



June Regular Board Meeting
06/02/2026 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

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, Roll Call

Chairman Millican called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Mrs. 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 June agenda was presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

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

C. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

The Gadsden City Varsity Boys' Soccer Team was recognized for their accomplishments this season. Head Coach Samantha Corker introduced the coaching staff, Agustin Martinez, John Page, and Jonathan Tang, and the players in attendance. Superintendent Blackwell and board members expressed pride in the team's historic achievement as the first Gadsden City High team to reach the State Championship game, finishing as runners-up. Player Zakorien Shack thanked the board for their support. Coach Corker announced that goalie Jessai Lopez received the Gadsden Times Player of the Year award. The board congratulated the team and coaching staff for their hard work.

Chairman Millican recognized Mr. Tony Reddick, former superintendent, and the Uniserv Director with the Alabama Education Association, Mr. Miles Mason.

D. Reports

Mrs. Marcia Farabee spoke about the system's progress in implementing the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), stating that the system will be in full compliance monitoring next year. In preparation with the MTSS team, Gadsden City Schools was invited to a national showcase, during which the Beautiful Rainbow Café was nationally recognized for Foundational Wellness. Mrs. Farabee introduced Leita Conner, Tammy McDuffie, and Morgan McLendon of the Beautiful Rainbow Café. Ms. Conner spoke about the benefits of the Beautiful Rainbow Café and displayed an award the café received for outstanding work-based learning programming for high school students with special needs. The award was presented by the Alabama Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE).

E. Board Action

1. Recommendation to approve the Minutes from May 05, 2026

Chairman Millican requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May board meeting, provided there are no corrections to the minutes.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

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. Recommendation to Approve Personnel Actions

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

Resignations:

Chris Benedetti, w/m, Gadsden City High School, Director of Bands, effective 07/01/2026

Linzie Walker, w/f, Mitchell Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Georgia Benson, w/f, Mitchell Elementary School, Registered Behavior Technician, effective 05/26/2026

Kia S. Graves, b/f, Donehoo Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Kodi Davis, w/f, Mitchell Elementary School, CNP Worker, effective 05/21/2026

(PART A) Reemployment/Reassignments:

(A-1) Jill Partridge, w/f, Eura Brown Elementary School, OSR Lead Teacher, #2627.026, effective 08/06/2026

(A-2) Rashida Starr, b/f, Adams Elementary School, Assistant Principal 10.5 months, effective 07/20/2026, one year only

(A-3) Patrice Mosley, b/f, Eura Brown Elementary School, Assistant Principal 10.5 months, effective 07/20/2026, one year only

(A-4) Shelly Mason, w/f, Striplin Elementary School, Assistant Principal 10.5 months, effective 07/20/2026, one year only

(A-5) Ashton Waggoner, w/f, Districtwide-Striplin Elementary School, Special Education Teacher, #2627.048, effective 08/06/2026

(PART B) Transfers:

(B-1) Sydney Sexton, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, to Mitchell Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.019, effective 08/06/2026

(B-2) Jerresa McGee, b/f, Donehoo Elementary School, Math Coach, to Eura Brown Elementary School, Math Coach #2627.009, effective 07/22/2026

(B-3) Noah Gipson, w/m, Emma Sansom Middle School, Districtwide Strings Teacher, to Mitchell Elementary School, Districtwide Music Teacher #2627.024, effective 08/06/2026

(B-4) Wes Beck, w/m, Gadsden Middle School, Social Studies Teacher, to Gadsden City High School, Social Studies Teacher #2627.053, effective 08/06/2026

(B-5) Jesse Nunnally, w/f, Emma Sansom Middle School, Math TEAMS Teacher, to Gadsden City High School, Math TEAMS Teacher #2627.052, effective 08/06/2026

(B-6) Angelle Hooten, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, to Adams Elementary School, Special Education Teacher #2526.162, effective 08/06/2026

(PART C) New Personnel:

(C-1) Za'Miyah Blount, b/f, Mitchell Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, #2627.019, effective 08/06/2026

(C-2) Cassidy Deavor, w/f, Mitchell Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, #2627.036, effective 08/06/2026

(C-3) Tina Wiley, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, #2627.039, effective 08/06/2026

(C-4) Precious Woody, b/f, Adams Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, #2627.043, effective 08/06/2026

(C-5) Melody "Ginny" Alred, Adams Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, #2627.043, effective 08/06/2026

(C-6) Cindi Rainey, w/f, Adams Elementary School, School Counselor, #2627.044, effective 08/06/2026

