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# DHS Announces 2025 Winter Homecoming Candidates

FEBRUARY 04TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

## DHS Announces 2025 Winter Homecoming Candidates

Dexter High School Winter Homecoming Queen coronation will be held on Friday, February 7, 2025 between the junior varsity game and the varsity game at the Bearcat Event Center.

List of candidates Girls and Escorts:

Avery Ackman with John Sepulvado

Cali Comfort with Kaden Hart

Fatima Gonzalez with Gabriel Borden

Julianna Hervoyavich with Dayton Fornkohl

Kaden Jackson with Kodi Lynn

Kate Nichols with Tucker Temples

Emma Pennington with Will Guethle

Avery Riley with Gibson Booker

Lauren Sindle with Devin Turnbo

Febe Worley with Brayden Vaughn

From left front: Averee Ackman, Cali Comfort, Fatima Gonzalez, Julianna Hervoyavich, Kaden Jackson

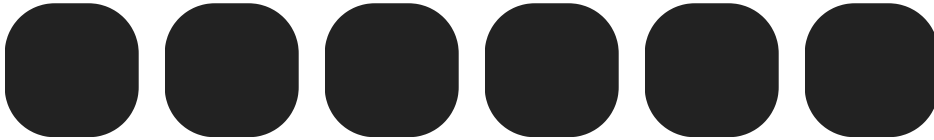
Back row: Kate Nichols, Emma Pennington, Avery Riley, Lauren Sindle, Febe Worley

Photo provided

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## Dexter School Board Agenda for January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

JANUARY 20TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

Dexter School Board Agenda for January 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

### **Agenda**

**Tentative as of 1/17/2025**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**January 21, 2025**

**Regular Meeting 6:00 pm**

1.

Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Consent Agenda

A.

Approve board agenda.

B.

Approve minutes of December 17th regular board meeting.

C.

Approve payment of bills.

**5. Public Comments** (At this time someone who is pre-registered with the Board Secretary prior to the beginning of the Board meeting to present a position on a specific agenda item or who is pre-registered with the superintendent in writing at least 5 days prior to the beginning of the Board meeting to present a general comment about a non-agenda item will be given time for presentation to the Board of Education. Each speaker is limited to 5 minutes. A maximum of 15 minutes is allowed for this public comment section. Please, just one spokesperson per group; individuals may speak only once per meeting; time regulated by the Board Chairman. Note: Individuals wishing to convey a complaint about procedures, regulations, or personnel will not be scheduled to address the Board until the District's complaint procedure has been exhausted; Complaints directed at specific personnel will not be heard in open session.)

A.

CTA–

B.

Registered requests- 1 Registered Request for Closed Session

C.

Correspondence–

D.

Recognition of guests-

**6. Old Business**

A. There is no old business at this time.

**7. New Business**

A. Approve the additional umbrella coverage offered by MUSIC.

B. Approve the school calendar for the 2025-2026 school year.

C. Approve therapy contracts for the 24-25 school year.

D. Approve increasing the district mileage reimbursement to \$.67/mile.

**8. Discussion Items**

A. Nurses Report.

B. Building Reports.

C. SRO Report.

D. Superintendent's Report & CSIP Update.

E. Next Regular Board Meeting is February 18, 2025.

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# Poplar Bluff R-I Kicks Off Next Long Range Plan with no-tax Increase Ballot Measure

JANUARY 17TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Poplar Bluff R-I Kicks Off Next Long Range Plan with no-tax Increase Ballot Measure

Poplar Bluff Schools has an opportunity to expand its building capacity at Early Childhood, enhance safety district-wide and address deferred maintenance including the construction of a new bus garage, all at zero increased cost to taxpayers.

The R-I Board of Education voted to place a no-tax bond issue on the April 8 ballot, estimated to generate \$11.5 million. Board member Dr. Mike Price made the motion, which was seconded by Tim Gaebler and met with unanimous approval from Dr. Cynthia Brown, Ken Davis, Dave Elledge, Roger Hanner and Dr. Larry Kimbrow during a meeting Thursday, Jan. 16, in the Administrative Building.

“Due to the financial oversight and fiscal management of recent Boards of Education, the Poplar Bluff School District is able to offer this opportunity to our stakeholders,” stated Dr. Aaron Cornman, superintendent. “A no-tax levy measure, if passed, would allow us to service more preschool-aged students as well as improve the safety in all district facilities to continue to promote a secure learning environment, and focus on other priorities including ancillary services such as our Transportation Department.”

The 20-year general obligation bonds would be issued to extend the 18-cent debt service previously approved by voters in 2009 to construct the Kindergarten Center and perform extensive renovations at Junior High including electric, plumbing, and heating and air, recalled Maintenance Director Al Ursery. The district’s operating levy is expected to remain unchanged at \$3.62 per \$100 of assessed valuation, which is lower than Cape Girardeau, Farmington, Jackson

and Sikeston, and only 4 cents higher than Dexter, a neighboring district that serves less than half the student population, according to 2023 state reports.

“The last time you did this was in 2009, originally for almost \$5 million, and today you can net more than double, without raising your tax limit,” Lorenzo Boyd, managing director for Stifel, Nicolaus & Company of St. Louis, informed the board last month. “I think this is a great opportunity.”

With over 30 years of experience working with public schools, Boyd noted that Poplar Bluff has an A+ underlying credit rating and he typically does not see schools with a debt ceiling limit of \$83 million so far below their borrowing capacity, as dictated by the state. “Because of the fund structure, it’s the best money for the least amount of cost to the taxpayers,” added Charles Kinsey, R-I assistant superintendent of business.

