



Gadsden City Board of Education
April Regular Meeting
04/08/2025 05:00 PM
Gadsden City High School
1917 Black Creek Pkwy, Gadsden, AL

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees

Voting Members

Hon. Allen Millican, Board Chairman-District 7
Mr. Mark Dayton, Vice Chairman – District 5
Ms. Adrienne Reed, Board Member – District 1
Mrs. Rita Smith, Board Member – District 2
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff, Board Member – District 3
Mike Haney, Board Member – District 4
Mrs. Nancy Stewart, Board Member – District 6

Non-Voting Members

Mr. Keith Blackwell, Superintendent
Mr. Ed Howard, Attorney
Mrs. Cory Skelton, Chief School Financial Officer
Mrs. Kelly Swafford, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent

A. Call to Order, Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

1. Chairman Millican called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Rev. Z. Andre' Huff led with prayer. The Gadsden City High School JROTC presented the Colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chairman Millican declared a quorum was present.
2. Chairman Millican addressed the audience about the upcoming special school tax election on May 20, 2025, emphasizing the importance of voting to renew the existing tax of 6 and 4 mills. He clarified that this is not a new tax and not an increase in taxes, but by voting yes, this will keep the tax amount the same. Chairman Millican urged the public to be vocal and educate others on the significance of voting yes to renew the tax, which will support the Gadsden City School System.

B. Recognitions

1. Teachers of the Year

Superintendent Keith Blackwell and Assistant Superintendent Sharon Maness recognized the 2025-2026 Teachers of the Year for Gadsden City Schools with a certificate and the systemwide winners with a plaque.

TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Elementary

Adams Elementary – Fatima Wise
Donehoo Elementary – Cheryl Motes
Eura Brown Elementary – Kathy Roberts
Floyd Elementary – Samantha Owens
Mitchell Elementary – Cheri Williams
Striplin Elementary – Amy R. Smith
Thompson Elementary – Greta Swain
Walnut Park Elementary – Madeline Johnson

Secondary

Emma Sansom Middle – Jonathan McKay
Gadsden Middle – Wes Beck
Litchfield Middle – Luke Waugh
Gadsden City High – Heather Ross

Systemwide Winners

Cheryl Motes- Donehoo Elementary - Elementary
Heather Ross – Gadsden City High – Secondary

2. Student Recognition

The principals from each school and board members recognized students with certificates for their accomplishments during the 2024-2025 school year.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Gadsden City High School, Joel Gullede, Principal

Scholars Bowl Team

Avery Clark
Wren Gaines
Corbin Ho
Chris Holder
Alvinh Nguyen
Latika Prasadh

JROTC JLAB Team

Genevieve Corley
Colin Hewes
Corbin Ho

Nathan Morris

Gadsden City Varsity Basketball Teams

Girls: Karleigh Sheffield Destiny Whiteside Amiya Graves Madison Tinker
 Je'Vohnna Sears Aaliyah Richard Jac'Keria Woods Naomi Taylor
 Jakayla Orr Raina Underwood Naomi Wise
Boys: Kai Franklin Matthew Lucas Jedidiah Wynn Zyan Gibson
 Devin Barksdale Keyshawn Curry Tommy Steadmire Cameron Higgins
 Da'Mari Oliver Brayden Johnson Quinten George Kelvyn Garcia
 Tavion Norris Kelom Darrah JaKobi Sharp

Adams Elementary School, Ali Sullivan, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner: Ava Woods

Top AR Points

5th Grade – Hunter Stephens, Faith Gilbert, Lorena Vicente Cruz
4th Grade – Alivia Wright
3rd Grade – Alexa Cribas
2nd Grade – Arric Riddle
1st Grade – Neal Williams

Donehoo Elementary School, Ernest Calloway, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – Journye Timmons

Top AR Points

5th Grade – King Dark (Schoolwide Winner)
4th Grade – Israel Andres-Miguel
3rd Grade – Carter Delbridge
2nd Grade – Nevaeh Harden
1st Grade – Ryleigh Childs

