



March Regular Board Meeting
03/03/2026 05:00 PM
Gadsden City Board of Education
1026 Chestnut Street
Gadsden, AL 35901

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

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, and Roll Call

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

B. Approval of Agenda

The March 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. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

C. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

Superintendent Blackwell first mentioned Read Across America Day. Mrs. Marcia Farabee expressed her gratitude to the board for participating in the event and for reading to the elementary students. Both Superintendent Blackwell and Mrs. Farabee emphasized how much the students enjoy this day.

Additionally, Superintendent Blackwell recognized Mr. Tim Dale, a trolley driver for the City of Gadsden, for his contributions. Mr. Dale has assisted our students by providing transportation when a school bus is unavailable. Also recognized were Kingsley Weathers, the SGA President and Titan Ambassador, along with Mr. Tony Reddick, Mr. Joel Gullledge, and Mr. Miles Mason.

D. Reports

None to report.

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes from the February 10, 2026, Board Meeting

Chairman Millican entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2026, board meeting.

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

2. Surplus Property Report for Eura Brown Elementary School and Maintenance Department

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the surplus property report from Eura Brown Elementary and the Maintenance Department.

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

3. Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips:

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the following out-of-state/overnight field trips:

a. Gadsden City High, Winter Guard to Chattanooga, TN, March 27 to March 29, 2026

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

b. Gadsden City High Band to Hawaii for the Pearl Harbor Remember the Heroes Performance, April 03 to April 10, 2027

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. Mark Dayton - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

c. Gadsden Middle, Emma Sansom, and Litchfield Middle School to Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL, October 10 to October 16, 2026

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

d. Gadsden Middle School Scholars Bowl to compete at Nationals in Chicago, IL, May 7 to May 11, 2026.

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

4. Bus Driver Salary Schedule

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the bus driver salary schedule.

2025-2026
 GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 BUS DRIVER
9 MONTHS (185 DAYS)
 SALARY SCHEDULE

Years of Experience	BUS DRIVER
0	16,500
1	18,000
2	18,250
3	18,500
4	18,750
5-9	19,000
10-14	19,250
15-19	19,500
20-24	19,750
25-27+	20,000

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

5. Budget Amendment #1

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the Budget Amendment No. 1 presented by Chief School Financial Officer, Cory Skelton.

**GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Fiscal Year 2025
Amendment No. 1**

	Funding Source	Amount
<u>New Grants/Funding</u>		
TEAMS	1132	
K3 Summer Reading	1227	69,084
ARI	1233	90,000
SPED Beahvioral Analyst	1256	174,000
SPED Teacher Supplement	1257	50,110
Speech Path Supplement	1258	6,075
Anti-Bully	1273	40,000
School Safety/Climate (AG)	1271	40,000
Gifted	1286	27,650
Robotics	1415	1,750
OSR Pre-K MES	1720	117,500
Governor's Turnaround Aux	1722	160,000
CCR	1768	75,000
Summer Math Camps	1769	239,424
Security	1770	65,761
High Cost Grant SPED	2241	120,000
ARI Programming	2901	160,000
Career Tech	3317	29,671
21st Century	4161	1,416,900
Homeless	4195	35,000
Mentoring	5990	20,400
General Fund	6001	1,180,000
County Commission	6510	7,500
Fine Arts	6520	400,000
City Council	6522	20,035
Elementary Aide (Local)	6524	180,000
Pub School Cap Outlay	8411	49,486
		4,775,345.47
<u>Reclassifications/Corrections</u>		
Career Tech O&M	1222	
State Preschool	1520	
Special Education	3210	
Preschool	3220	
Career Tech	3310	
Title I	4110	
Title III	4150	
TITLE IV - STUDENT SUPPORT	4160	
CNP	5101	
General Fund	6001	
<u>Carryover</u>		
Special Education	3210	520,472.62
Preschool	3220	15,783.98
Title I	4110	6,105.24
Title II Teacher/Principal Training	4130	332,640.75
EL	4150	5,123.64
Title IV	4160	1,806.72
Stronger Connections	Page 1 of 1 4165	100,000.00

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

6. Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the Chief School Financial Officer, Cory Skelton, who presented the monthly financial report to the board. The financial data and cash balance presented are based

on the reconciled bank statement and the general ledger as of January 31, 2026.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

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

7. Textbook Adoption for Science and Arts Education

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the adoption of the State approved textbooks for Social Studies and Arts Education. This does not mean that all books on the state approved textbook list will be purchased, but only that they will be approved in case courses are added in the future.

