. We accept all forms of payment. There is a 3% convenience fee if a credit card is used. Wiring information available upon request.

**Before We Arrive:** Note: The installation area should be clear of all equipment & materials. The heat/air should be installed and properly working and set to an appropriate temperature for building. This will ensure the wood acclimates to the correct temperature and moisture content.

Please be advised that a wood floor will expand and contract between seasons, therefore we recommend temperature and humidity monitoring.

The MFMA recommends no more than a 15% swing between seasons. Praters will provide a temperature & humidity monitoring device to assist you.

## **MARKETING**

**Content Use:** Rutherford County Schools agrees to allow Praters Inc. to capture media content of the build, installation, execution and tear down of their product(s) as well as the event and/or activation that includes their product(s). Praters Inc. retains the right to utilize any content captured for internal &

external documents and for digital sharing via [pratersflooring.com](http://pratersflooring.com), @PratersFlooring social networks, the Praters Flooring blog, and monthly newsletter. Praters Inc. agrees to withhold the release of any captured content until Praters Inc. is released to do so by Rutherford County Schools or until their product(s) have become accessible to the public. Praters Inc. agrees to share all captured content to Rutherford County Schools at their request for use on their media sites. Please provide all social media handles and tags so Praters Inc. can follow, share and include Rutherford County Schools in our marketing.

**Collaboration:** Praters Inc. agrees to share all captured content to Rutherford County Schools at their request for use on their media sites. Please provide all social media handles and tags so Praters Inc. can follow and share Rutherford County Schools's marketing and tag Rutherford County Schools in ours.

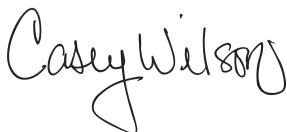
### **ELECTRICAL NEEDS**

**Wiring:** Rutherford County Schools agrees to provide an electrician to wire in sanding equipment owned by Praters Inc. Praters Inc. will communicate timelines and provide Rutherford County Schools with wiring instructions and specifications prior to the start of work.

### **GUARANTEE**

All our work is guaranteed against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year. At your request, we will submit license numbers, certificates of general liability and worker's compensation insurance.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. Please call if you have any questions



Casey Wilson

*We agree with the scope of work, floor prep requirements, quoted price and payment terms outlined above.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Customer Representative Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Customer Representative Printed Name)

### **Invoice Information:**

PO: \_\_\_\_\_

Accounting Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Accounting Phone / Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Onsite Contacts:**

On-site Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

On-site Contact Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Design/Layout Contact:**

Design/Layout Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Design/Layout Phone / Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School

5555 Manchester Pike • Murfreesboro, TN 37217

Phone: 615-904-6765 Fax: 615-904-6766

**Principal:** April Sneed

**Assistant Principals:** Chris Butner • Rebecca Cousin • Laura Davis

To whom it may concern:

Attached is an application for a campus construction project at Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School for our basketball program proposing upgraded lockers in our boys' and girls' home locker rooms. The lockers would be fabricated out of wood and will replace the current lockers in the facility. The dimensions of the new lockers would be the same as that of the old ones.

All construction will be completed by a parent volunteer who is also a general contractor. The anticipated cost of materials is \$2,762.40. The funds for this project are currently available in the basketball accounts, so the upgrade will come at no cost to the school or the school board. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

April Sneed  
Principal

**Home of the Yellow Jackets**

[www.wbm.rcschools.net](http://www.wbm.rcschools.net)



# Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School

5555 Manchester Pike • Murfreesboro, TN 37217

Phone: 615-904-6765 Fax: 615-904-6766

**Principal:** April Sneed

**Assistant Principals:** Chris Butner • Rebecca Cousin • Laura Davis

School Name	<b>Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School</b>
Principal	<b>April Sneed</b>
Project Name	<b>WBMS Basketball Locker Upgrade</b>
Assistant Principal who is overseeing the project	<b>Chris Butner</b>
Does project support recreational sports, athletics or education?	<b>YES</b>
Does this project meet all gender equity criteria?	<b>YES</b>
What department is this project being constructed for? (I.E. Baseball, softball, band, FFA, etc.)	<b>Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Girls' Volleyball</b>
What is the anticipated cost for this project (this should include all utility connection fees, building permits, inspection, and construction). Attach and submit a detailed estimate.	<b>\$2,762.40 for materials only</b> <b>Building and Labor= Free through Donation</b>
What is the funding source and are funds currently available: (Grant, Booster Club, etc.) List all sources.	<b>Team fundraising: Sponsor Boards, Donations</b>
If a grant or funded by a foundation/donor/ charitable organization, what is the foundations name?	<b>N/A</b>
Do construction plans meet criteria for funding?	<b>N/A</b>
If funded by a local financial institution, has the loan been approved and who is the guarantor for loan	<b>N/A</b>
Do you have a site layout showing where this project will be constructed on campus?	<b>WBMS Home Locker Rooms; diagrams provide below</b>
Has RCS Engineering & Construction reviewed project location? Are there any conflicts in utilities or easements?	<b>RCS Engineering and Construction has not reviewed the project.</b>
Has MTEMC, CUD, MWSD or other local utilities been contacted for service connection if required?	<b>N/A</b>
Are plans drawn and stamped by Architect/ Engineer?	<b>Plans from the general contractor are listed below.</b>

**Home of the Yellow Jackets**

[www.wbm.rcschools.net](http://www.wbm.rcschools.net)



# Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School

5555 Manchester Pike • Murfreesboro, TN 37217

Phone: 615-904-6765 Fax: 615-904-6766

**Principal:** April Sneed

**Assistant Principals:** Chris Butner • Rebecca Cousin • Laura Davis

Have plans been submitted to Rutherford County Codes or Murfreesboro City Building Codes Offices for review and/or approval. (LaVergne City Codes, Smyrna City Codes, Murfreesboro City Codes)	<b>No.</b>
What is your timeline for completion of project? When will it start and when will it be completed?	<b>The estimated length of the project is 5-10 business days. We will look at our schedule to determine the start date once approval is secured from the board. We will have to schedule around games during basketball season.</b>
If stated that construction project is at no cost to school Board all cost should be included in project. This includes electrical, plumbing, and mechanical services.	<b>Yes.</b>
Do you have a contractor for constructing/completing the project? What is the name of Contractor? If no, who will be overseeing the project from the community and who will be doing the work?	<b>Contractor: Terry Sanders Terry Sanders Construction 615-692-213</b>

