

Approved 08/05/2025

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

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 - **Absent**
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

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

Chairman Millican called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board Member Rev. Huff led with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. A quorum was declared present.

B. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

Chairman Millican recognized the principals in attendance, Mr. Gullledge and Mr. Loyd, Security Officer James Mitchell, and the auditor, Mr. Scott Lee.

C. Approval of Agenda

The July 1, 2025, agenda was presented to the board for approval.

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. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

D. Reports

1. Auditors Report-Scott Lee, CPA

Mr. Scott Lee of Richard, Harris, Ingram, and Bozeman, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, gave the auditor's report for the year ending on September 30, 2024.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Gadsden City Board of Education (the "Board"), a component unit of the City of Gadsden, Alabama, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Board as of September 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes of the June 03, 2025, Regular Board Meeting

The minutes from the June 03, 2025, regular board meeting were presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

2. Surplus Property

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the surplus property report from 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. Mike Haney - Yes

3. Focus Act - Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy

Superintendent Blackwell requested that the board approve two new policies to comply with the FOCUS Act and HB166, as requested by the Alabama State Department of Education. They are called the Focus Act: Cell Phone and Personal Electronic Device Policy and the Internet Safety Policy.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

4. CNP Bid Extensions/renewals for an additional year

a. Child Nutrition Program's Milk Products Bid #23-010

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the rollover option for the Milk Products Bid #23-010 for the school year 2025-2026 with New Dairy Kentucky, LLC d/b/a Borden Dairy. The bid is shared with Etowah County and Attalla City Schools.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

b. Child Nutrition Program's Supplemental Grocery Items Bid #2024-02

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the renewal of the CNP Supplemental Grocery Items Bid #2024-02 contract that was awarded to Osborn's Brothers.

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. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

5. Personnel Recommendations

Approved 08/05/2025

a. Part A

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the following personnel actions:

Resignation and Effective Date:

Madison Abigail Buchanan, Gadsden City High School, English Language Arts Teacher, Effective 05/23/2025

Meredith Snow, Gadsden Middle School, Special Education Teacher, effective 05/23/2025

Rodney Miller, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 07/01/2025

Tommy Norris, Litchfield Middle School, Special Education Aide, effective 06/01/2025

Denise McDaniel, Eura Brown Elementary School, Lunchroom Worker, effective 07/01/2025

Marlon Russell, Thompson Elementary School, Physical Education Teacher, effective 05/23/2025

Leave of Absences and Effective Date:

Jacob Palmer, Gadsden Middle School, Classroom Teacher, effective 06/2025 – 06/2026

(Part A) Reemployment and Effective Date:

(A-1) Kent Back, Adams Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025
#2526.034

(A-2) Carlton Baise, Floyd Elementary School, Title I Instructional Aide, effective 08/04/2025
(August-September only) **#2526.083**

(A-3) Brenda Jimenez, Floyd Elementary School, Title I Instructional Aide, effective 08/04/2025
(August-September only) **#2526.083**

(A-4) Ian Lee, Homeschool: Even Start, Systemwide Instructional Aide-Special Education, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.023**

(A-5) Erin Lockridge, Eura Brown Elementary School, OSR-Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 (One year only) **#2526.033**

(A-6) Pamela Hayes, Donehoo Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025
#2526.075

(Part B) Transfers and Effective Date:

(B-1) Rashida Starr, Striplin Elementary, ARI Reading Coach, to Adams Elementary School, Assistant Principal, effective 07/17/2025 **#2526.043**

(B-2) Amanda Rogers, Eura Brown Elementary, Classroom Teacher, to Districtwide: Floyd Elementary (homeschool), OMI Math Coach, effective 07/18/2025 **#2526.013**

(B-3) Desiree Andrews, Adams Elementary, Classroom Teacher, to Litchfield Middle/Emma Sansom Middle (LMS homeschool), Business Education Teacher, effective 07/23/2025
#2526.040

(B-4) April Washburn, Thompson Elementary, Math Coach, to Floyd Elementary, Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.088**

(B-5) Michelle Brooks, Even Start, Systemwide Special Education Teacher, to Systemwide/Central Office, Special Education Teacher on Assignment, effective 07/21/2025
#2526.073

(Part C) New Personnel and Effective Date:

- (C-1) Jackson Fussell, Districtwide, EL Resource Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.012**
(C-2) Jennifer Clifton, Striplin Elementary School, Districtwide Classroom Teacher Special Education, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.042**
(C-3) Brandi Whiteside, Striplin Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.053**
(C-4) William Hunter Shell, Gadsden City High School, Assistant Band Director, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.041**
(C-5) Maggie Bellew, Gadsden City High School, Family Consumer Science Teacher, effective 07/23/2025 **#2526.070**
(C-6) Sherry Jenkins, Adams Elementary School, Counselor, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.056**
(C-7) Alisha Owens, Walnut Park Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.077**
(C-8) Melissa Jones, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.082**
(C-9) Molly Bellew, Eura Brown Elementary School, Third Grade Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.085**
(C-10) Sydney Fairchild, Walnut Park Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.077**
(C-11) Brandie Mobbs, Gadsden City High School, English Language Arts Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.081**
(C-12) Austin Waits, Gadsden City High School, Classroom Teacher: Fine Arts Choral & Theatre, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.074**
(C-13) Haley Jackson, Litchfield Middle School, Band Director, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.055**
(C-14) Becky Rogers, Walnut Park Elementary School, Secretary/Bookkeeper, effective 07/23/2025 **#2526.076**
(C-15) Shannon Arledge, Floyd Elementary School, OSR Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 (one year only) **#2526.030**
(C-16) Tina Morgan, Mitchell Elementary School, OSR Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher, effective 08/04/2025 (one year only) **#2526.031**
(C-17) Charniequeis Walker, Mitchell Elementary School, Lunchroom Worker, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.072**
(C-18) Morgan Feltman, Mitchell Elementary School, Lunchroom Worker, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.072**
(C-19) Quintarius Hutchison, Gadsden City High School (homeschool), Systemwide Instructional Aide - Special Education, effective 08/04/2025 **#2526.023**

TEAMS Contracts:

Jessica Dillard, Emma Sansom Middle School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Rethal Avery, Emma Sansom Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Krista Larkin, Emma Sansom Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (5 Years)
Jessica Nunnally, Emma Sansom Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Krista Ashley, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Aaron Bailey, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Joresa Bothwell, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Robert Davis, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Mandy Frantz, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (5 Years)

Angela Gooch, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Catherine Green, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Katherine Tang, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Jimmie Tinker, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Sue Bliss, Gadsden Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Christina Ford, Gadsden Middle School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Andrew Elrod, Gadsden Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (1 Year)
Megen McCright, Gadsden Middle School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Leah Day, Litchfield Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (5 Years)
Wesley McGhee, Litchfield Middle School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (3 Years)
Molly Jordan, Litchfield Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 07/01/2025 (1 Year)
James Newcomb, Litchfield Middle School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 07/01/2025 (1 Year)

Substitute Teachers – Reapplying 2025-2026:

Stephen Taylor

Support Substitutes – New for 2025-2026:

Tommy Norris

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:

21st Century Program Director #2526.059

Janie Browning

21st Century Bookkeeper #2526.060

Kristie Mabe

Elementary School Assistants 21st Century #2526.061 (6)

Regina Adkins

Lamont Kyle

Gloria McDaniels

Micah Swain

KeSean Williams

Cila Wise

21st Century Teachers #2526.062 (9)

Aaron Bailey

Nia Cherry

Sandra Cherry

Mary Humphries

John Paul Madrigal

Jaqueline McEldrey

Staci Simmons

Orsola Turner

Catina Wadley

Enrichment Leaders/Teachers #2526.063 (4)

Karen Abercrombie

LaShunda Brewster

Tymetric Dillon

India Mostella

Site Coordinators/21st Century #2526.064 (3)

Christina Caldwell

Kevin Peterson

Leslie Kay Tinker

Substitutes:

April Adcock

Teneisha Ash

Hector Baeza

Debra Bishop

Latisha Blount

Joresa Bothwell

Angelikia Brasher

Michelle Brooks

Sonya Brown

Amber Buchanan

Hunter Bussey

Cheslie Cambron

Nia Cherry

Sandra Cherry

Alison Correll

Julie Daniel

Cory Dunn

Paula Elliott

Julie Gilchrist

Elaine Grey

Jenny Guthery

Jasmine Guyton

Brooke Helms

Dawn Hickman

Sylvia Howard

Molly Jordan

Flor Juares

Brandi LaBenne

LaToya Laster

Andrew Laughlin

Heather Mabe

Eriica Mallard

Brandy Newton

Alyson Noah

Dawn Rains

Xavier Ray

Theresa Rudolph

Denise Shelvin

Staci Simmons

Cristy Sullivan

Greta Swain

Valerie Taylor

Vachon Watts

Emma Westbrook

Christina White
Annessa White-Henderson
Conteria Williams
LeNalda Woods

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart
Voting:
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes
Hon. Allen Millican - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

b. Part B

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve Part B of the personnel recommendations.

Termination of Employment and Effective Date:
Abbi Millican, Custodian at Thompson Elementary School, effective 06/04/2025

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. Mike Haney - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

6. 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 May 31, 2025.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart
Voting:
Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes
Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes
Hon. Allen Millican - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

7. Approval of Auditor's Report

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the auditor's report

presented by Scott Lee to the Gadsden City Board of Education, with an ending date of September 30, 2024.

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. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

F. Information Items

1. Old Business

2. New Business

Superintendent Blackwell informed the board members about a traffic study he would like to conduct around Gadsden Middle and Striplin Elementary Schools. The study aims to assess possible bus routes and daily traffic patterns.

a. August 4 - August 6, 2025: Inservice days for employees

All employees will attend a meeting on August 5, 2025, in the auditorium of Gadsden City High School, starting at 8:00 a.m.

b. August 7, 2025: First day of school for students

3. Next Regular Board Meeting is on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Gadsden City Board of Education.

Superintendent Blackwell asked that a Special Called Board Meeting be held on Friday, July 11, 2025, at noon at the Gadsden City Board of Education for personnel recommendations.

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Z. Andre' Huff.

Date

Superintendent/Secretary