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

8. Policy GAEB: Teachers' Bill of Rights

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the addition of Policy GAEB: Teachers' Bill of Rights.

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

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

9. Policy JGFN: Vape Awareness, Education, and Prevention

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the addition of Policy JGFN: Vape Awareness, Education, and Prevention.

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. Mark Dayton - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

10. CTE Summer Camp Dates on May 26 - May 29, 2026

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the Career and Technical Education Summer Camp Dates from May 26 to May 29, 2026. The location of the summer camp will be at Gadsden City High School. The camp is free to all participants with lunch and snacks included.

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

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

11. Recommendations for Personnel Actions

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

RETIREMENT:

Joel Gullede, w/m, Gadsden City High School, Principal, effective 07/01/2026

Cheryl Bowman, w/f, Adams Elementary School, Special Education Resource Teacher, effective 06/01/2026

RESIGNATIONS:

Daphne Gunnin, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Miles Mason, w/m, Mitchell Elementary School, Elementary Teacher, effective 03/27/2026

Richard White, b/m, Floyd Elementary School, Custodian, effective 02/23/2026

DaShunia Rudolph, b/f, Donehoo Elementary School, Aide, effective 02/27/2026

(PART A) NEW EMPLOYEES:

(A-1) Margaret Lancaster, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher-Elementary #2627.001, effective 08/06/2026

(A-2) Makenzie Mintzer, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher-Elementary #2026.002, effective 08/06/2026

(A-3) Valencia Sims Baker, b/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2526.183, effective 03/04/2026

(A-4) Yessica Hogan, h/f, Adams Elementary School, Special Education Aide #2526.183, effective 02/19/2026, pending board approval

(A-5) Reginald Jamar Avery, b/m, Floyd Elementary School, Custodian #2526.184, effective 03/04/2026

CONTRACTS:

Christopher Sanders, Litchfield Middle School Afterschool Programs, Federal Programs-Afterschool Tutoring Students, effective 10/01/2025-5/29/2026

Updates/Corrections:

Anthony Ash, Striplin Elementary, Principal, Parental Leave, February 18, 2026–March 03, 2026

Rodney Miller, Thompson Elementary, Teacher, actual start date 02/24/2026

SUBSTITUTES:

Re-applying Certified Substitute:

Kimberly Sparks

New Non-Certified Substitutes:

Heather Darbo-McClellan

Taqueria Riddle

Afterschool Substitute:

Chelsea Ray, b/f

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. Mark Dayton - Yes
Mr. Mike Haney - Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith - Yes

Superintendent Blackwell announced the names of the new personnel. After, he and board members acknowledged Principal Joel Gulledge for his retirement from Gadsden City High School and Mr. Miles Mason for his resignation from Mitchell Elementary School, as he prepares to become the new Alabama Education Association UniServ Director.

F. Information Items

Chairman Millican stated how proud he was of Alabama for being ranked among the top tier in the nation for math and reading. He specifically commended Gadsden City Schools for their academic growth and noted that Alabama has made significant progress and continues to make meaningful strides in educational achievements.

1. Old Business

- The board will have a work session on Tuesday, March 24, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the Central Office. Superintendent Blackwell announced they will take a bus ride in the new buses to tour the Challenger Learning Center, and then return to the Central Office for the work session.

2. New Business

- Spring Break is March 30 to April 3, 2026

3. The next Regular Board Meeting is on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at Gadsden City High School Auditorium.

At this meeting, the board will recognize the Teachers of the Year, Support Personnel of the Year, and Student Achievements.

G. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Board Member Rita Smith at 5:41 p.m. and seconded by Mark Dayton.

Date

Superintendent/Secretary