

MEETING MINUTES

Approved 05/05/2026

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

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, Roll Call

The board meeting began at 5:06 PM. Principal Joel Gullledge welcomed the board members, staff, parents, and students to Gadsden City High School. Board member Rita Smith opened with prayer. Student Cadet Zach Wilson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called, and Chairman Millican declared a quorum was present.

B. Approval of the April Agenda

The April agenda was presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Yes: Hon. Allen Millican

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

C. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

Superintendent Blackwell welcomed Amanda Martinez, Principal of Eura Brown Elementary, who recognized the Elementary Scholars Bowl State Champions: Charlotte Bailey, Taniyah Dillon, Finn Haynie, Zoe Solis, Jane Wilson, and Jack Williams. The Scholars Bowl Coach is Mrs. Kathy Roberts.

Chairman Millican and Superintendent Blackwell welcomed the audience, including City Council members President Kent Back, Dixie Minatra, and Connie Latham, as well as principals, parents, students, and Gadsden City employees. Both expressed excitement at the opportunity to recognize students for their academic achievements. Each board member introduced themselves and shared which district they represented. Superintendent Blackwell noted that this marked the first time the board recognized support personnel at the board meeting, honoring those who play a vital role in the daily operation of our schools. Also recognized were the Teachers of the Year for both elementary and secondary schools, including the systemwide winners. Each principal announced the students who were recognized at their school. Superintendent Blackwell and the board members handed out certificates.

Elementary Teachers of the Year:

Adams Elementary - Linda Franklin	Donehoo Elementary - Alexusona Bozeman
Eura Brown Elementary - Katherine Barnes	
Floyd Elementary - Kristen Phillips	Mitchell Elementary - Shannon Morgan
Striplin Elementary - Angela Glass	
Thompson Elementary - Elizabeth Wilson	Walnut Park Elementary - Ginger Stephens

Secondary Teachers of the Year:

Emma Sansom Middle - Jessica Nunnally	Gadsden Middle - Megen McCright
Litchfield Middle - Celestia Dawson	Gadsden City High School - Emily Day

Systemwide Winners:

Elementary - Kristen Phillips from Floyd Elementary

Secondary - Emily Day from Gadsden City High

School Personnel of the Year**Elementary:**

Adams Elementary-Flor Juares	Donehoo Elementary-Kim Lovett
Eura Brown Elementary-Tina Jones	Floyd Elementary-Micah Swain
Mitchell Elementary-Perry Marshall	Striplin Elementary-Charles Morris
Thompson Elementary-Lorretta Jones	Walnut Park Elementary-Lt. Ryan Preston

Secondary:

Emma Sansom Middle-Hilary Agricola	Gadsden Middle-Maria Infante
Litchfield Middle-Keri Amoussou	Gadsden City High-Kelly Robertson

Student Recognitions:

● Gadsden City High Principal	Joel Gulledege,
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National Merit Finalist: Christopher Holder & Alvinh Nguyen

District Honor Band: Joel Arriga & Madilyn Mitchell

All-State Fine Arts Ensemble

Orchestra: Christopher Holder (Violin) & Ainsley Wade (Percussion/4th in State)

Titan Theatre: Madison Cordi (3rd in Musical Comedic/2016-present) & **Approved 05/05/2026**

Luke Robertson (1st in Musical Dramatic/pre-1980)

Choir: Christopher Holder, Branson McCormick, Luke Robertson, Ainsley Wade, Brian Whisenant, & Karlie White

Band: Lorabella Brown (Contrabass Clarinet), Mattie Goss (French Horn), Will Jones (French Horn), Eros Martinez (Alt Jazz Band), Landon McCormick (Clarinet), Dash Montgomery (Jazz Band), Luke Robertson (Trombone), & Ainsley Wade (Percussion)

● **Emma Sansom Middle** **Charlton Giles, Principal**

School Spelling Bee Winner: Aiden Adams

Student Government Representatives

President-Memphis Moore, Secretary-Serenity Davis, Treasurer-Jalina German, Historian-Aiden Adams

ESMS BETA Club Officers

President-Aiden Lewis, Vice-President-Brooklyn Bullard, Secretary-Zaiden Graves, Treasurer-Alexi Hunt, Chaplain-Russell Guyton

● **Gadsden Middle** **Chance Goodwin, Principal**

School Spelling Bee Winner: Brooklyn Kwan (1st Place in District and 2nd place in County Spelling Bee)

Student Government Representatives

President-Zaleigh Jackson, Vice President-Zoe Kinney, Treasurer-Laniya Harvey, Secretary-Rhylee Borders

GMS BETA Club Officers

President-Xavier Tang, Vice President-JJ Gilbert, Treasurer-Wattsie Alexander, Secretary-Knox Ellis

● **Litchfield Middle** **Charlie Parker, Principal**

School Spelling Bee Winners: Zariyah Sheppard & Kaytee Lett

Eagle Ambassadors

Samaya Buchanan, Carter Conwell, Olivia Dawson, Magaly Francisco, Yanelyn Jiminez, Harmony Johnson, Nia Maye, Nima Maye, Cameron McCormick, Knowledge Norris, Debreia Pearson, Anthony Perez, Joseph Prichett, Eulalia Tomas, Yennifer Tomas, Semajai Weston, Zaleria Young

● **Adams Elementary** **Ali Sullivan, Principal**

School Spelling Bee Winner: Kaylen Horton

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade-Dayana Cruz Felix 2nd Grade-Hunter Malone-James 3rd Grade-Nancy Coronado Matias

