



September Board Meeting & Budget Hearing

#2

09/09/2025 05:00 PM

Donehoo Elementary School

1109 East Broad Street

Gadsden, AL 35903

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
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 to the Flag

Chairman Millican called the meeting together 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

Chairman Millican and Superintendent Blackwell recognized guests in the audience and introduced the principal of Donehoo, Mr. Ernest Calloway. Mr. Calloway thanked the board members and recognized his staff. He introduced Mr. Cory Dunn and students for a presentation.

C. Approval of Agenda

The September agenda was presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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

There were no reports to discuss.

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the minutes from the August 5, 2025, regular board meeting.

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 Report for Donehoo Elementary, Floyd Elementary, and Litchfield Middle School

Mr. Blackwell recommends that the board approve the surplus property reports from Donehoo Elementary, Floyd Elementary, and Litchfield Middle School.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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

3. Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trip Requests

a. GCHS Cheerleading Competition Team to Lebanon, TN on November 21-22, 2025.

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve the out-of-state/overnight field trip for Gadsden City High School cheerleaders to compete in Lebanon, TN on November 21 - 22, 2025.

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

b. GCHS Cheerleading Competition Team to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL on January 28 - February 1, 2026.

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve the out-of-state/overnight field trip for the Gadsden City High School cheerleaders to compete at the National Cheerleading Competition in Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. The cheerleaders must receive a bid at the October or November competition in order to compete at Walt Disney World.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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. Approval of Bid for GCHS Soccer Field Sodding

Mr. Blackwell recommends that the board approve Copeland Scapes, Inc.'s bid to sod the Gadsden City High School soccer field.

Two bids were received:

Copeland Scapes, Inc

GameDay Athletic Surfaces

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

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. Personnel Actions

a. Part A

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve the Part A personnel recommendations.

Resignation:

Kendall Batista - Gadsden Middle School - Special Education Teacher - effective 08/22/2025

Shelisa Brown-Taylor - Thompson Elementary School - Math Coach - effective 08/27/2025

Jonathan McKinney - Striplin Elementary School - K2 Auxiliary Teacher/Aide - effective 08/08/2025

James D. Parrish - Striplin Elementary School - Special Education Aide - effective 08/29/2025

Morgan Feltman - Mitchell Elementary School - CNP Worker - effective 08/25/2025

William Tiencken - Adams Elementary School - Systemwide Instructional Special Education Aide - effective 09/12/2025

Keith Britton - Walnut Park Elementary School - Custodian - effective 09/05/2025

Deceased:

Alice Buggs - Donehoo Elementary School - LPN Nurse - effective 08/05/2025

Declining Position:

Mikyah Davis - Adams Elementary School - Title I Aide - effective 08/04/2025

Reemployment:

Reese Morrison - Gadsden City High School - Title I Intervention Teacher (#2526.102) - effective 08/04/2025, Pending Board Approval, One Year Only

Terrie Brookins - Donehoo Elementary School - Classroom Teacher

Early Elementary/CSR Unit (#2526.134) - effective 08/19/2025, Pending Board Approval, One Year Only

Makita Maull - Gadsden Middle School - Special Education Teacher Systemwide (#2526.119) - effective 09/08/2025, Pending Board Approval and TSEC

Lorretta Jones - Thompson Elementary School - Title I Instructional Aide (#2526.100) - effective 08/04/2025, Pending Board Approval, One Year Only

Terrica Ash - Adams Elementary School - Title I Instructional Aide (#2526.128) - effective 08/13/2025, Pending Board Approval, One Year Only

Kelly Herrera - Gadsden City High School — Bilingual Title I Aide (2526.140) - effective 10/01/2025, One Year Only

Micah Swain - Floyd Elementary School - Title I Aide (2526.133) - effective 10/01/2025, One Year Only

Brenda Jimenez - Central Office - Federal Programs Clerical/Data Manager (#2526.123) - effective 10/01/2025

Carlton Baise - Floyd Elementary School - Title I Aide (#2526.133) - effective 10/01/2025, One Year Only

Transfers:

Nallely Vega - from Litchfield Middle School Science Teacher to Litchfield Middle School TEAMS Science Teacher - effective 09/10/2025

Kodi Davis - from Donehoo Elementary School CNP Lunchroom Worker to Gadsden City High School CNP Lunchroom Assistant Manager (#2526.124) - effective 08/12/2025, Pending Board Approval

Steven Jones - from Floyd Elementary School Counselor to Gadsden City High School Counselor (#2526.130) - effective TBD

Sherry Jenkins - from Adams Elementary School Counselor to Floyd Elementary School Counselor (#2526.135) - effective TBD

Janie Browning - from Federal Programs Community Education and Intervention Liaison to Central Office Federal Programs Coordinator (#2526.136) 12-month contract-effective 10/01/2025

Jessica Parker - from Gadsden City High School ISS Facilitator to Striplin Elementary School Classroom Teacher (#2526.105) - effective TBD

