



August Regular Board Meeting  
08/05/2025 05:00 PM  
Gadsden City Board of Education  
Central Office Board Room

## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendance

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#### Voting Members

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

**Absent**

#### Non-Voting Members

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

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

Chairman Millican called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Board member Rita Smith led with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chairman Millican declared a quorum was present.

### B. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

#### 1. Reginal (Reggie) Lindsey, The EAGLES Program at Auburn University

Sharon Maness recognized Reggie Lindsey for his outstanding achievement in receiving a two-year scholarship with The EAGLES program at Auburn University. This scholarship is a testament to Reggie's hard work, dedication, and commitment to personal development. Reggie graduated from Gadsden City High School and has worked at the Beautiful Rainbow.

The board congratulates Reggie on this remarkable milestone in his academic journey and looks forward to his continued success at Auburn University.

#### 2. Central Carver Alumni Association

Superintendent Blackwell recognized the Central Carver Alumni Association for their generous donation of \$20,000. This fundraising contribution will support Gadsden City students in schools serving lower economic demographics. The board expresses gratitude for this significant support and its positive impact on our students' educational opportunities.

**C. Approval of Agenda**

The August agenda was presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

**D. Reports**

**1. Superintendent and CSFO Evaluation Report - Dr. David Asbury**

Dr. David Asbury reviewed the results from the evaluations of Mr. Blackwell, Superintendent, and Mrs. Skelton, CSFO with the board members. The board members, directors, and principals evaluated the superintendent, and the board members and principals evaluated the CSFO.

**E. Board Action**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

**a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - July 1, 2025**

The minutes from the July 01, 2025, Regular Board meeting were presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

**b. Special Called Board Meeting Minutes - July 11, 2025**

The minutes from the July 11, 2025, Special Called Board meeting were presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

## **2. Surplus Property Reports for Mitchell Elementary and Gadsden City High**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the surplus property reports from Mitchell Elementary School and Gadsden City High School.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

## **3. Fiscal Year 2026 Salary Schedule**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Salary Schedule.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

## **4. Updates to the Code of Student Conduct and Elementary Handbook for the 2025-2026 School Year**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the updates to the 2025-2026 Code of Student Conduct and the Elementary Handbook.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

## **5. Revision to Policy JBCB: Nonresident Students Status**

Assistant Superintendent Sharon Maness presented revisions to board policy JBCB: Nonresident Students for approval to the board.

### **Policy JBCB: Nonresident Students Status: DRAFT**

Original Adopted Date: 06/05/2007 | Last Reviewed Date: 07/30/2025

~~**Old:** The Gadsden City Board of Education defines nonresident students as students whose parents or legal guardians live outside the school district. All nonresident students seeking enrollment in the Gadsden City School System shall be considered for admittance upon availability of space and programs offered.~~

**New:** The Gadsden City Board of Education defines nonresident students as students whose parents or legal guardians live outside the geographical boundaries of the school district. Nonresident students are qualified for enrollment in Gadsden City School System if they are in good standing with attendance and discipline at their prior school and during enrollment in Gadsden City School System. All qualified nonresident students who apply for enrollment in the Gadsden City School System shall be considered subject to the availability of space, staff, and programs offered at the individual school at which you are seeking enrollment. Final decisions on availability of space, staff, and programs offered for the enrollment of nonresident students are made only after all resident students have been enrolled. Students who require specialized instruction may be considered for enrollment at another school in the district if the individual school at which you seek enrollment lacks adequate staff based on the pupil-to-teacher ratio.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes  
Hon. Allen Millican - Yes  
Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes  
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes  
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

## 6. Personnel Actions

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the following personnel recommendations.

### **Retirement:**

**Donna Harmon**, Lunchroom Worker, Thompson Elementary School, effective 06/01/2025

### **Resignation:**

**Deonte Huff**, 2nd Grade Teacher, Striplin Elementary School, effective 07/01/2025

**Lindsey Dukes**, OSR Pre-K Lead Teacher, Floyd Elementary School, effective 07/07/2025

**Dawn Tumlin**, Counselor, Gadsden City High School, effective 07/18/2025

**Austin Reynolds**, Business Education Teacher, Gadsden Middle School, effective 07/17/2025

**Tabatha Ashley**, Classroom Teacher, Donehoo Elementary School, effective 08/15/2025

**Wesley McGhee**, Science Teacher, Litchfield Middle School, effective 08/08/2025

**Eboni Malone**, Groundskeeper, Maintenance Department, effective 07/31/2025

**Tara Williams**, CNP Worker, Gadsden City High School, effective 07/31/2025

### **Declining Position:**

**Wendy LongCrier**, Districtwide Special Education Teacher #2526.087, Homeschool: Gadsden Middle School, effective 07/18/2025