4th Grade-Yulisa Feliciano Coronado 5th Grade-Christopher Pipkin

● **Donehoo Elementary** **Ernest Calloway, Principal**

School Spelling Bee Winner: Taegan Hannah

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade-Darren Wancique 2nd Grade-Dre'sen Russell 3rd Grade-Nevaeh Harden

4th Grade-Harley Timmons 5th Grade-Journye Timmons

● **Eura Brown Elementary** **Amanda Martinez, Principal**

School Spelling Bee Winner: Jack Williams

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade-Jasper Ross

2nd Grade-Frances Bailey

3rd Grade-Hunter Williams

4th Grade-Cayden MacLeod

5th Grade-Charlotte Bailey

● **Floyd Elementary**

Roy Bliss,

Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner: Robert Horton

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade- Adalee Nalls

2nd Grade-Bryleigh Reed

3rd Grade-Francisco Manuel

Juan

4th Grade-Gabriel Francisco-Sales

5th Grade-Logan Richardson

● **Mitchell Elementary**

Leanne Reed,

Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner: Hendrix Higgins

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade-Hendrix Bonner

2nd Grade-Autumn Ostrander

3rd Grade-

Drayton Holland

4th Grade-Cadence Brown

5th Grade-Janique Taylor

● **Striplin Elementary**

Anthony Ash, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner: Dakota Durst

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade-Elycia Simpson

2nd Grade-Harrison Hunter

3rd Grade-

Jheovany Lara

4th Grade-Jorge Alegria

5th Grade-Julio Tomas Pablo

● **Thompson Elementary**

Patrice Maxwell, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner: Leonitus Rivera

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade-Ja'Syah Thorne

2nd Grade-Jakari Wellman

3rd Grade-Lakelyn

Wells

4th Grade-Karina Mendez

5th Grade-Abigail Berduo Miranda

● **Walnut Park Elementary**

Matthew Loyd, Principal

School Spelling Bee Winner: Skylin Holt

Top Accelerated Reader Points

1st Grade-Aspen Cantellano

3rd Grade-Keyla St. Fort

5th Grade-Alanna

McClendon

D. Reports

No reports

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Millican

a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes - March 03, 2026

Chairman Millican entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on March 03, 2026.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Approved 05/05/2026

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Yes: Hon. Allen Millican

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

b. Work Session Minutes - March 24, 2026

Chairman Millican entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the work session held on March 24, 2026.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Yes: Hon. Allen Millican

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

2. Surplus Property Report from Donehoo Elementary School

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the items listed at Donehoo Elementary as surplus property.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Yes: Hon. Allen Millican

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

3. Personnel Recommendations

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the following personnel recommendations be approved.

Retirement

Jacqueline Tiller, b/f, Gadsden City High School, Assistant Principal, effective 08/01/2026

Bradley Lowe, w/m, Gadsden City High School, Classroom Teacher, effective 06/01/2026

Elizabeth Wilson, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 06/01/2026

Lacrecia Whisenant, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 06/01/2026

Gina Walls, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 06/01/2026

Dawn Rains, Floyd Elementary School, EL Teacher, effective 06/01/2026

Bethany Phillips, w/f, Donehoo Elementary School, Speech Language Pathologist, effective 06/01/2026

Resignation

Julia Hooper, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

(Part A) New Personnel

(A-1) Sara Mikle, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, **#2627.002**, effective 08/06/2026

(A-2) Eve Thornton, w/f, Systemwide-Striplin Elementary School (home school), Special Education Aide, **#2526.138**, effective 04/05/2026, *pending board approval*

Contracts

Gail Relford, w/f, Thompson Elementary School-Federal Programs, Assist at-risk students, assist parents, consult teachers, 02/17/2026 - 05/08/2026

Tiffany Sauls, b/f, School Psychologist, 12 month, ALIGN Grant, per MOU, 03/03/2026-12/31/2026

Steven Fain, w/m, School Psychologist, 12 month, ALIGN Grant, per MOU, 03/03/2026-12/31/2026

Cheri Williams, w/f, Mitchell Elementary School, Part-Time Substitute-as needed basis, Remainder of 2025-2026 Academic Year

Updates/Corrections

Jennifer Davis, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, resigned 05/23/2026

Substitutes

Non-Certified Substitutes:

Josie Puccio

Jon-Eric Frederick

Summer Feeding Program, All Effective Dates of 06/01/2026 - 06/30/2026 (approximately)

Deborah Samples, w, Manager

Heather Bates, w, Cafeteria Worker

Cynthia Beshears, w, Cafeteria Worker

Debra Biship, w, Cafeteria Worker
Shariel Brown, b, Cafeteria Worker
Kodi Davis, w, Cafeteria Worker
Kim Lovett, b, Cafeteria Worker
Anthony Powell, b, Cafeteria Worker
Jackie Williams, b, Cafeteria Worker
Jim Samples, w, Driver/Delivery
Keshean Williams, b, Driver Helper

Approved 05/05/2026

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Yes: Hon. Allen Millican

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

Superintendent Blackwell introduced the new personnel. Chairman Millican acknowledged Ms. Jacqueline Tiller's retirement and expressed gratitude for her service to the Gadsden City School System.

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 February 28, 2026.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting results: Unanimously approved

Yes: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Yes: Hon. Allen Millican

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

F. Information Items

1. Old Business

2. New Business

Superintendent Blackwell discussed the document in the board members' folders of spring events for the schools, which includes graduation, awards and honors day, and activities dates and times. This packet is also posted to the Gadsden City Schools website.

3. Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, May 05, 2026, 5:00 p.m. at Walnut Park Elementary

Chairman Millican stated in May that the board will vote on a new President and Vice-President.

G. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mike Haney and seconded by Nancy Stewart. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Date

Superintendent/Secretary