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Liggins Retires from FCPS Effective Today

KENTUCKY SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR CLOSES FIVE-YEAR TENURE THANKING FAYETTE COUNTY STUDENTS, FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITY, VOWS CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH KOEA FOR FCPS TO UNCOVER AND RECOVER FROM FRAUD, WASTE, AND ABUSE

LEXINGTON, Ky., Friday, August 14, 2026 — Dr. Demetrus Liggins tendered his notice of retirement effective today, amid an ongoing whistle-blower complaint he filed in June with the Kentucky Office of Educational Accountability, capping 26 years as a distinguished national leader in his chosen field, education.

“The Moody’s downgrade of yesterday was the last straw, no matter how the administration would prefer to spin the School Board’s failures,” Liggins said. “A downgrade is a function of the decades of fiduciary irregularities that I had been addressing until the School Board – assisted by an overpaid outside law firm, Sturgill Turner, who gets paid according to the number of legal problems created – feigned my resignation in June, held an illegally non-noticed meeting on my employment right after that, pay for two superintendents for the entire summer, and re-hire the same lawyers behind all of this in the first place, while this self-imposed calamity was collapsing.”

Meanwhile, even the Governor of Kentucky got confused, Liggins noted. “Given this runaway circus from the top, Moody’s was left to draw the unfavorable conclusions laid bare yesterday. And this is why I will continue to work through the ongoing process at the Kentucky Office of Educational Accountability Office, where I am blowing the whistle on fraud, waste, and abuse. Our Fayette County students, teachers, and taxpayers deserve better than this, and the truth is coming out.”

Washington, D.C., attorney Amos Jones – who has challenged FCPS outside law firm Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Maloney, PLLC, over what he alleges was mismanagement of a series of whistleblower disclosures and lawsuits against Kentucky State University that Jones initiated in 2018 for a range of successful former employees there – said: “Another one bites the dust, this time the FCPS credit rating. Bad legal advice has been killing KSU softly. It can kill the FCPS, too, while lawyers get more and more money for manifold failures. Who’s behind all these bad decisions, especially any professional advice to the School Board to fake Dr. Liggins’s retirement with press notices that lied on the Kentucky Superintendent of the Year in early June 2026?”

Jones disclosed a spreadsheet from a Kentucky Open Records Request that FCPS released on July 24, 2026, in which FCPS appears to be reporting that Sturgill Turner was paid \$527,461.78 in recent years by FCPS.

The report reflects payments/check dates from November 1, 2017, through June 22, 2026. The underlying invoice dates run from September 13, 2017 through June 1, 2026. The report identifies Sturgill Turner Barker & Moloney as the vendor on the payment schedule. The invoice package contains 157 line items total: 156 invoice entries plus 1 credit memo. The total net amount paid/credited in the package is \$527,461.78, which matches the total shown at the bottom of the report.

“That was before the Liggins frame-up got going,” Jones alleged. “Only God knows how much FCPS had to pay them while the drama got protracted over the summer, since FCPS has not released the payments for any Sturgill Turner ‘work’ done in June, July, and August 2026.” Jones said.

“We have similar payment records produced by KSU last month, showing what got paid from when I and my Kentucky trial co-counsel were defeating Sturgill Turner in the KSU cases over those years, and everything I warned them about came true, including a \$500,000 payout after they lost a jury trial in Frankfort in the Xavier Dillard case I raised,” Jones said. “My paternal grandmother’s *alma mater*, from 1932, has been decimated. This defense lawyering is obviously counterproductive. And it is costing the Commonwealth – and so we are calling on Governor Beshear, who’s supposed to know about this, to open an investigation into these payments and institutional disgraces that follow.”

Liggins expressed optimism that, no matter what, the actual progress in education he fostered leaves an upward trajectory in place for the students and teachers. He said:

Serving Fayette County Public Schools has been one of the capstone honors of my professional life. Since 2021, I have had the privilege of leading Kentucky’s second-largest school district and working with extraordinary students, families, teachers, administrators, staff, community partners, and public servants who care deeply about the future of Lexington and the Commonwealth.

Together, we achieved historic progress. FCPS reduced campuses requiring Comprehensive School Intervention to zero; accelerated post-pandemic academic recovery; expanded advanced, dual-credit, AP, IB, and career-and-technical opportunities for economically disadvantaged and minority students; strengthened early-grade reading; advanced major facilities work; launched a public Transparency Dashboard; deepened community and industry partnerships; and built plans focused on safety, accountability, and student success. I am profoundly grateful that this work led to recognition as 2026 Kentucky Superintendent of the Year and as a national finalist, but the greater reward has always been seeing students and schools move forward.

I retire with gratitude for Fayette County and with confidence that its students, educators, and families deserve stability, integrity, transparency, and excellent stewardship.

I thank Fayette County for the years of capstone service we shared. I will continue to believe in this community, its children, and the promise of public education.