**Home of the Yellow Jackets**

[www.wbm.rcschools.net](http://www.wbm.rcschools.net)



# Whitworth-Buchanan Middle School

5555 Manchester Pike • Murfreesboro, TN 37217

Phone: 615-904-6765 Fax: 615-904-6766

**Principal:** April Sneed

**Assistant Principals:** Chris Butner • Rebecca Cousin • Laura Davis

Girls' Locker Room



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EXAMPLE



**Home of the Yellow Jackets**

[www.wbm.rcschools.net](http://www.wbm.rcschools.net)

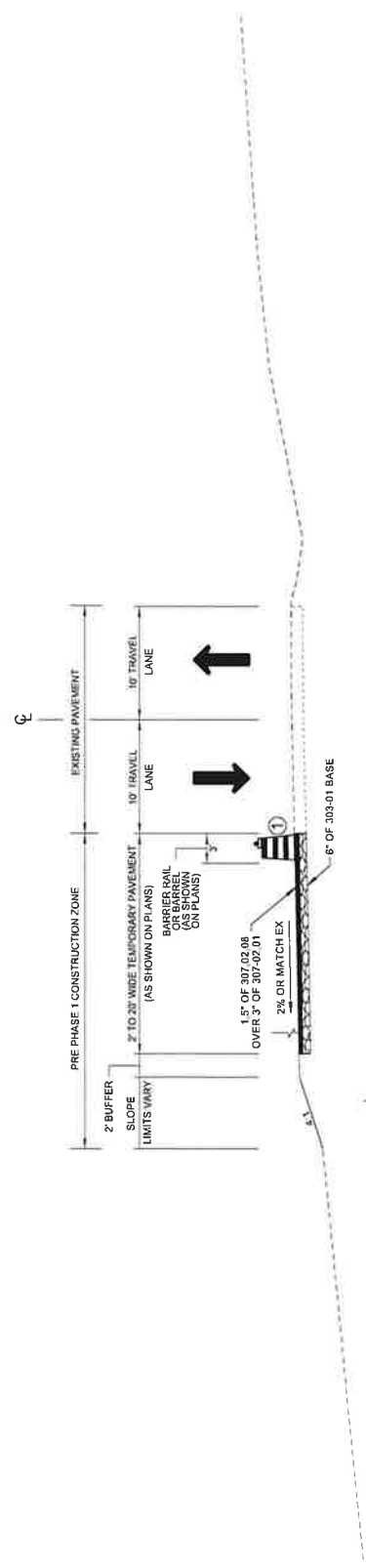
**SOUTH WALDRON ROAD**  
 FOR  
**CITY OF LA VERGNE**  
 RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Scale:	NTS
Date:	05/04/2025
Project No.:	WLS
Revision:	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Drawing Title:  
**TRAFFIC CONTROL  
 TYPICAL SECTIONS**

Current Revision:  
**T1A4**

Project No.:  
 21-0326



**PRE PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION (SEGMENT 1 & 2)**

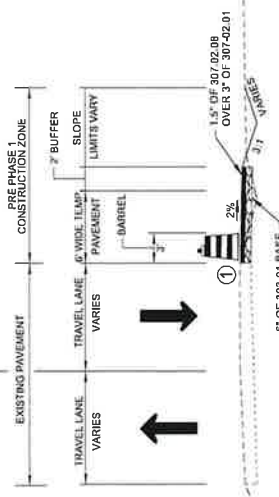
**WALDRON ROAD**

- STA 100+95.00 TO STA 103+64.72
- STA 106+13.72 TO STA 111+12.05
- STA 111+23.20 TO STA 121+73.43
- STA 121+73.43 TO STA 132+58.38
- STA 132+58.38 TO STA 139+22.38
- STA 139+22.38 TO STA 139+50.00
- STA 139+50.00 TO STA 139+65.41
- STA 145+77.33 TO STA 174+68.92
- STA 175+31.11 TO STA 177+61.45
- STA 177+55.02 TO STA 178+46.36
- STA 178+46.36 TO STA 216+54.09
- STA 216+54.09 TO STA 221+03.65
- STA 221+23.66 TO STA 227+33.67
- STA 228+13.42 TO STA 231+36.01

**SWALE LOCATION**

**WALDRON ROAD**

- STA 107+60.00 TO STA 107+60.00
- STA 118+00.00 TO STA 118+00.00
- STA 124+50.00 TO STA 124+50.00
- STA 132+50.00 TO STA 139+00.00
- STA 148+00.00 TO STA 173+00.00
- STA 212+00.00 TO STA 215+00.00