Since the Kindergarten Center opened for the 2011/12 school year, over 300,000 square feet of academic space has been added across the district, significantly improving the learning environment for all students, grades preK-12. Phase two of Poplar Bluff’s previous long-range plan was completed earlier than projected in 2020 – with the new state-of-the-art Early Childhood Center being paid out of district reserves, saving millions of dollars in interest, leaving space penciled in to expand on the Camp Road campus.

Currently, there are dozens of students on the waitlist at the Early Childhood Center, according to administrators. Considerations for safety enhancements across the district include a uniform electronic access system for doors, installation of bollards, vestibules, window security film, metal detectors and additional cameras. Lastly, the city deeded adjoining acreage to the district's bus garage over the summer, opening more options to develop the functionality of the Maud Street property.

While the April ballot issue focuses on the most pressing needs, the long-range plan will be designed to look ahead to the next decade, a process expected to wrap up in the fall. A larger citizens' advisory committee representing a diverse cross-section of patrons will meet next month to help guide the district in prioritizing future projects to focus on.

This past October, the BOE selected Dake Wells Architecture based in Springfield to produce R-I's next facilities master plan. A long-range planning committee comprised of community leaders and education officials began meeting in November after the professional planners completed walkthroughs of each school facility. "We can really improve some things by taking a few pieces away right now—or pruning—to make space for new construction," observed Matt Thornton of Dake Wells.

After soliciting needs from principals, the committee began its brainstorming process, identifying areas of congestion, campuses that could be made more cohesive, spaces that are not yet enclosed between buildings and other remaining projects not excluding finding the most cost-effective solution for the downtown property. Dille and Pollard are additionally designing a safe room for Eugene Field, pending final approval by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"You have to look at a 10-year plan as a living document that is not tied to any previous board or administration," said board representative Price, who served his first term on the BOE back when the previous bond issue was approved 16 years ago. "If you're not long-range planning, you're falling behind, and we have to keep the district moving forward alongside the community."###

*Pictured:* The long-range planning committee brainstorms with Dake Wells Architecture during their third meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the Administrative Building.

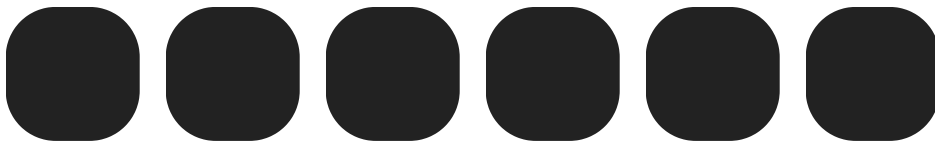
**Articles submitted by Tim Krakowiak**, Communications Director, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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## University of Missouri - Columbia Fall 2024 Dean's List

JANUARY 17TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

### University of Missouri - Columbia Fall 2024 Dean's List

The University of Missouri is roaring with pride as they congratulate the 12,392 undergraduate students who earned a place on the fall 2024 Dean's List.

This prestigious honor celebrates Tigers who demonstrate exceptional determination, drive and success in their academic endeavors.

Their hard work embodies the spirit and dedication of the entire university community.

#### Advance, MO

Carter Charles Scherer - Sophomore, Agr-Food & Natural Resources

#### Bell City, MO

Madilyn Elaine Asher - Sophomore, Nursing

#### Bloomfield, MO

Alyson Paige Bohannon - Junior, Agr-Food & Nat Resources

#### Dexter, MO

Anie Elizabeth Banken - Senior, Arts & Science

Richard Alan Lin - Junior, Veterinary Med Undergrad

Berkley Wynne Moreland - Senior, Arts & Science

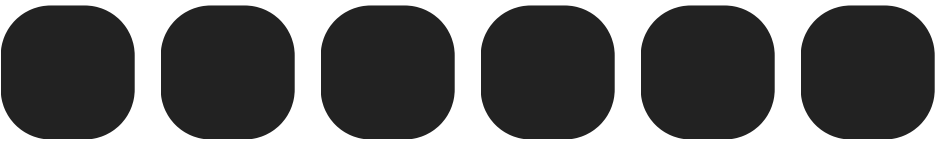
Essex, MO

Devin Mitchell Duffie - Senior, Arts & Science

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# Advance H.S. November Student of the Month - CJ Robinett

JANUARY 08TH 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

Advance H.S. November Student of the Month - CJ Robinett

The Advance Student of the Month program is a new initiative to promote positive behaviors among students and recognize their achievements.

Each month, staff members can nominate students who demonstrate qualities like respect, initiative, teamwork, perseverance, and consistent performance.

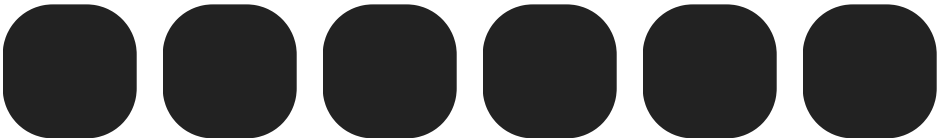
The 10th, 11th or 12th grade winner for November was CJ Robinett.

The 10-12th grade winner for November is CJ. His nominator said, "CJ is one of the few students that has consistently submitted their work schedule on time, without the need for reminders, and always maintains a polite and respectful attitude. He has a consistent professionalism and strong work ethic. Having the responsibility to and courtesy to make sure his work schedule is handed in on time shows a high level of maturity and reliability." Congratulations, CJ!

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