



February Regular Board Meeting  
02/10/2026 05:00 PM  
George W. Floyd Elementary School  
601 Black Creek Rd  
Gadsden, AL 35904

## 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

#### 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 to the Flag, and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Millican. Board Member Rita Smith led with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Roll was called, and Chairman Millican declared a quorum was present.

#### B. Approval of Agenda

The February agenda was 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  
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes  
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

**C. Recognition of Visitors/Guests**

**1. Principal of Floyd Elementary, Dr. Roy Bliss**

Chairman Millican introduced Dr. Roy Bliss, principal of Floyd Elementary. Dr. Bliss welcomed everyone to Floyd Elementary, and he recognized his hardworking staff and the board members for their dedication. Dr. Bliss introduced Floyd's first Honor Chorus, directed by Ms. Dorris Day. The students performed two songs for the board members and audience, showcasing their talents.

Dr. Bliss also honored a group of individuals who played a significant role in organizing a special event for the Floyd Elementary students before the holiday break. The individuals acknowledged were community member, Rachel Pugh, and Dream Center representatives, Eddie Nichols, Sonya Surratt, and David Surratt. Dr. Bliss presented a plaque to these individuals to show his appreciation for ensuring that each student at Floyd Elementary received a gift to open and for organizing this special day.

**2. Presentation of State Championship Rings for Scholar's Bowl**

Col. Wayne Davenport presented the 6A State Championship rings to the Scholar's Bowl team, with each board member participating in the distribution. Col. Davenport announced that Gadsden City High School has achieved its fourth State Championship title in the Scholar's Bowl and is now the defending back-to-back champion. The following team members were recognized: Avery Clark, Colt Enders, Wren Gaines, Corbin Ho, Christopher Holder, Alvinh Nguyen, Andrew Nguyen, Latika Prasadh, and Grey Stephens. Col. Davenport and Coach Shila Miller were acknowledged for their leadership of the team. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Sue Bliss and Dr. Roy Bliss for their dedication to the middle school Scholar's Bowl team, and to Amanda Rogers for her assistance with the Floyd Elementary Scholar's Bowl team, who was present at the meeting. Col. Davenport also thanked the board members and the community for their ongoing support. Additionally, Col. Davenport confirmed that this year, the 4th and 5th graders from Eura Brown Elementary, 6th to 8th graders from Gadsden Middle School, as well as the Junior Varsity and Varsity teams, have all qualified to attend this year's state championship.

**D. Reports**

No reports to discuss.

**E. Board Action**

**1. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2026**

Chairman Millican presented the minutes from the January 13, 2026, board meeting for approval.

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

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

**2. Surplus Property Report for Central Office - Special Education Department**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the Special Education Department's surplus property report.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

**3. Approval of 2026 Summer Federal Programs**

Superintendent Blackwell recommends that the board approve the following dates for the 2026 Summer Federal Programs.

**EMMA SANSOM MIDDLE SCHOOL READING AND MATH BOOT CAMP**

Emma Sansom Middle School

6th - 8th Grades

June 1 - June 11

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (8 Days)

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Parent Teacher Resource Center

Preschool - 12th Grades  
May 27 - July 30  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Schedule to be determined)

**DISTRICT SUMMER EL/STATE EL PROGRAMS**

Parent Teacher Resource Center  
Preschool - 12th Grades  
May 27 - July 30  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(Schedule to be determined)

**TITLE III DISTRICT EL SUMMER SCHOOL (Non-English Speakers)**

Gadsden City High School  
9th - 12th Grades  
June 1 - June 11  
May 28 - June 25  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (8 & 15 Days)  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**TITLE III DISTRICT EL NEWCOMER CAMP (Non-English Speakers)**

Adams Elementary School  
Kindergarten - 5th Grades  
June 1 - June 25  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (15 Days)  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**TUTORING/TEXTBOOKS**

Gadsden City Schools Downtown Education Center  
Preschool - 12th Grades  
June 8 - July 20  
7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(Schedule to be determined)

**SUMMER NURSING CARE**

Parent Teacher Resource Center  
May 27 - July 25  
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(Schedule to be determined)

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\*Feeding site - lunches will be available

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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  
 Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes  
 Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

**4. Approval of the 2026-2027 School Calendar**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the school calendar for the 2026–2027 academic year.

