



Gadsden City Board of Education
May Regular Meeting
05/06/2025 05:00 PM
Eura Brown Elementary School
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
Mike Haney, Board Member – District 4
Mrs. Nancy Stewart, Board Member – District 6

Absent Voting Members

Z. Andre' Huff, Board Member – District 3

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 5:02 p.m. Mrs. Rita Smith led with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chairman Millican declared a quorum 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 and Special Guests

1. Eura Brown Elementary kindergarten teachers introduce the students who performed the Star-Spangled Banner on the bells.
2. Superintendent Blackwell introduced Kiera Hampton and Mariah Ragland, members of Gadsden City High School's flag football team. Kiera and Mariah are the first players to sign a scholarship to play at the collegiate level. Kiera will attend Snead State Community College, and Mariah will attend Wallace State Community College.
3. Superintendent Blackwell introduced Saira Vargas and Blaze Wade for placing as State runners-up at the Alabama Skills USA Competition. Saira competed in the electrical competition and Blaze competed in the automotive competition. Saira qualified to compete in the nationals since the state winner would not be able to attend.
4. Eura Brown kindergarten students return to sing and play the bells to Take Me Out to the Ball Game, and they recognize Mrs. Kim Back on her retirement.
5. Chairman Allen Millican recognized the City Councilmen Mr. Kent Back and Mr. Steve Smith, Judge Jonathan Welch, and Circuit Judge Brynn Crain in attendance.

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 – Absent

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

D. Reports

1. Mrs. Marcia Farabee, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented plan for the 2025 Summer Learning Experience, which will run from June 2nd to June 26th for elementary students at Adams, Floyd, and Striplin. The camps, themed "Oh, The Places You Will Go!" will operate Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 AM to 3:00

PM, focusing on literacy, math, and enrichment through activities like art, music, STEM, and PE. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, with transportation available. Students from Donehoo will attend Adams Elementary; those from Walnut Park Elementary and Mitchell will go to Floyd Elementary; and Thompson and Eura Brown students will be placed at Striplin Elementary. Currently, 265 students are registered, with more expected after ACAP reading scores are released on May 15th. An extended day option from 3:00 to 5:30 PM will offer additional enrichment through Federal Programs.

Secondary Summer School at Gadsden City High School will also run from June 2nd to June 26th, Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, targeting seniors for credit recovery or traditional summer school for seniors who need one class to graduate. For middle school, a skills-focused camp will be offered to 8th graders to provide one class to be promoted to 9th and 6th-7th graders who failed two classes so they can take one during summer school and the other during the school year, or if they are truant, with over 15 absences. The fee for the Summer Learning Experience for \$200.

Emma Sansom Middle will host Summer Enrichment Camps from June 2nd to June 12th for grades 6-8. Community sites like Carver, Ignite, Antioch, and the Boys and Girls Club will offer free camps for elementary students. There will also be camps for English Learners at Adams and GCHS, and a Career and Technical Education introduction program for middle-grade students during the first week of summer.

1. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the regular board meeting on April 08, 2025, were presented to the board for approval.

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 – Absent

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 Eura Brown Elementary School, Floyd

Elementary School, Gadsden City High School, and Litchfield Middle School as surplus property.

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 – Absent

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: Cheerleaders attend a cheer camp at the University of West Georgia. The dates are June 23 – June 25, 2025.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

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 - Absent

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

- b. Emma Sansom, Gadsden, Litchfield Middle School: Students attend Universal Studios in Orlando, FL. The dates are January 31 – February 5, 2026.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

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

4. **CNP Summer Feeding Program**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the sites for the Summer Feeding Program during the month of June 2025.

The anticipated locations are: Adams Elementary, Floyd Elementary, Striplin Elementary, Gadsden City High School, Emma Sansom Middle School, Carver, East Gadsden Community Center, YMCA, Raymond Hill Community Center at Eura Brown, Boys and Girls Club, Antioch Baptist Church, Colley Homes, New Destiny Church, and SPAN Program.