(C-7) Shelly Floyd, w/f, Gadsden Middle School, Special Education Teacher, #2627.041, effective 08/06/2026

(C-8) Thomas Matthew Patterson, w/m, Gadsden City High School, Secondary Social Studies Teacher, #2627.005, effective 08/06/2026

(C-9) Frances Hall, b/f, Donehoo Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher, #2627.038, effective 08/06/2026

(C-10) Melissa Beaird, w/f, Emma Sansom Middle School, Secondary Math, #2627.059, effective 08/06/2026

(C-11) Walter Black, w/m, Secondary-Homeschool TBD, Systemwide Special Education Teacher, #2627.007, effective 08/06/2026

(C-12) Timothy Kirby, b/m, Districtwide Transportation Shop Foreman, #2627.034, effective 06/01/2026

(C-13) Elizabet Infante, h/f, Districtwide Transportation Receptionist Clerical, #2627.032, effective 06/01/2026

(C-14) Earl Davis, b/m, Bus Driver, #2627.013, effective 08/06/2026 and Lorrie Beck, b/f, Bus Driver, #2627.013, effective 08/06/2026

(C-15) Tierra Jones, b/f, Gadsden City High School Homeschool, Systemwide Special Education Aide, #2526.177, effective 08/06/2026

Contracts:

Bilingual Aides – EL State Funding

Monday – Friday Hours 7:30-3:30 unpaid 30-min lunch

Estrella Ramirez Chavez, Adams Elementary School, 08/10/2026-09/30/2026

Jennifer Gonzalez Quintana, Gadsden City High School, 08/10/2026-09/30/2026

Maria Infante, Gadsden Middle School, 08/10/2026-09/30/2026

Marianela Gonzalez, Emma Sansom & Litchfield Middle, 08/10/2026-

09/30/2026

Melissa Rayo, Floyd Elementary School, 08/10/2026-09/30/2026

Selena Rivera, Striplin Elementary School, 08/10/2026-09/30/2026

Updates/Corrections:

Jeff Lumpkin-Gadsden City High History Teacher-Resignation 05/26/2026

Summer Feeding Program- Kodi Davis declined; Cody Beshears will replace Davis. Cilia Wise will work with Summer Feeding Program at New Destiny Church.

2026 FEDERAL SUMMER SCHOOL/PROGRAMS POSITIONS

2026 SUMMER TITLE I INVENTORY/TEXTBOOKS PROGRAM, GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX, FEDERAL PROGRAMS

June 1 - July 26, 2026, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Schedule will be determined

1. Jamie Whitaker, w, Teacher, effective 06/02/2026-07/26/2026

2026 TITLE I HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH, PARENT TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

June 1 - July 23, 2026

Schedule to be Determined

1. Lynne Whisenant, w, Homeless Liaison, effective 06/01/2026-07/23/2026

SUMMER NURSING CARE, PARENT TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER

June 1 - July 23, 2026, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Schedule to be Determined

1. Kristi Matlock, w, Nurse, effective 06/01/2026-07/23/2026

2. TBD, Nurse, effective 06/01/2026-07/23/2026

2026 SUMMER FEDERAL PROGRAMS, DATA MANAGER

***PARENT TEACHER RESOURCE CENTER**

June 1 - July 23, 2026, 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

1. Diana Hilton, h, Resource Teacher, effective 06/01/2026-07/23/2026

Recommendations for Elementary Summer Camp Employment

June 1 - June 30, 2026

STRIPLIN SITE

TEACHERS

Niambi Cherry

Sandra Cherry

Julie Daniel

Lyn Elder-Tarver
Angela Glass
Brandi LaBenne
Megan McCright
Brianna Roberson-Reading Coach
Amy R. Smith
Kimberly Smith
Greta Swain
Orsola Turner
Chris Weaver-Enrichment
Robert Kyle-Enrichment
VanKendra Wilson
Latera Woods-Reading Coach
Buffy Vaughn-Math Coach
Jennifer Clifton-Special Education
Laura Biggio-ARI Interventionist

SUPPORT

Sylvia Howard
Ana Vargus
Meckele Ragland
Charles Morris-Custodian
Gloria McDaniels-Secretary

FLOYD SITE

TEACHERS

Pat Bradley
Adrienne Champion
Alison Correll-Reading Coach
Autumn Dukes
Sydney Fairchild
Anna Gibson
Emily Ann Hayes
Laura Johnson
Valerie Johnson-Reading Coach
Margaret Lancaster
Eriica Mallard
Katie Mayes-Reading Coach
Alyson Noah-Special Education
Amanda Rogers-Math Coach
Staci Simmons-Enrichment
Laurie Smith
April Washburn
Shereka Wright-Math Coach