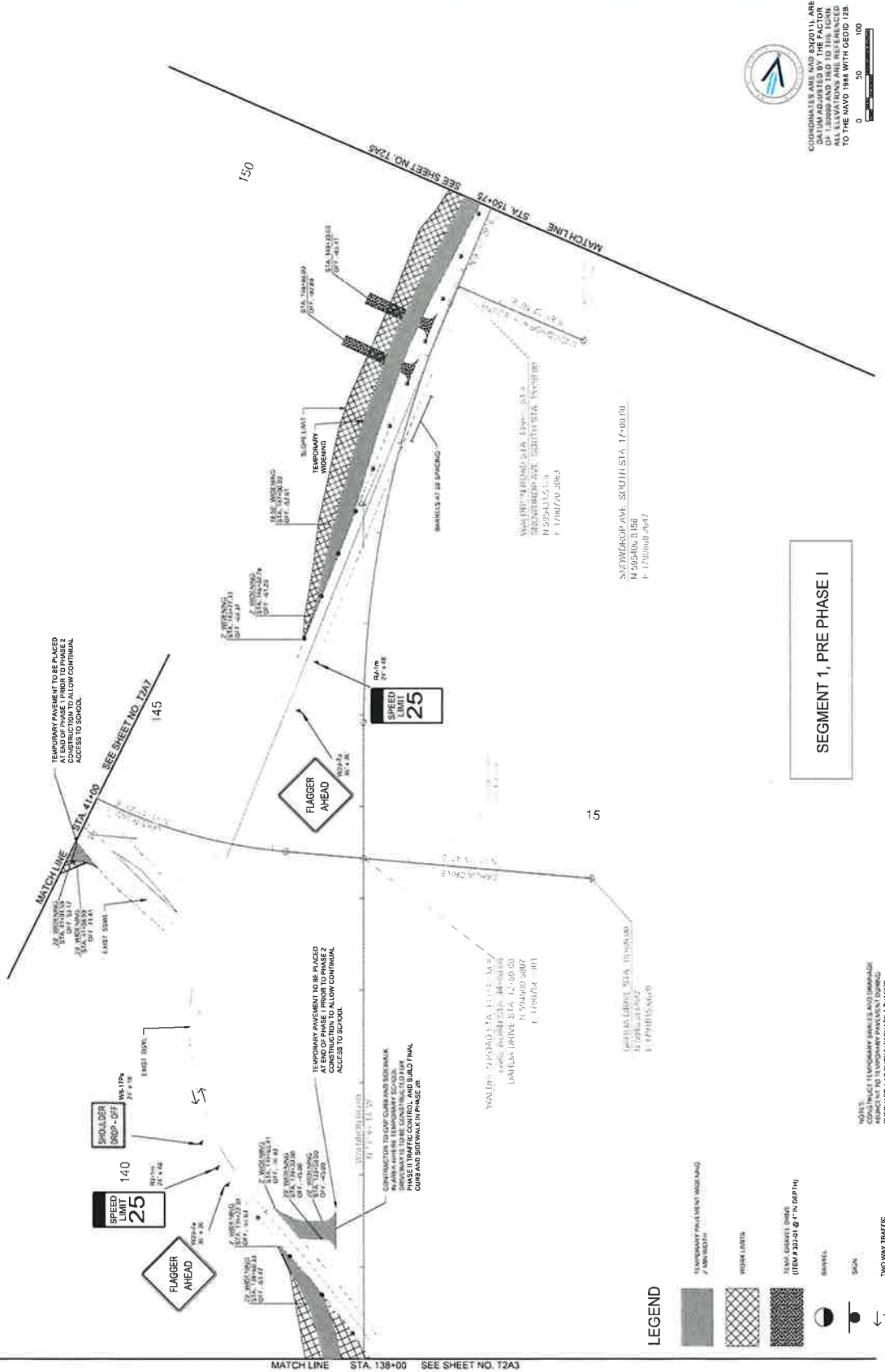


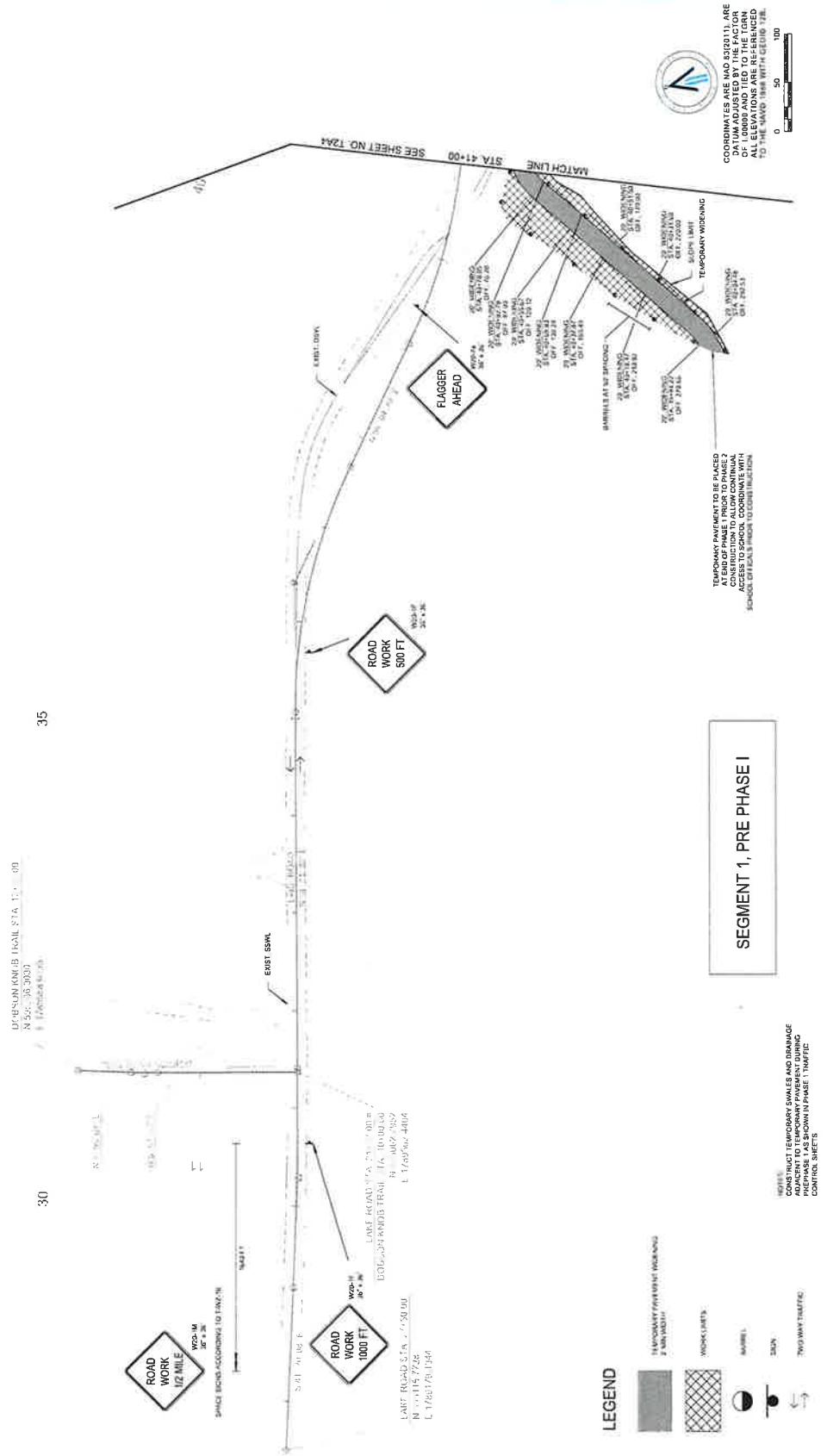
**PRE PHASE 1 CONSTRUCTION (SEGMENT 1)**