**2026-2027**

**Approved 02/10/2026**

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	


August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



P.O. Box 184  
 Gadsden, AL 35902  
[www.gcs.k12.al.us](http://www.gcs.k12.al.us)

**1st Semester**

July 2nd	Closed Independence Day Holiday
Aug 6th	Teacher Inservice #1/Variance Day
Aug 7th- Aug 11th	Teacher Inservice #2-4
Aug 12th	First Day of School for Students
Sept 7th	Labor Day
Sept 28th	E-Learning Day
Oct 12th - 14th	Fall Break for students
Oct 14th	Teacher Inservice #5/Variance Day
Nov 11th	Veterans Day Observed
Nov 23rd-27th	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec 21st-Jan 1st	Christmas Holidays for students

**2nd Semester**

Jan 4th - Jan 5th	Teacher Inservice #6 & #7
Jan 6th	First Day for Student
Jan 18th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 15th	Teacher Inservice #8
Mar 22nd - Mar 26th	Spring Break
Apr 26th	E-Learning Day
May 27st	Last day of school for students
May 27st	High School Graduation
May 28th	Teacher Inservice #9/Variance Day
May 28th	High School Graduation(Rain date)
May 31st	Closed Memorial Day
June 17th	Juneteenth Holiday

**Progress Reports**

Sept 9	Oct 8	End of 1st
Nov 12	Oct 15	#1 Report Card
Feb 10	Dec 18	End of 2nd
Apr 21	Jan 7	#2 Report Card
	Mar 15	End of 3rd
	Mar 18	#3 Report Card
	May 27	End of 4th

**Semester Exam Dates/Test Dates**

Dec 16	Mid Term Exams (Even)
Dec 17	Mid Term Exams (Odd)
Dec 18	Makeup Exams
May 19 (odd) May 20 (even)	8th Grades & Seniors
May 21	Make-up 8th grad & Seniors
May 24 (odd) May 25 (even)	Grades 6,7,9,10,11
May 26	Make-up Grades 6,7,9,10,11

**Special Dates with early release**

Oct 2	GCHS Homecoming Parade/Early Release
Nov 4	Veterans Parade Early Release
TBD	Unity Parade Early Release

January 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**Instructional Days Per Month**

Aug -14	Jan - 17
Sept - 21	Feb - 19
Oct - 19	Mar - 18
Nov - 15	Apr - 22
Dec - 14	May - 19

<b>Student Days 1st Semester</b>	83
<b>Student Days 2nd Semester</b>	95
<b>Teacher Inservice Days</b>	9

	School Closed
	Employee Inservice (no school for students)
	Teacher Flex/Inservice Days (no school for students/Variance for teachers)
	First/Last Day for Students
	E-Learning Day for students

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff - Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart - Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

## **5. Personnel Recommendation Actions**

Superintendent Blackwell asked the board to approve the following personnel recommendations.

### **RESIGNATION:**

Meshonda Burwell, b/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Chelsea Ray, b/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 02/27/2026

Melissa Whisenhunt, w/f, Adams Elementary School, Systemwide Instructional Special Education Aide, effective 01/30/2026

Jasmine Turner, b/f, Thompson Elementary School, Secretary/Bookkeeper, effective 02/06/2026

### **LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** *Parental leave dates will be variable*

Karli Strickland, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Parental Leave (03/02/2026-04/30/2026) and Extended Sick Leave (05/01/2026-05/26/2026)