Eura Brown Elementary School, Amanda Martinez, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – Dhruv Patel

Top AR Points

5th Grade – Frances Robinson
4th Grade – Charlotte Bailey
3rd Grade – Cayden MacLeod
2nd Grade – Quinn Frederick
1st Grade – Frances Bailey

Floyd Elementary School, Roy Bliss, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – Azaria Morris

Runner Up – Sayra Juan

Top AR Points

5th Grade – London Whiteside
4th Grade – Joel Berduo Agustin
3rd Grade – Bryce Gore
2nd Grade – Deon Love

Mitchell Elementary School, Leanne Reed, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – Bryson Bonner

Top AR Points

5th Grade – Caroline Hathcock
4th Grade – Khloeigh Cambron
3rd Grade – Cadence Brown
2nd Grade – Jazlynn Santiago
1st Grade – Ezra Amberson

Striplin Elementary School, Anthony Ash, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – Gabriel Hill

Top AR Points

5th Grade – Zakhi Muhammad
4th Grade – Jaceon Sattiewhite
3rd Grade – Memphis Hershberger
2nd Grade – Jeremiah Whitfield
1st Grade – Knoelle Thomas

Thompson Elementary School, Patrice Maxwell, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – Hudson Daniels

Top AR Points

5th Grade – Hunter Morgan
4th Grade – Abigail Berduo Miranda
3rd Grade – Alyssa Berduo Miranda
2nd Grade – Ruby Bishop
1st Grade – Leon Horan

Walnut Park Elementary School, Kristen Woods, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – DeMaurian Wills

Top AR Points

5th Grade – Divine Ingram
4th Grade – Skylan Embry-Whiteside
3rd Grade – Gilberto Bamaca-Feliciano
2nd Grade – Juan Sosa Coba
1st Grade- Lydia McClendon

Emma Sansom Middle School, Charlton Giles, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – MaKenzie Spears

Student Government Representatives

Aubrey Abney – President
MaKenzie Spears – Vice-President
Jordan Lewis – Secretary
Serenity Ingram – Treasurer
Alexis Shelnutt – Historian
Isaiah Brown – Chaplain

BETA Club Officers

Emily Barrett – President
Aubrey Abney – Vice-President
Memphis Moore – Secretary
P. J. German – Treasurer
Isaiah Brown and Devyn Metivier – Chaplain

Gadsden Middle School, Chance Goodwin, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – William Jones

Student Government Representatives

Harper Mullinax – President
Avery Cordi – Vice President
Leah Jaggears – Secretary
Lauren Connally – Treasurer

Beta Club Officers

Harper Mullinax – President
Riyan Patel – Vice President
Madilyn Mitchell – Secretary
Karson Finley – Treasurer

Litchfield Middle School, Charlie Parker, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner – Kameron Pruett

Runner-Up – Yanelyn Jimenez

LMS Ambassadors

Nima Maye
Marcy Pointer
Mi'Angel Dozier
Zoey Flores
Lola Jimenez
Aubrey Thomas
Aniya Miller
Genariyah Hamilton
Angelina Aguilar Felipe
Juana Francisco Nicolas
Khaleah Leonard
Nia Maye

3. Chairman Allen Millican recognized the other guests in attendance: Chief of Police Jaggears, Gadsden City Council President Kent Back, and other council members.

C. Approval of Agenda

The meeting agenda was presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes
Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes
Mr. Mike Haney – Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

D. Reports

1. No reports

E. Board Action

1. **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the regular board meeting on March 06, 2025, were presented to the board for approval.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes
Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes
Mr. Mike Haney – Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

2. **Surplus Property Reports**

- a. Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the property items listed from Adams Elementary School, Emma Sansom Middle School, Gadsden City High School, and Litchfield Middle School as surplus property.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Steward

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes
Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

3. **Out-of-State and Overnight Field Trips**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the following out-of-state and overnight field trips.