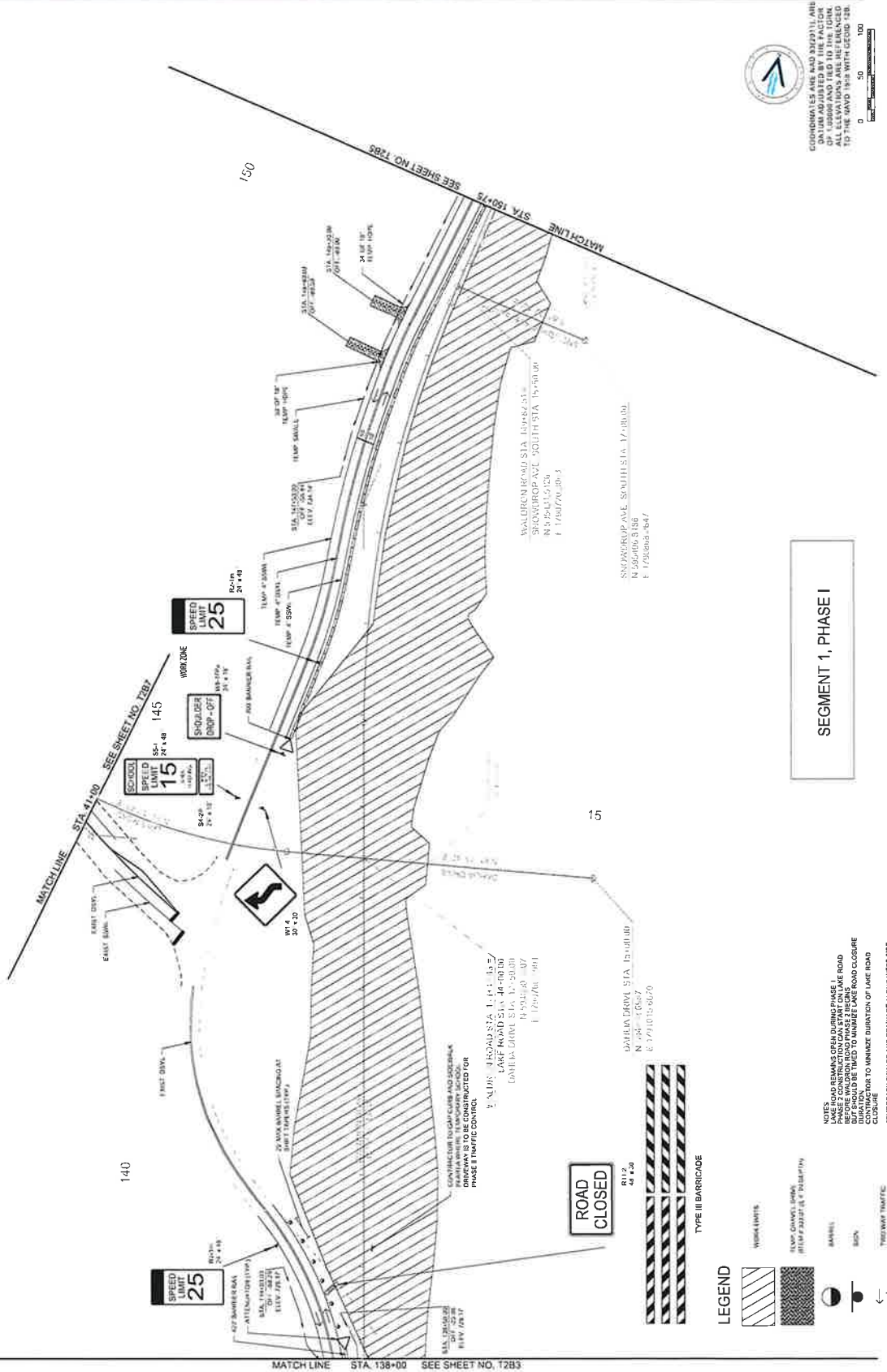
**BLAIR ROAD**

- STA 146+33.50 TO STA 150+92.70

- FLAGGER OPERATION AS NEEDED WHEN WORKING NEXT TO EXISTING TRAVEL WAY. ONE-WAY TRAFFIC CONTROL WILL ONLY BE PERMITTED DURING DAYTIME CONSTRUCTION. ROADWAY TO BE OPENED TO ALLOW FOR TWO-WAY TRAFFIC AT THE END OF EACH WEEK DAY. BARREL TO BE USED TO DELINEATE WORK ZONE DURING FLAGGER OPERATIONS AND PLACED ADJACENT TO TRAVEL LANE.







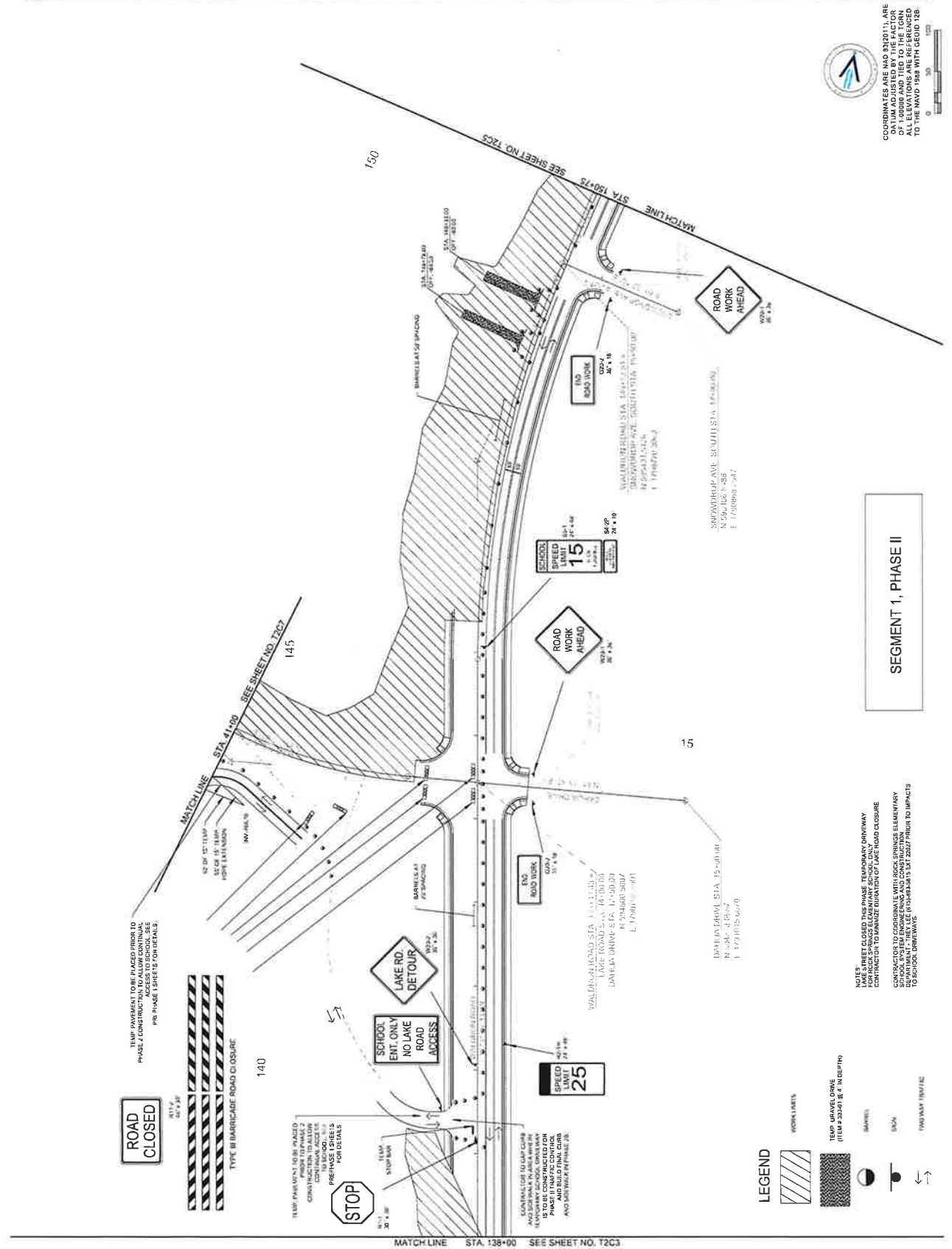
COORDINATES ARE BASED ON THE DATUM ADJUSTED BY THE FACTOR OF 1.00000 AND TIED TO THE IGM. ALL ELEVATIONS ARE REFERENCED TO THE NAVD 1988 WITH GEOID 12B.