Macy Dupree, w/f, Striplin Elementary School, Parental Leave (02/27/2026-05/04/2026)

Dalton Robertson, w/m, Gadsden City High School, Parental Leave (04/06/2026-04/17/2026)

Jennifer Slaughter, w/f, Eura Brown Elementary School, Parental Leave (03/05/2026-04/30/2026) and Extended Sick Leave (05/01/2026-05/26/2026)

Anthony Ash, b/m, Striplin Elementary School, Parental Leave (02/16/2026-02/27/2026)

### **(PART A) REEMPLOYMENT:**

(A-1) Rodney Miller, b/m, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2526.178, effective 02/24/2026 (tentative)

### **(PART B) TRANSFER:**

(B-1) Brandy Brooks, a/f, Litchfield Middle School, Secretary/Bookkeeper, to Gadsden City High School, Secretary/Bookkeeper #2526.174, effective

02/02/2026, pending board approval

**(PART C) NEW PERSONNEL:**

(C-1) Ashleigh White, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Secretary/Bookkeeper  
**#2526.182**, effective 02/04/2026, pending board approval

(C-2) Crystal Cleere, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, OSR PreK Auxiliary  
**#2526.176**, effective 01/22/2026, pending board approval. One year only  
through the remainder of the academic year

(C-3) Daisha Jones, b/f, Thompson Elementary School, Secretary/Bookkeeper  
**#2526.170**, effective 02/09/2026, pending board approval

(C-4) Alexis Causey, b/f, Litchfield Middle School, Secretary/Bookkeeper  
**#2526.181**, effective 02/11/2026

**CONTRACTS:**

Barbara Carey, w/f, Walnut Park Elementary School, Part-Time Custodian,  
01/27/2026

Shannon Campbell, w/f, Gadsden Middle School, Part-Time Secretary,  
01/01/2026-12/31/2026

Rissa Stephens, w/f, Walnut Park Elementary School, Federal Programs  
Intervention, 02/02/2026-04/30/2026

Laurie Smith, w/f, Walnut Park Elementary School, Federal Programs  
Intervention, 02/02/2026-04/30/2026

Mandy Burgess, w/f, Walnut Park Elementary School, Federal Programs  
Intervention, 02/02/2026-04/30/2026

Teri Nightingale, w/f, Adams Elementary School, Federal Programs  
Intervention, 02/02/2026-05/21/2026

Emily Day, w/f, Special Education Teacher, Homebound Services, one hour per  
week for the remainder of the academic year unless either student or teacher  
chooses to revise with a two-week notice, 01/05/2026

**Updates/Corrections:**

Rachel Cole, transfer to Title I Aide at Floyd Elementary School, effective  
02/04/2026, for the remainder of the academic year only.

**SUBSTITUTES:**

**New Certified Substitute:**

Amber Manning

**Non-Certified Substitute:**

Alnita Mitchell

**Certified Substitute Reapplying:**

Sherry Usry

**New Support Substitute:**

Stacey Beck

Motion made by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

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

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

Superintendent Blackwell read the new personnel approved and welcomed them to the Gadsden City School System.

**6. Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation for December 2025**

Chief Financial School 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 December 31, 2025.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

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

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

**F. Information Items**

**1. Old Business**

No old business to discuss.

**2. New Business**

The following items were discussed by Superintendent Blackwell.

- Black History Programs for Gadsden City School System
- Spring Sports Schedules
- Invitation to Opening Day of Baseball on Saturday, February 21st

- Pancake Day to support the Transition Program at Gadsden City High on February 28, at Longhorn Steakhouse, 7:00 to 10:00 a.m., \$10 donation.
- Read Across America Day on Monday, March 2nd, 8:30 a.m.

The board requested a work session in March. Date options are to be determined.

**3. Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd at the Gadsden City Board of Education at 5:00 PM**

**G. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on motion by board member Rita Smith.

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Date

Superintendent/Secretary