- a. Gadsden City High School: Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is requesting a trip to the FCCLA National Competition in Orlando, FL, July 4 – July 10, 2025.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes
Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney – Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

- b. Gadsden City High School: Scholars' Bowl requests a trip for National Championship in Chicago, IL, May 30 – June 2, 2025.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes
Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney – Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

4. **CNP Cooler-Freezer Bids**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the following cooler and freezer bids at Donehoo Elementary and Litchfield Middle School.

- a. Donehoo Elementary School

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

b. Litchfield Middle School

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

5. **Salary Schedule Revision**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the revised salary schedule discussed in the March 13, 2025 work session.

2024-2025 GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION DIRECTORS SALARY SCHEDULE			
Years of Experience	DO	6Y	MS
< 3 years (0,1,2)	100,873	98,946	95,733
< 6 years (3,4,5)	103,745	101,818	98,607
< 9 years (6,7,8)	106,702	104,775	101,565
< 12 years (9,10,11)	110,460	108,552	105,288
< 15 years (12,13,14)	112,763	110,864	107,592
< 18 years (15,16,17)	115,151	113,235	109,972
< 21 years (18,19,20)	118,716	116,798	113,523
< 24 years (21,22,23)	119,566	117,635	114,326
< 27 years (24,25,26)	120,877	118,845	115,414
27+ years	122,210	120,077	116,524
ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION Plus travel Supplement of \$3,000 Experience = years of experience in education			
27			

2024-2025 GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION Assistant Superintendent SALARY SCHEDULE			
Years of Experience	DO	6Y	MS
< 3 years (0,1,2)	119,444	117,517	114,304
< 6 years (3,4,5)	122,316	120,389	117,178
< 9 years (6,7,8)	125,274	123,346	120,136
< 12 years (9,10,11)	129,031	127,123	123,859
< 15 years (12,13,14)	131,335	129,435	126,163
< 18 years (15,16,17)	133,722	131,806	128,543
< 21 years (18,19,20)	137,287	135,370	132,094
< 24 years (21,22,23)	138,138	136,206	132,897
< 27 years (24,25,26)	139,448	137,416	133,985
27+ years	144,265	142,233	138,802
ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION Plus travel Supplement of \$3,000 Experience = years of experience in education			
27			

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

6. Personnel Action Recommendations

a. Part A

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the following personnel actions be approved:

RESIGNATION		
<u>Resignation:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
Latoria Horton (b/f)	Donehoo Elementary School Classroom Teacher	03/17/2025
Jill Harrison (w/f)	Striplin Elementary School CNP Manager	04/30/2025
Janice Hall (b/f)	Litchfield Middle School CNP Worker	06/01/2025

RETIREMENT

<u>Retirement:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
Julie Lumpkin Payne (w/f)	Gadsden City High School Teacher/Librarian	06/01/2025
Beth Cameron (w/f)	Striplin Elementary School Media Specialist	06/01/2025
Cheri Williams (w/f)	Mitchell Elementary School First Grade Teacher	06/01/2025
Kathy Towns (w/f)	Mitchell Elementary School Physical Education Teacher	06/01/2025
Nicolas White (w/m)	Gadsden City High School Custodian	07/01/2025
Wanda Tedder (w/f)	Maintenance Department Secretary/Purchasing Agent	06/01/2025

(PART A) REEMPLOYMENT

<u>Reemployment:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
(A-1) Ivan Cattling, Jr. (b/m)	Systemwide Special Education Aide Litchfield Middle School	08/01/2024 Pending Board Approval

(PART B) NEW PERSONNEL

<u>New Employee:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
(B-1) Sonyia Bowen (w/f)	Systemwide Special Education Aide Thompson Elementary 2425.186	04/04/2025 Pending Board Approval

SUBSTITUTES

<u>New Teacher Substitute:</u>	<u>New Support Substitutes:</u>	<u>Afterschool Substitutes:</u>
Laverne Weston	Willie Sayles, Jr. Noemi Banegas	Sydney Sexton Charissa Stephens

Non-Certified Substitutes:

Jillian Garmon
Reagan Rodman
Steven Williams

2025 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT CHILD NUTRITION SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM
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<u>Names:</u>	<u>Position:</u>	<u>Effective Date:</u>
Deborah Samples (w/f)	Summer Feeding Manager #2425.191	06/02/2025-06/27/2025
Debra Bishop (w/f)	Summer Feeding Worker #2425.192	06/02/2025-06/27/2025
Heather Bates (w/f)	Summer Feeding Worker #2425.192	06/02/2025-06/27/2025
Anthony Powell (b/m)	Summer Feeding Worker #2425.192	06/02/2025-06/27/2025
Cynthia Beshears (w/f)	Summer Feeding Worker #2425.192	06/02/2025-06/27/2025
Jim Samples (w/m)	Summer Feeding Driver #2425.193	06/02/2025-06/27/2025
KeSean Williams (b/m)	Summer Feeding Driver Helper #2425.194	06/02/2025-06/27/2025

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes
Mr. Mike Haney – Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

b. **Personnel Action Recommendation (Part B)**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the board approve the termination of Belinda Martin, Custodian at Eura Brown Elementary School, effective 04/09/2025.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes
Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes
Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

7. **Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Amendment**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve Budget Amendment No. 1 presented by CSFO Cory Skelton.

Approved 04/08/2025

**GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Fiscal Year 2025
Amendment No. 1**

	Funding Source	Amount
<u>New Grants/Funding</u>		
TEAMS	1132	(4,331)
Reading Coaches	1230	658,750
SELI/ODF	1255	40,910
SPED Behavioral Analyst	1256	56,000
SPED Teacher Supplement	1257	47,236
Speech Path Supplement	1258	3,409
School Safety/Climate (AG)	1271	40,000
AEDs in Schools	1417	21,000
OSR - Eura Brown II	1722	135,000
Governor's Turnaround Aux	1722	150,000
K-12 Capital Grant	1761	100,000
CCR	1768	171,500
Summer Math Camps	1769	83,325
Summer Reading Camps	1774	205,660
Struggling Readers	1775	4,466
High Cost Grant SPED	2241	285,000
AL Summer Achievement Program	2901	203,977
After School Tutoring	2901	71,904
Career Tech	3317	25,355
Title I	4110	85,781
Title I - Migrant	4115	10,788
Title II	4130	19,724
Title III ELA	4150	83,441
21st Century	4161	1,215,400
County Commission	6510	6,500
Fine Arts	6520	395,000
Elementary Aide (Local)	6524	180,000
Pub School Cap Outlay	8411	68,421
		<u>4,368,547.67</u>
<u>Reclassifications/Corrections</u>		
ESL - STATE	1252	
State Preschool	1520	
Special Education	3210	
Preschool	3220	
Title I	4110	
Title III	4150	
TITLE IV - STUDENT SUPPORT	4160	
Homeless	4195	
CNP	5101	
General Fund	6001	
<u>Carryover</u>		
Special Education	3210	549,619.83
Preschool	3220	16,255.61
Title I	4110	289,017.42
Title II Teacher/Principal Training	4130	251,940.30
Title IV	4160	7,385.47
21st Century	4161	321,182.74
Stronger Connections	4165	226,393.74

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Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

8. **Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the monthly financial report and cash balances presented by CSFO Cory Skelton. The

financial data and cash balances presented are based on the reconciled bank statement and the general ledger as of February 28, 2025.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

F. Information Items

1. Old Business
 - a. Chairmen Allen Millican inquired about how the funds are allocated when the millage is distributed to the schools and the process involved in paying bonds. CSFO Cory Skelton explained this process. Chairmen Millican expressed interest in obtaining more detailed information regarding the funding distribution.
2. New Business
 - a. The spring events calendar lists the dates and times for graduation, awards days, and school activities.
 - b. Superintendent Blackwell explained a letter to the board members in their packets regarding the upcoming election to renew the property tax that supports Gadsden City Schools. He emphasized that this is neither a new tax nor an increase, but rather a renewal that is voted on every twenty years. Superintendent Blackwell urged board members to highlight the significance of voting for this renewal to the community.
3. **Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 06, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Eura Brown Elementary School.**

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. on motion by Rev. Z. Andre' Huff.

Secretary/Superintendent

Date