## SEGMENT 1, PHASE I

**NOTES**  
LAKE ROAD REMAINS OPEN DURING PHASE 1  
PHASE 2 CONSTRUCTION CAN START ON LAKE ROAD  
BEFORE WALDRON ROAD PHASE 2 BEGINS  
BUT SHOULD BE TIMED TO MINIMIZE LAKE ROAD CLOSURE  
DURATION  
CONTRACTOR TO MINIMIZE DURATION OF LAKE ROAD  
CLOSURE  
TEMPORARY SWALES AND DRAINAGE ALONG WEST SIDE  
OF ROAD TO BE CONSTRUCTED DURING PHASE 1.



STATION 124+25 SEE SHEET NO 12C2



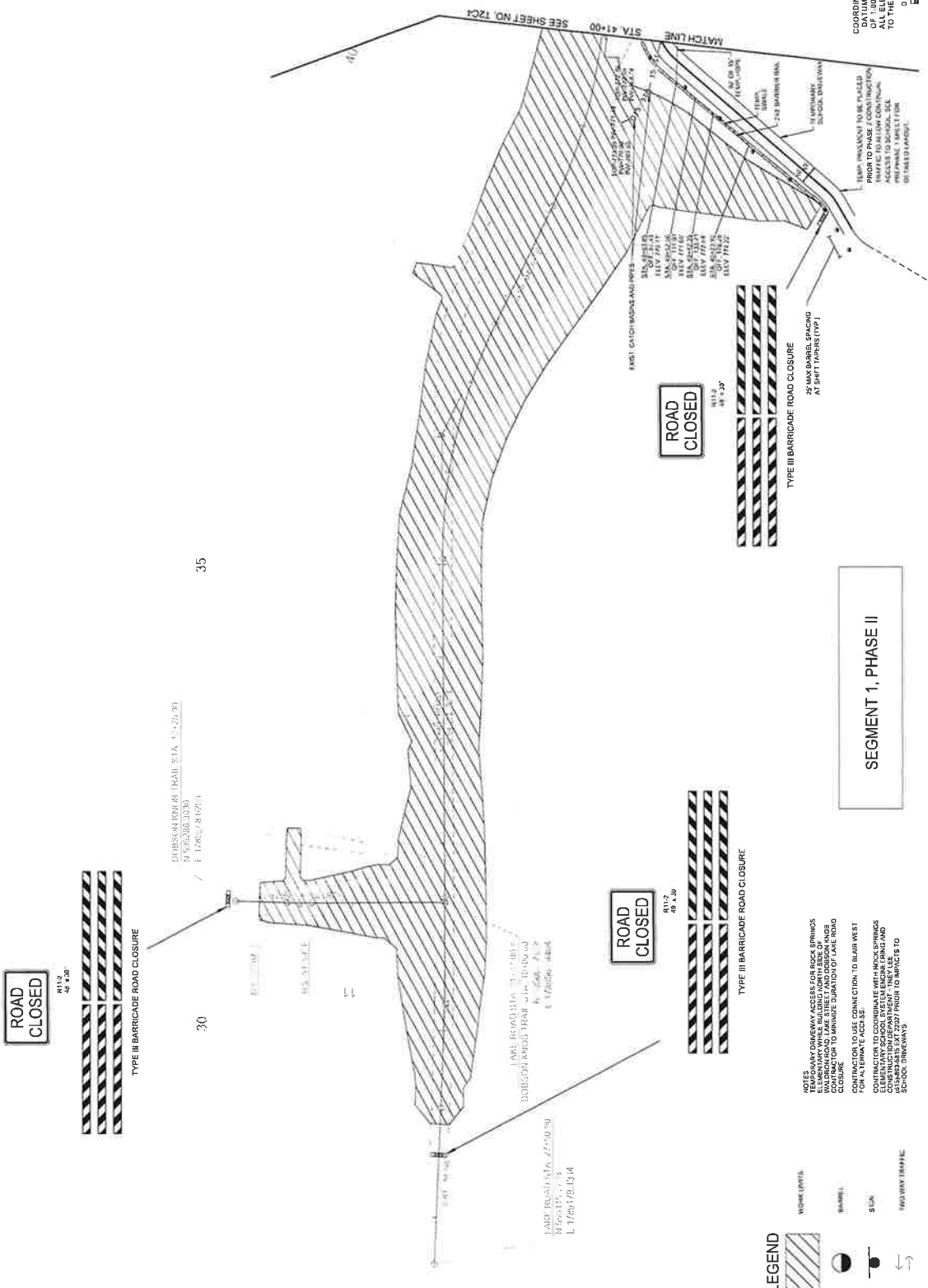
**SOUTH WALDRON ROAD**  
FOR  
**CITY OF LA VERGNE**  
RUTHERFORD COUNTY

Scale	1"=50'
Date	NOVEMBER 23, 2016
Drawn By	WEL
Reviewed By	
Revised	

Drawn By: JLD  
**TRAFFIC CONTROL**  
**LAKE ROAD**  
**STA. 27+50 TO**  
**STA. 41+00**  
Drawn No: **T2C7**  
Project No: 21-0326



COORDINATES ARE NAD 83(2011). ARE DATUM ADJUSTED BY THE FACTOR 1.0000000000000000. ALL ELEVATIONS ARE REFERENCED TO THE NAVD 1988 WITH GEOID 12B.



