



October Regular Board Meeting
10/07/2025 05:00 PM
Gadsden City Board of Education
Central Office
1026 Chestnut Street

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. Mike Haney, Board Member - District 4
Mrs. Rita Smith, Board Member - District 2

Absent Voting Members:

Mr. Mark Dayton, Vice Chairman - District 5
Ms. Adrienne Reed, Board Member - District 1

Non-Voting Members

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

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

Chairman Allen Millican called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board Member Rita Smith led with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The roll called and Chairman Millican declared a quorum was present.

B. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

Chairman Millican recognized Mr. Tony Reddick, former superintendent of Gadsden City Schools for being in attendance.

C. Approval of Agenda

The October agenda was presented for approval.

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
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

D. Reports

No Reports

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes

A recommendation was made to approve the minutes from the following meetings:

a. Budget Hearing #1 on September 4, 2025

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting:

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

b. Budget Hearing #2 and Regular Board Meeting on September 9, 2025

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

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

c. Work Session and Whole Board Training on September 23, 2025

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. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

2. Recommendation to Approve Surplus Property Reports

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the surplus property report for the following schools:

- Eura Brown Elementary School
- Gadsden Middle School

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. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

3. Recommendation to Approve Personnel Actions

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

Resignations:

Chelsea Stricklin, Special Education Teacher at Donehoo Elementary School, effective 10/10/2025

Brenda Fuller, Administrative Assistant at Central Office, effective 12/19/2025

Ronald Lancaster, Custodian at Eura Brown Elementary School, effective 09/08/2025

Allison Boyd, CNP Worker at Walnut Park Elementary School, effective 09/26/2025

Transfers:

Madison Pate, from Special Education Teacher at Adams Elementary School to Part-time Special Education Teacher at Gadsden Family Literacy Center, effective 09/18/2025, pending board approval, one year only #2526.147

Kodi Davis, from CNP Assistant Manager at Gadsden City High School to CNP Worker at Mitchell Elementary School, effective 09/25/2025, pending board approval #2526.145

Rachel Cole, Secretary/Bookkeeper at Floyd Elementary School to Receptionist Clerical at Floyd Elementary School, effective 10/08/2025

New Employees:

Staci Stephens, School Nurse at Donehoo Elementary School, effective

10/01/2025, pending board approval #2526.153

Peyton Hollis, Systemwide CNP Worker at Donehoo Elementary School (home school), effective 09/18/2025, pending board approval #2526.072

Cody Beshears, Systemwide Special Education Aide at Adams Elementary School, effective 09/18/2025, pending board approval #2526.142

Garrett Christopher McElderry, Instructional Aide/ISS Facilitator, effective 09/23/2025, pending board approval #2526.141

Arntaishia Mostella, CNP Worker at Gadsden City High School, effective 09/25/2025, pending board approval #2526.126

Jonathan Morris, Maintenance HVAC Worker at Systemwide Maintenance Department, effective 09/29/2025, pending board approval #2526.122

Donna Holderfield, Custodian at Eura Brown Elementary School, effective 10/02/2025, pending board approval #2526.148

Luke Lewis, Custodian at Walnut Park Elementary School, effective 10/08/2025 #2526.143

Corrected/Updated Start/End Dates

Madison Pate, Leave of Absences updated from August 4, 2025 - September 17, 2025, *from the July 11th 2025 Board Meeting. LOA rescinded 9/17/2025*

Allison Miller, Pre-School Administrator and Curriculum Specialist at Even Start/Family Literacy Center #2526.103, change title to Literacy Curriculum Specialist

Steven Jones, Floyd Elementary School Counselor to Gadsden City High School Counselor, updated start date 09/15/2025

Sherry Jenkins, Adams Elementary School Counselor to Floyd Elementary School Counselor, updated start date 09/15/2025

Jessica Parker, Gadsden City High School ISS Facilitator transfer to Striplin Elementary School Classroom Teacher, updated start date 09/15/2025

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.

Substitutes:

Substitute Teachers - New Non-Certified:

Jocelyn Meyer

Substitute Teachers - Reapplying Non-Certified:

Sana Anita McCarther

Support Substitutes - New:

Sonja Renae Borden - Bus Aide

After-School Substitutes:

Leslie Guthrie
Kristen Hollis
Ethan Terry

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. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

4. Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation

Chief School Financial Officer Cory Skelton presented the monthly financial report to the board for review and approval. The financial data and cash balance presented are based on the reconciled bank statement and the general ledger as of August 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

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

5. Recommendation to Approve Board Delegate and Alternate

The board recommended that Board Member Rita Smith serve as the 2025 Delegate for the Alabama Association of School Boards for Gadsden City Schools and Vice Chairman Mark Dayton serve as the alternative. The Delegate will attend the Annual Convention in Montgomery, AL, from December 4 - December 6, 2025.

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

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

F. Information Items

1. Old Business

2. New Business

- Friday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m. - Titan Tailgate at the Softball Complex prior to the Titans vs. Fort Payne football game. Music will be provided by Mollihart, Molly and Hartley Reynolds both of Gadsden.
- Alabama Association of School Boards 2025 Annual Convention: December 4–6, 2025, Renaissance Montgomery Hotel in Montgomery, AL.
- Veterans Day Parade on Wednesday, November 5, 2025. The parade is at 2:00 PM, and schools dismiss at noon.
- Janie Browning, Federal Programs Coordinator, invited the board to the Lights On After School celebration on October 21, 2025, from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Gadsden Public Library.

3. Next Regular Board Meeting: November 4, 2025, at Mitchell Elementary School at 5:00 PM

G. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned following a motion made by Board Member Nancy Stewart.

Date

Superintendent/Secretary