**Morgan Feltman**, Lunchroom Worker #2526.072, Mitchell Elementary School, effective 07/28/2025

**Merideth Schneider**, CNP Assistant Manager #2526.058, Gadsden City High School, effective 07/31/2025

### **Leave of Absence:**

**Kristian Caudle**, Classroom Teacher, Thompson Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025-09/26/2025

### **(Part A) Reemployment:**

**Laura Biggio**, ARI Interventionist (one year only) #2526.111, Striplin

Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Jonathan McKinney**, K-2 Auxiliary Teacher/Aide #2526.113, Striplin

Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Angelikia Brasher**, Instructional Aide #2526.115, Striplin Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Brennetta Watkins**, Title I Instructional Aide #2526.109, Striplin Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**(Part B) Transfers:**

**Glenda Vaughn**, Lunchroom Worker at Donehoo Elementary School to Lunchroom Worker at Gadsden City High School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Ron Engle**, HVAC/R Instructor at Gadsden City High School to Promotion Coach at Gadsden City High School #2526.117, effective 08/13/2025

**(Part C) New Personnel:**

**Shelisa Brown-Taylor**, District Math Coach #2526.013, Homeschool: Thompson Elementary School, effective 07/21/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Zachary Stewart**, Automotive Instructor #2526.094, Gadsden City High School Career Technical, effective 07/30/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Kacy Harcrow**, Classroom Teacher #2526.096, Adams Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Alana Blood Slay**, Classroom Teacher #2526.101, Adams Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Chelsea Ray**, Classroom Teacher #2526.078, Thompson Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Allison Miller**, Pre-School Administrator and Curriculum Specialist #2526.103, Evan Start/Family Literacy Center, effective 07/22/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Kassandra Barkley**, Districtwide Special Education Teacher #2526.087, Gadsden Middle School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Ethan Terry**, Business/Marketing Education Teacher #2526.107, Gadsden Middle School, effective 07/29/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Adrienne Champion**, OSR Per-K Teacher #2526.098, Floyd Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Nallely Vega**, Science Teacher #2526.121, Litchfield Middle School, effective 08/06/2025

**Michelle Gordon**, 5th Grade Teacher #2526.099, Adams Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Melissa W. Whisenhunt**, Systemwide Instructional Special Education Aide #2526.116, Adams Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Mikyah Davis**, Title I Instructional Aide #2526.110, Adams Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Donna Rowland**, Lunchroom Worker #2526.104, Mitchell Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Allison Boyd**, Lunchroom Worker #2526.097, Walnut Park Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Kodi Davis**, Lunchroom Worker #2526.106, Donehoo Elementary School, effective 08/04/2025 (pending Board approval)

**Ryan R. Bostick**, Groundskeeper #2526.108, Maintenance Department, effective 08/15/2025

**Substitutes:**

New Non-Certified Substitute Teachers:

Cody Beshears

Debra Groul

Sherry Guthrie

Artavious McCloud

Reapplying Non-Certified Substitute Teachers:

Dimika Chapman-Bozeman

Christina Glass

Sumika Mackroy

New Support Substitutes:

Michael Butler

Janice Hall

**Personnel Recommendations** - Under Alabama law, all new employees are subject to a criminal background check, and all employment recommendations are contingent upon a satisfactory criminal background report.

**Gadsden City Board of Education ANNEX - 21st Century  
Recommendations for 2025-2026 After-School Program**

Substitutes:

Christy Baker

Nicki Blount

Patricia Burttram

Rachel Cole

Paula Elliott

Margaret Haygood

Brenda Jimenez

Shelly Mason

Jerresa McGee

Susan Scruggs

Ginger Stevens

Nicole Tudor  
Shannon Underwood  
Shereka Wright

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

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

## **7. 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 are based on the reconciled bank statement and the general ledger as of June 30, 2025.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Not Present  
Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes  
Hon. Allen Millican - Yes  
Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes  
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes  
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

## **F. Information Items**

### **1. Old Business**

No old business to report.

### **2. New Business**

- Superintendent Blackwell discussed the newly appointed President of Gadsden State Community College, Mr. Allen Smith, and plans to offer more dual enrollment classes for Gadsden City High students. Mr. Blackwell also stated that Gadsden State Community College is paying to transport the students to and from Gadsden City High School. GSCC offers a variety of courses for high school students, with new ones added this year, such as welding, mechanical design technology, and computer-aided design (CAD) software.

- Superintendent Blackwell announced that the Parent Teacher Resource Center (PTRC) hours are changing to stay open until 5:00 PM. The reason is to broaden the use of the PTRC and be more accessible for parents. The PTRC will be open to assist parents with PowerSchool and other computer programs related to school.
- Fall Athletic Schedules for middle and high school.

**3. Next Board Meetings**

- Budget Hearing #1 is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Central Office**
- Regular Board Meeting and Budget #2 scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Donehoo Elementary School**
- Options for Work Session - Tuesday, September 16 or Tuesday, September 23**

**G. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Mark Dayton.

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Date

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Superintendent/Secretary