**SEGMENT 1, PHASE II**

**NOTES**  
1. TEMPORARY DRIVEWAY ACCESS FOR ROCK SPRINGS WALDRON ROAD LAKE STREET AND DOUGLASS ROAD CLOSURE UP TO MINIMUM DURATION OF LAKE ROAD CLOSURE.  
2. CONTRACTOR TO USE CONNECTION TO MAIN WEST FOR ALTERNATE ACCESS.  
3. CLOSURE OF LAKE ROAD AND DOUGLASS ROAD AND DOUGLASS ROAD SYSTEM AND LAKE AND DOUGLASS ROAD SYSTEM TO TRAVELERS TO SCHOOL DRIVEWAYS.





**RESOLUTION TO EXPEDITE THE CLOSURE OF THE BORDERS AND TO INCREASE  
TITLE III FUNDS FOR ESL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, multiple counties in Tennessee are experiencing a substantial influx of students for whom English is not their native language; and

**WHEREAS**, many of these students are not fluent in reading or speaking the English language; and

**WHEREAS**, federal law mandates that we educate all children; and

**WHEREAS**, for example, Rutherford County has experienced a significant surge in its English Learner (EL) population, with an increase of over 140% in the past decade; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2023, Rutherford County Schools had 6,214 ESL students which has grown to 8,373 ESL students in the current school year; and

**WHEREAS**, this growth necessitated an additional 25 positions at the start of the school year for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program; and

**WHEREAS**, as demand continued to rise, Rutherford County Schools added 19 more growth positions for ESL, primarily funded through local and state revenue due to Title III funds only consisting of approximately \$1.3 Million Dollars

**WHEREAS**, the need for more positions has placed a considerable financial strain on our local revenue, primarily derived from our taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the pressure of increasing numbers of ESL students is creating exceptional financial pressures on school systems to provide the services which school systems are legally required to provide; and

**WHEREAS**, additional Title III funds are needed to meet the legal requirements imposed on school systems so that the costs of the same is not overwhelmingly borne by local property taxes, local funded taxes, and state funds;

**WHEREAS**, the increase in funding need to adequately serve ESL students is \$3,500 more per ESL student;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION THIS THE \_\_\_\_ DAY OF JANUARY, 2025, AS FOLLOWS:**

The Board of Education urges our State Legislators and Governor to advocate for the current administration to expedite the closure of our nation's borders and for the federal government to provide additional funding for Title III program to fund the services the federal government requires school systems to provide to ESL students.

**RUTHERFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

---

By: Claire Maxwell, Chairman

**ATTESTED TO:**

---

Dawn Williams, Secretary



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<i>Forever</i>
Author	Judy Blume
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	5 copies   high schools
Total district circulations	37 total circulations
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Meets some definitions within 39-17-901.
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	No longer age-relevant considering its publication date.
Recommendation	<b>Remove from school collections</b>

---

### Additional Context

- A TIME Best YA Book of All Time (2021) ALA Notable Children's Book (1995) Margaret A. Edwards Award (1996)
- This book is about first love, first committed relationships, and navigating consensual sex for the first time.
- Ultimate sex acts occur on pages 106, 139-140, and page 174. Although not patently offensive, they are detailed and descriptive with consideration to state law.
- Sexual excitement examples can be found on P. 77, 78, and 101. Although not patently offensive, they are also detailed and descriptive with consideration to state law.
- Descriptions of nudity are present on p.129, 139-140, and 174.

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### Notes from District Review(s)

- While some fictional works contain very limited sexual scenes in a much larger overarching plot, the entire content of the book is about a teenage couple who, plan, discuss, and choose to engage in sex.
- Reviewers assert that this book does not benefit a library collection based on the dated, era specific references (published in the 1970's) that wouldn't appeal to contemporary young adults, in addition to its descriptive scenes.
- While the historical significance of this book proves its merit, reviewers would not recommend it for a school library, specifically.



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<b><i>Glass</i></b>
Author	Ellen Hopkins
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	9 copies   high schools
Total district circulations	122 total circulations
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Please see additional context described below***
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for high school students
Recommendation	<b>Retain in high school only</b>

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### Additional Context

- This book deals with drug abuse, an ongoing health crisis in the United States. It reveals the ugliness and suffering associated with addiction, ranging from a rapid decline in health, appearance and relationships.
- The publisher recommends this book for students in grades 9-12.
- *Booklist* recommends this book for grades 10-12.
- *Kirkus* labels this book as Young Adult, which is identified in the publishing world for students between the ages of 12-18.
- *Publisher's Weekly* recommends this book for ages 14-up
- *School Library Journal* recommends this book for grades 9-up.
- The frequently cited *Book Looks* website has rated this book a '3', which does not identify the book as sexually explicit or obscene. The website states that a '3' may require guidance from a parent or guardian but not does include ultimate sex acts, which was the claim in the original complaint.

---

### Notes from District Review(s)

- There are several intimate encounters, between pages 306 and 326 that are described in an indirect way – if the reader didn't have any foundational understanding of the circumstance, they would not understand what was happening.
- One reviewer asserts that we do in fact have students who come from backgrounds like this, and this book is meant to foster an understanding of the complex issues discussed in the text.



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<b><i>Grown</i></b>
Author	Tiffany Jackson
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	24 copies   high school and middle school
Total district circulations	
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Does not meet the definitions from 39-17-901
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for high school students.
Recommendation	<b>Retain 8<sup>th</sup> grade and up</b>

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### Additional Context

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- This book is about a 17-year-old aspiring singer (Enchanted) who is discovered at an audition by R&B sensation, Korey Fields, but Enchanted's dreams turn into horror when she realizes that Korey's charm and star power are not what she had always hoped for. This book turns into a murder mystery.
- This book has received multiple starred reviews and merit within the industry. An example being "Never have I read a story that so flawlessly hits the highest high and lowest low notes of Black girlhood in pursuit of the American Dream." --Nic Stone, New York Times bestselling author.
- The frequently cited *Book Looks* website has rated this book a '3', which does not identify the book as sexually explicit or obscene. The website states that a '3' may require guidance from a parent or guardian but not does include ultimate sex acts, which was the claim in the original complaint.
- Library classifications include Abuse African American Discrimination & Prejudice Mental Health Racial Discrimination Women's Studies.
- Publisher age recommendation is 13.
- *Kirkus* recommends this book for ages 13-18.
- *School Library Journal* recommends this book for grades 9 and up.