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

5. **Personnel Action Recommendations**

a. **Part A**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the following personnel actions be approved:

Resignation:

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------|
| Emma Grace Dilley (w/f) | Emma Sansom Middle Strings Teacher | 05/23/2025 |
| Amanda Fordham (w/f) | Gadsden Middle, Donehoo Elementary, Walnut Park Elem EL Teacher | 05/23/2025 |
| Paul Hawk (w/m) | Emma Sansom Middle 8 th Grade History Teacher | 05/23/2025 |
| Dawn Hickman (b/f) | Walnut Park Elementary Classroom Teacher | 05/23/2025 |
| Brianna Willett (w/f) | Striplin Elementary Secretary/Bookkeeper | 05/02/2025 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------|
| Marcia Thompson (w/f) | Walnut Park Elementary Secretary/Bookkeeper | 06/03/2025 |
|-----------------------|--|------------|

Retirement:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|------------|
| Kimberly Back (w/f) | Eura Brown Elementary Kindergarten Teacher | 06/01/2025 |
|---------------------|---|------------|

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|-----------------------------------|---|------------|
| Shannon Skipper (w/f) Campbell | Gadsden Middle 6 th Grade Science Teacher | 06/01/2025 |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------|

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|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|
| Andria Blackwell (w/f) | Emma Sansom Middle Librarian | 06/01/2025 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------|

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Kristen Woods (w/f) | Walnut Park Elementary Principal | 07/01/2025 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Pangela McGee (b/f) | Gadsden Middle Math Teacher | 06/01/2025 |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------|

| | | |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| Anita Kinsey (w/f) | Gadsden City High Business Marketing Education Teacher | 06/01/2025 |
|--------------------|---|------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Twanda Buchanan (b/f) | Litchfield Middle Lunchroom Worker | 06/01/2025 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|

Medical Leave of Absences:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alice Buggs | Donehoo Elementary LPN | April 7 – May 23, 2025 |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|

Reemployment:

| | | |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Jasmine Guyton (b/f) | Emma Sansom Middle Title I ELA Teacher #2526.008 | Effective Date: 08/04/2025 <i>One year only</i> |
|----------------------|--|--|

Transfers:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Dawn Rains (w/f) | Donehoo Elementary Teacher | To: Districtwide EL Resource Teacher #2526.012 | Effective Date: 08/04/2025 |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|------------|
| America Jayroe (w/f) | Emma Sansom Middle Classroom Teacher | Emma Sansom Middle Library Media Specialist #2526.017 | 08/04/2025 |
|----------------------|---|--|------------|

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Dr. Roy Bliss (w/m) | Floyd Elementary Interim Principal | Floyd Elementary Principal #2425.009 | 07/01/2025 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Willie Jean (b/f) McQueen | Striplin Elementary Special Ed Teacher | Striplin Elementary Library Media Specialist #2526.016 | 08/04/2025 |
|------------------------------|---|---|------------|

New Personnel:

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Noah Gipson (w/m) | Districtwide Strings Teacher #2526.011 Homeschool: Emma Sansom Middle | Effective Date: 08/04/2025 |
|-------------------|---|--------------------------------------|

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Sydney Barkley Hill (w/f) | Speech Pathologist #2526.010 | 08/04/2025 |
| Sarah Riddlespur (w/f) | Custodian #2425.190 Eura Brown Elementary | 04/21/2025 Pending Board Approval |
| Ashley Carter (b/f) | Secretary/Bookkeeper #2425.201 Striplin Elementary | 05/15/2025 |
| Allyson Drew Rhea (w/f) | Special Education Aide Systemwide Adams Elementary School #2425.188 | 05/06/2025 |

Substitutes

Certified Sub:

Gabriel Cox

New Non-Certified Sub:

Zhanie McClain

Community Education/21st Century Summer Programs

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| School Nurses: | Adams Elementary | Floyd Elementary | Striplin Elementary |
| Posting #2425.197 | Jennifer Holcomb, RN | Heather Mabe, RN | Christy Ford, RN |
| Substitute Nurses: | LaShunda Brewster, RN | Teresa Gladden, RN | Staci Stephens, RN |
| | Melissa McKee, RN | Kelli Gregg, RN | Sandra Hill, RN |
| | Perry Marshall, LPN | Martha Lopez, RN | |
| | | | |
| Substitute: | Maria Infante for Literacy/EL Camp | | |

Elementary Summer Camp Personnel Recommendations

#2425.195 Teachers and #2425.196 Support

Location placements are tentative and will be based on enrollment

Adams Elementary

Teachers

Celeste Back
Pat Burttram
Chelsea Collins
India Mostella
Kimberly Mummert
Dawn Rains
Jennifer Slaughter
Cybil Smith
Terri Jo Dean
Cory Dunn
Dasha Moore
Tameka Stephens
Reginald Tillis
Desiree Andrews

Floyd Elementary

Teachers

Pat Bradley
Gena Barnes
Laura Johnson
Eriica Mallard
Shannon Morgan
Amanda Moses
Alyson Noah
Amanda Rogers
Daphne Gunnin
Brittany Weems
Shereka Wright
Jasmine Guyton
Staci Simmons
Debbi Alford

Striplin Elementary

Teachers

Katherine Barnes
Laura Biggio
Cheslie Cambron
Julie Daniel
Niesha Johnson
Amy R. Smith
Emani Steward
Greta Swain
Orsola Turner
April Washburn
Emily Watson
Van Kedra Wilson
Niambi Cherry
Sandra Cherry

Molly Jordan
Nicole Tudor
Ashley Whitlow

Support:

Fannie Dillon
LaToya Williams
Pamela Wheat
Xavier Ray

Substitutes:

Christy Alred
Stephanie Bowley
Katie Holderfield
Sally Waldrop

Support:

Stephanie Green
Lenalda Woods
Vachon Watts
Lindsey Dukes
Taneisha Thompson

21st Century sites TBD

Teachers:

John Paul Madrigal
Tymetric Dillon
Karen Abercrombie
Tymetric Dillon

Karen Abercrombie

Support:

Donna Hickman
Regina Adkison
Nick Lewis
Sylvia Horton

Emily Hayes
Deonte Huff
Madeline Johnson
Lyn Elder-Tarver
Megen McCright
Annessa Henderson
Wesley McGhee
Chris Weaver
Christina White
Tashia Phillips

Support:

Lamont Kyle
Gloria McDaniels
Cilia Wise
LaShunda Brewster
Aide 7:30 – 1:30
Nurse 1:30 – 5:00

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

b. Personnel Action Recommendation (Part B)

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the board approve Part B of personnel recommendations for non-renewals.

Non-Renewals – Certified

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position, Location, and Effective Date</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| Clay, Zac | Teacher, Social Studies - Gadsden City High, 05/23/2025 |
| Entrekin, Tony | Teacher, ELA Grade 6 – Gadsden Middle, 05/23/2025 |
| Hawkins, Dwayne | Teacher, Sec. Science – Gadsden Middle, 05/23/2025 |
| Johnson, Jarius | Band Teacher – Litchfield Middle, 05/23/2025 |
| McClendon, Kerry | Teacher, Special Education – Litchfield Middle, 05/23/2025 |
| Johnson, Niesha | Teacher, Elementary – Adams Elementary, 05/23/2025 |
| Beal, Jennifer | Teacher, Elementary – Adams Elementary, 05/23/2025 |
| McCluney, Merita | Counselor – Adams Elementary, 05/23/2025 |

DCM Form B-6
Revised August 2021

CERTIFIED TABULATION OF BIDS

Project: A New Storage Building at Gadsden
City High School Athletic Fields for the Gadsden
City Board of Education, Gadsden, Alabama

DCM Project No 20240662
McKee Project No 24-247
Board Meeting Date _____
PSCA Project No (if applicable) _____
Amount of Available Funds: _____

As tabulated below, bids were received:

Date Tuesday, April 22, 2025 Time 2:00 PM
Place Gadsden City Schools- 1026 Chestnut St, Gadsden, AL 35901

| Contractor | Boatner Construction Co, Inc | Bradshaw & Pitts, LLC | Greer Building Contractors, LLC | Genesis Construction, Inc | Hurst Construction, LLC | Kyser Construction | Pai Kirk General Contractor, Inc |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Surety | NGM Insurance Company | Cincinnati Insurance Company | Merchants National Bonding, Inc | Employers Mutual Casualty Company | Atlantic Specialty Insurance Company | The Cincinnati Insurance Company | The Cincinnati Insurance Company |
| All Addenda Acknowledged | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 |
| Base Bid on Proposal | \$ 579,000.00 | \$ 586,581.00 | \$ 519,995.00 | \$ 447,800.00 | \$ 475,907.00 | \$ 300,000.00 | \$ 500,000.00 |
| Base Bid Envelope Adjustment | \$ (13,000.00) | | | | | \$ 300,000.00 | \$ (34,000.00) |
| Total Base Bid | \$ 566,000.00 | \$ 586,581.00 | \$ 519,995.00 | \$ 447,800.00 | \$ 475,907.00 | \$ 600,000.00 | \$ 466,000.00 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | \$. | \$. | \$. | \$. | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 566,000.00 | \$ 586,581.00 | \$ 519,995.00 | \$ 447,800.00 | \$ 475,907.00 | \$ 600,000.00 | \$ 466,000.00 |
| Remarks | | | | Non-Responsive | | | |

I certify that the above bids were advertised, were received sealed, were publicly opened, and read aloud at the time and place indicated and that this is a true and correct tabulation of all bids received for this project

McKee & Associates Architects, Inc
Architectural / Engineering Firm Name

By Walter T. McKee Jr
Signature

Walter T. McKee Jr. Owner
Print Name and Title of Architect / Engineer

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 22nd day of April,
2025 (Month, Year)

[Signature]
Notary Public Signature

Seal

My Commission Expires
September 2, 2026



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 – Absent

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – 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 presented are based on the reconciled bank statement and the general ledger as of March 31, 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 – Absent

Mr. Mike Haney – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

8. Board Officer Election for the 2025-2026 School Year

a. School Board President/Chair

Board Member Nancy Stewart nominated Allen Millican for President of the Gadsden City Board of Education. Mark Dayton seconded the nomination. There were no more nominations. By a unanimous vote, Allen Millican was elected President of the Gadsden City Board of Education.

b. School Board Vice President/Vice-Chair

Board Member Allen Millican nominated Mark Dayton to be Vice President of the Gadsden City Board of Education. There were no more nominations, so by unanimous vote, Mark Dayton was elected Vice President of the Gadsden City Board of Education.

2. Information Items

1. Old Business

- a. Superintendent Blackwell mentioned the system has concluded the Accreditation exit interview. Chairman Millican stated he and Z. Andre' Huff participated in the system exit interview. Gadsden City Schools received high praise, and the Cognia team was particularly impressed with a video showcasing the opportunities available to students.

2. New Business

- a. The Retirement Tea to recognize retirees of the 2024-2025 school year will be held on Monday, May 19, from 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. at the Gadsden City Board of Education.
 - b. The board meeting schedule for the 2025-2026 school year will include the five schools that were not visited during the 2024-2025 school year.
 - c. WRBC 6 News is conducting a story showcasing Eura Brown and Donehoo Elementary School. The segment will air twice emphasizing Eura Brown's accomplishment of being the #2 elementary school in the State of Alabama and Donehoo's high improvement of #25 in the State.
 - d. Gadsden City High School graduation is on Thursday, May 22, 2025, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Titan Stadium. In case of rain, the date will be on Friday, May 23. Chair Millican mentioned the jumbotron is being installed with plans of being ready by graduation.
3. **Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 03, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at Gadsden City Board of Education.**

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Rita Smith.

Secretary/Superintendent

Date