

## **Muhlenberg County School District improves financially through effort; Supt. McCarty thanks board, staff, KASA**

The Muhlenberg County Board of Education recently heard about the school district's financial improvements from administrators.

"A wide and comprehensive plan was implemented to address the critical financial condition of the district," said Superintendent Randy McCarty. "These included a Kentucky Association of School Administrators and district personnel collaboration to implement a Process Improvement and Performance Excellence grant, which stresses financial systems efficiency."

McCarty continued. "Our general fund balance was going to be at a substantial level by first of the year because of our salary and staffing cuts in recent months," he explained. "Other important factors are the stabilizing of the Tennessee Valley Authority's in Lieu of Taxes payments to our district and the fact that our budget cuts have reduced accounts payable by \$9 million since I became superintendent."

The superintendent added, "We believe our association with the KASA and its PIPE grant work have helped us reduce our costs and increase our savings since we implemented it by considering the need of every single position in our district."

PIPE stands for Process Improvement and Performance Excellence. KASA is the largest organization of school officials in the Commonwealth. The PIPE grant is one of its programs designed to assist school administrators in making their school districts as efficient and productive as possible.

McCarty concluded, "I want to thank the school board for its hard work. I also thank all the faculty and staff who have endured this process and am happy we can increase our pay levels for all employees. In looking ahead, the increased pay levels will also help us recruit and retain teachers, help prevent future problems, and help keep our district financially solid."

The board approved by a vote of 5-0 a 4 percent, across-the-board, midyear pay raise for all employees, both classified and certified, to take effect Jan. 1, 2017. McCarty said. "In all, approximately 60 employees retired. The 1 percent pay increase our board funded last year, coupled with this new 4 percent increase brings salaries back to a competitive level."