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### Notes from District Review(s)

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- Reviewers see this book as an important cautionary tale, explaining that not all that glitters is gold, which in contemporary society, is an important lesson for young people.
- There are no detailed descriptions of genitals, breasts, or ultimate sex acts; however, some may consider the sexual relationship between an adult and a minor to be patently offensive. According to the Author's Note at the end of the book, the purpose of this story is to bring attention to these types of inappropriate relationships.
- Page 372 states, "This book is about the abuse of power. It's about the pattern of excusing grown men for their behavior while faulting young girls for their missteps. Page 373 goes on to say "But if you ever feel you are in a situation like Enchanted (the main character), where you're being used, threatened, sexually coerced, or you simply feel uncomfortable, please seek help right away. Tell your parents, one of your friend's parents, a trusted teacher, or a relative."
- District librarians assert that this book is important. It addresses a difficult topic and could potentially help young people going through a harmful situation.
- The author also provides resources for people to contact for assistance, such as the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<b><i>Ready Player One</i></b>
Author	Ernest Cline
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	32 copies   high schools
Total district circulations	320 total circulations
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Does not meet the definitions listed in 39-17-901
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for high school Science Fiction and 80s fans
Recommendation	<b>Retain in high school</b>

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### Additional Context

- This science fiction best seller is about Wade Watts, a boy living in a largely virtual civilization in 2044. He stumbles upon the first clue to a large puzzle, created by the founder of the virtual world, while all clues center around 1980's pop culture.
- The frequently cited *Book Looks* website has rated this book a '3', which does not identify the book as explicit or obscene. The website states that a '3' may require guidance from a parent or guardian but not does include ultimate sex acts, which was the claim in the original complaint.
- In 2018, this book was made into a film, directed by Steven Spielberg and rated PG-13.
- In 2018, *Ready Player One* was chosen as our partner, Read to Succeed's 'One Book' program for Rutherford County.
- Common Sense Media's Parents Guide recommend this book for ages 15+.
- Kirkus, Library Journal, School Library Journal, Publisher's Weekly, and Booklist all have written highly favorable recommendations.

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### Notes from District Review(s)

- This dystopian, science fiction novel is one of the best works for chronicling the 1980's-90's era in terms of pop culture, history, music and film.
- On page 193, the main character mentions using a futuristic device called an ACHD in a virtual brothel but ultimately finds it shameful and stops.



- There is commentary on general thoughts about masturbation but no descriptions of the act (P. 193-194).
- *Ready Player One* benefits the high school library collection as it touches on self-confidence and finding genuine friendships in a digital, Gen Z age. It is also a modern science fiction staple, highly circulated among teen Sci-Fi readers.





## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<b><i>Smoke</i></b>
Author	Ellen Hopkins
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	11 copies   high school
Total district circulations	47 total circulations
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Does not meet the definitions from 39-17-901
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for mature high school students.
Recommendation	<b>Retain in high school</b>

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### Additional Context

- *Smoke* tells the story of two sisters, trying to put the pieces of their lives together after a series of events from the first book (abuse and death).
- *Booklist* recommends this text for grades 9-12.
- *Kirkus* recommends this book for ages 13-17.
- School Library Journal recommends this book for grades 10+.
- The frequently cited *Book Looks* website has rated this book a '3', which does not identify the book as sexually explicit or obscene. The website states that a '3' may require guidance from a parent or guardian but not does include explicit ultimate sex acts, which was the claim in the original complaint.

---

### Notes from District Review(s)

- There is a description of a buttocks - P. 46 – “white and pimply butt cheeks”
- Pages 325 and 346 reference a ‘warm feeling in the body’ but does not explicitly describe sexual excitement as defined in 39-17-901.
- There is a rape in this book on page 32. Body parts and the act itself is not described but dialogue of the attack is included.
- Reviewers share that *Smoke* by Ellen Hopkins explores complex and mature themes such as family conflict, abuse, trauma, identity, and personal growth. These are common conflicts and scenarios that align with the experiences or awareness of students in the upper high school grade band.



- This book provides opportunities for critical discussions on resilience, moral dilemmas, and healing, which can resonate with the emotional and social development of teens.



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<i>Speak</i>
Author	Laurie Halse Anderson
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	33 copies   middle and high school
Total district circulations	<b>*977 total circulations</b>
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Does not meet the definitions from 39-17-901
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for middle and high school students
Recommendation	<b>Retain middle and high schools, 8<sup>th</sup> grade+</b>

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### Additional Context

- This book is about a young girl who struggles to find her voice to speak out against her abuser and seek help after she is raped.
- The frequently cited Book Looks website has rated this book a '3', which does not identify the book as sexually explicit or obscene. The website states that a '3' may require guidance from a parent or guardian but not does include ultimate sex acts, which was the claim in the original complaint.
- This book has not been removed from any reporting school districts in the state of Tennessee.
- The progression and outcome of this book streamlines with Erin's Law curriculum.
- This book is a National Book Award finalist. It is a Michael L. Printz award winner, a School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, and a Time magazine Best YA Book of all Time.
- *Booklist* recommends this book for grades 8-12. *Publishers Weekly* recommends ages 12-up, and *School Library Journal* recommends this book for grades 8+

---

### Notes from District Review(s)

- Reviewers place high value on this book as it teaches young people in an age-appropriate way, to tell an adult and get help when assault and/or abuse occurs.



- The scene in question can be found on page 135 and has absolutely no descriptions of an ultimate sex act, nudity, or sexual excitement – everything is implied.
- According to the Tennessee Department of Education, more than 80% of child sexual abuse cases never come to the attention of Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement. Additionally, children often do not tell because they are afraid<sup>1</sup>. Reviewers assert that books that appropriately cover topics of abuse can empower young people to speak up.
- The book takes place from the summer between the characters 8<sup>th</sup> grade year and throughout her freshman year. Reviews and publications streamline with the character's age (14+), which reviewers believe is an appropriate age recommendation for this book.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Task Force on Children's Justice and Child Sexual Abuse – Erin's Law. (2021). Tennessee Department of Children's Services. Retrieved from <https://files.dcs.tn.gov/policies/chap14/WA1.pdf>.