New Personnel:

William Birchmore - Gadsden City High School - Classroom Teacher Career Tech HVAC/R (#2526.127) - effective 08/13/2025, Pending Board Approval

Lorrie Maddox Sprayberry - Donehoo Elementary School - Classroom Teacher (#2526.120) - effective 08/18/2025, Pending Board

Approval

Kera Dudley - Thompson Elementary School - Classroom Teacher
(#2526.131) - effective 09/02/2025, Pending Board Approval

Steven Williams - Homeschool: Litchfield Middle School -
Systemwide Special Education Teacher (#2526.068) - effective
09/08/2025, Pending Board Approval

Demetrius Castleberry - Adams Elementary School - Counselor
(#2526.139) - effective 09/10/2025

Mekeja Green - Adams Elementary School - Title I Instructional Aide
(#2526.110) - effective 08/11/2025, Pending Board Approval, One Year
Only

Ke'Sean Williams - Donehoo Elementary School - Instructional Aide
Special Education Districtwide (#2526.089) - effective 08/11/2025,
Pending Board Approval

Kenneth Green - Thompson Elementary School - Custodian
(#2526.084) - effective 08/12/2025, Pending Board Approval

Morgan Feltman - Donehoo Elementary School - CNP Lunchroom
Worker (#2526.125) - effective 08/18/2025, Pending Board Approval

Nesreen Al'Farraj - Mitchell Elementary School - CNP Lunchroom
Worker (#2526.072) - effective 08/06/2025, Pending Board Approval

Amber Griffin - Walnut Park Elementary School - Systemwide Special
Education Aide (#2526.137) - effective 08/25/2025, Pending Board
Approval

Substitutes:

New Certified Teacher Substitutes:

Laurie Smith
Gina Cameron
Margaret Lancaster

New Non-Certified Substitutes:

Cathie Manora
Towanna Wilson

Re-applying Substitutes:

Tangie Dandridge
Evelyn Latham

New Support Substitutes:

Keith Britton
Walter Crumpton

21st Century Afterschool Substitutes:

Jennifer Clifton

Rachel Cole
Fannie Dillon
Adrienne Edwards
Maria Infante
Angela Kay
Amanda Rogers
Stephina Ruffin
Evon Underwood
Jennifer White

Corrected/Updated Start and End Dates:

**Corrected Start Dates from July 1, 2025, and July 11, 2025, Board
Personnel Recommendations:**

William Hunter Shell - Gadsden City High School - Assistant Band
Director (10-month contract) - start date 07/23/2025
Amanda Rogers - Floyd Elementary School - Districtwide OMI Math
Coach - start date 07/21/2025
Richard White - Floyd Elementary School - Custodian - start date
07/30/2025

Corrected End Dates:

Wesley McGhee - Litchfield Middle School - Science Teacher - end
date 08/08/2025
Ron Engle - Gadsden City High School - Transfer from HVAC Instructor
to Promotion Coach - effective date of transfer 08/13/2025
Tabatha Ashley - Donehoo Elementary School - Classroom Teacher -
end date 08/15/2025

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. Mark Dayton - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

b. Part B

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve Part B
personnel recommendation to terminate an employee.

Termination of Employment:

Donna Rowland - Mitchell Elementary School - Lunchroom Worker -
effective 09/10/2025

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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

6. Final Review of the FY 2026 School System Budget and Recommendation for Approval

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve the 2025-2026 school system budget presented by CSFO Cory Skelton on Thursday, September 4, 2025.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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

7. Non-Certified Substitute Pay Rate Increase

Mr. Blackwell recommends that the board approve the increase in the substitute pay rate for non-certified from \$64.00 to \$73.00.

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. Mark Dayton - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

8. Maintenance Certification Supplement

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve the salary schedule certification supplement for the maintenance department.

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

9. Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve the monthly financial report and bank reconciliation presented by CSFO Cory Skelton. The financial data and cash balances are based on the reconciled bank statement and the general ledger as of July 31, 2025.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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

F. Information Items

1. Old Business

2. New Business

- Superintendent Blackwell stated the next board meeting is scheduled at Mitchell Elementary School, but that day is an Inservice/Variance Day on October 7. He would like to switch the locations of the October 7 and November 4 meetings. All board members agreed to the location change of October 7th board meeting to be held at the Central Office and the November 4th meeting at Mitchell Elementary School.
- Chairman Millican thanked Mr. Calloway for hosting the board meeting and the staff and students for being in attendance.
- Tuesday, September 23, the board will have a Work Session beginning at 8:00 AM at the Central Office, and a working lunch from 12:00 - 2:00 PM for a Whole Board Training on finances.

3. Next Regular Board Meeting is on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at R.A. Mitchell Elementary School at 5:00 PM

Location updated to the Central Office.

Approved 10/07/2025

G. Adjournment

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Hon. Allen Millican

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Date

Superintendent/Secretary