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<b><i>The Female of the Species</i></b>
Author	Mindy McGinnis
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	14 copies   high schools
Total district circulations	136 total circulations
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Does not meet the terms as defined in 39-17-901
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for mature high school students.
Recommendation	<b>Retain in high school</b>

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### Additional Context

- The main character, Alex, avenged her sister's death after the murderer was found innocent in a court of law for lack of evidence. Years later, when her best friend finds herself in a similar scenario, Alex takes a stand and prevents a crime from happening. Her fate ultimately causes a change in culture at school regarding consent and respect for girls.
- *School Library Journal* recommends this book for grades 10 and up.
- *Booklist* recommends this book for grades 10+
- *Publisher's Weekly* recommends this book for ages 14+
- Common Sense Media recommends this book for ages 15+
- This book has received four starred reviews from authoritative journals, including *Publisher's Weekly*, *Booklist*, and *School Library Journal*.

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### Notes from District Review(s)

- The frequently cited *Book Looks* website has rated this book a '3', which does not identify the book as sexually explicit or obscene. The website states that a '3' may require guidance from a parent or guardian but not does include ultimate sex acts, which was the claim in the original complaint.
- Last school year, the author visited high school students across the district to discuss becoming a published author, her books, and her inspiration.
- There are scenes of violence; however, they contribute to the progression of the plot and ultimately the conflict resolution within the realm of its genre (horror, thriller, suspense). Examples of violence can be found on p. 137-138, p. 240-241.



- This material addresses heavy topics of sexual abuse and the long-lasting mental and physical effects it has on its victims.
- There are scenes of attempted rape and sexual abuse although the ultimate act never occurs or is described within the text.
- There are words used, such as “tits” and “blow job”, but they are not being described in the detail outlined in Title 39 definitions.
- The scope of the book represents a sort of *femme fatale* character who avenges crimes against girls in her community.
- Library classifications include Friendship, Law & Crime, Overcoming adversity, Grief & Loss.



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<b><i>The Kite Runner: The Graphic Novel</i></b>
Author	Khaled Hosseini
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	4 copies   high school
Total district circulations	16 circulations
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Does not meet the definitions from 39-17-901
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for mature high school students.
Recommendation	<b>Retain in high school only</b>

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### Additional Context

- Amir, a forty-year-old novelist living in the U.S., returns to his native Afghanistan to right a terrible wrong that ended his boyhood friendship with Hassan, a member of the persecuted Hazara people in Kabul.
- According to the frequently cited Book Looks database, this book has inexplicit and inexplicit child molestation. It is rated a “3”.
- The scene in question contains no nudity whatsoever. There is no direct language used to describe the assault. The entire scene is implied.
- According to Ms. Effie’s List of Titles from Open Response Questions for Advanced Placement® English Literature Exams, the text counterpart to this work has appeared on the AP exam six times.

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### Notes from District Review(s)

- This book benefits the high school library collection as an accessible counterpart to the highly esteemed and research novel. Reviewers point out that this supplemental work supports students trying to swiftly read as many titles in preparation for the AP exam.
- Pages 42-45 indirectly depicts a sexual assault in which no body parts are shown, and no direct language is used. This scene is implied.
- Page 110-117 depicts violence that is accurate for the time period and geographic location in which the novel is set. There is a public stoning and fighting.
- This book exposes students to issues dealing with the people and history of Afghanistan as well as confronts themes of racism, friendship, and forgiveness.



## RCS Library Media Specialist Recommendations

Title	<b><i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i></b>
Author	Jay Asher
Current Holdings/Grade Bands	21 copies   high schools
Total district circulations	434 total circulations
Tier One Review (Miller Test)	Does not meet the definition for obscenity.
Tier Two Review (T.C.A. 39-17-901)	Does not meet any definitions listed in 39-17-901
Tier Three Review (Age-Appropriateness)	Age relevant for mature high school students.
Recommendation	<b>Retain in high school</b>

---

### Additional Context

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- This book includes several resources including a crisis hotline, a link to resources including National Suicide Prevention and [bethe1to.org](http://bethe1to.org), a program dedicated to suicide prevention for young people.
- *Booklist* recommends this book to grades 8-11, *Kirkus* identifies this book as YA (Young Adult, a genre recognized in the publishing world intended for a 12–18-year-old interest level). *Publisher's Weekly* recommends this book for ages 13 and up, while *School Library Journal* recommends this book for grades 9 and up.
- The Jason Foundation, Tennessee's adopted suicide prevention program shares, "Suicide is one of the leading causes of preventable death in our nation today. We lose an average of more than 125 young people each week to this tragedy that can be prevented."
- The National Institute of Mental Health asserts that open conversations about suicide can serve as an awareness and prevention strategy.
- The frequently cited Book Looks website has rated this book a '3', which does not identify the book as explicit or obscene. The website states that a '3' may require guidance from a parent or guardian but not does include ultimate sex acts, which was the claim in the original complaint.
- District personnel acknowledge the crucial need to raise awareness and educate students, parents, faculty, and staff about the effects of bullying on our students, as well as the significance of suicide awareness. The district is dedicated not only to addressing bullying but also to empowering individuals with the knowledge to recognize signs of bullying and the potential for





suicidal thoughts. Our commitment includes providing support and resources for those in need, fostering open communication, and ensuring that students, parents, and faculty comprehend the importance of seeking help and offering support to those who may be struggling. Books that cover this issue are important resources that should open and extend conversations surrounding mental health at home.

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**Notes from District Review(s)**

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- This book is a benefit to a high school library collection because it brings visibility and awareness to a sadly prevalent issue, inspiring others to seriously think about the destructive nature of bullying, gossip, and indifference.
- There are no direct descriptions of nudity ultimate sex acts, or excess violence described in this book.
- There is a scene that suggests a girl was assaulted but the only indication that this occurs is the sound of the bed when the character, Bryce, gets in it (p.226).
- Page 265 describes unwelcome touching, highlighting how abuse can greatly harm someone's mental health.
- Common Sense Media, a leading and vetted organization, primarily focused on informing parents and educators, states, "there are positive messages here about the importance of treating people with kindness -- and about the price of inaction -- that parents and teachers may want to help teen readers think and talk about."