SUPPORT

Mekeja Green
Rachel Cole
Shannon Arledge
Kristina Glass
Ashley White-Secretary
Eromand Usrey-Custodian

ADAMS SITE

TEACHERS

Shanique Appleton
Celeste Back
Valencia Baker
Alexusona Bozeman
Chelsea Collins
Terri Jo Dean
Terri Dickson-Reading Coach
Adrienne Edwards-Math Coach
Pamela Hayes
Sharon Lancaster
Jeressa McGee-Math Coach
Dasha Moore
Amanda Moses-Special Education
Kimberly Mummert
Mandisa Perry-Reading Coach
Reginald Tillis
Nicole Tudor-Enrichment
Cybil Smith

SUPPORT

Amber Buchanan
Xavier Ray
Cory Dunn
Marianela Gonzales
Tashayria Jones-Custodian
Diana Rivas-Secretary

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SKILLS CAMP

Latoya Laster

**PERSONNEL FOR COMMUNITY SITES SUMMER CAMP AND BEAUTIFUL
RAINBOW**

June 1 - June 30, 2026

Carver Community Center

Lori Burton
Cheslie Cambron
Macy Dupree
Julie Gilchrist
Rena Green
Lauren Johnson
Mary H. Moody
Jessica Parker
Valerie Taylor
Damian Thompson
Kayla Willis
Quintarius Hutchison

Boys and Girls Club

Sonja Borden
Tamiyah Gaddis
Jackie Gaddis (Substitute)
Annessa Henderson
Jarvis McKee
Gail Relford
Robert Thompson
Cilia Wise
Conteria Williams (Substitute)

Antioch Baptist Church Family Life Center

Laverne Chester
Ernestina Hardrick
Katherine Hood
Sylvia Horton
Katrina Johniken
Ethan Nessler
Antonio Scott
Cassandra Thomas
Christina White
Steven Williams

Beautiful Rainbow Café

Additionally, Beautiful Rainbow Café will have a Special Education Transition Camp, July 1–July 30.

Leita Conner
Tammy McDuffie
Laura McLendon

Christopher Wood

Ignite

Devone Maness

Mandisa Perry

Cassandra Veasy

Antonin Watson

Personnel Recommendations: 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.

Board Member Rev. Z. Andre' Huff needed to be excused from the meeting at 5:29 p.m. and was not present for the remainder of the meeting.

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 announced the names of the new personnel.

3. Surplus Property Items from Gadsden City High School and Ray Thompson Elementary School

Superintendent Blackwell requested that the board approve the surplus property items from Gadsden City High School and Ray Thompson Elementary School.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting results:

Not Present: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Yes: Hon. Allen Millican

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

4. Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

a. Gadsden City High School to Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the Gadsden City High School Civic Engagement group to attend camp at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania from July 6 to July 11, 2026.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting results:

Not Present: 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. Gadsden City High School Best Buddies (YAiT Club) to attend Leadership Conference in Bloomington, IN

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the Best Buddies (YAiT Club, which stands for Young Adults in Transition) to attend a leadership conference in Bloomington, IN, from July 17 to July 20, 2026.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting results:

Not Present: 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. Gadsden City High School Boys' Basketball Team Playdate to Emerson, GA

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the boys' basketball team's attendance at a showcase at Lakepoint Sports Complex in Emerson, GA, from June 26–27, 2026. The showcase will allow players to display their talents in front of college coaches.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting results:

Not Present: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart
Yes: Hon. Allen Millican
Yes: Mr. Mike Haney
Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed
Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

5. Reinstatement of Days from On-the-Job Injury

Superintendent Blackwell asked the board to review the reinstatement of sick days used by Brennetta Watkins from an injury that occurred on December 5, 2025. The total days requested to be reinstated are ninety. Chairman Millican asked for a motion to approve.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting results:

Not Present: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff
Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart
Yes: Hon. Allen Millican
Yes: Mr. Mike Haney
Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed
Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

6. Approval of Policy JCBG: Alabama First Class Pre-Kindergarten Zoning Requirements

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the new policy regarding Alabama First Class Pre-Kindergarten Zoning Requirements. The policy was presented to the board at the May board meeting by Federal Programs Coordinator, Janie Browning.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting results:

Not Present: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff
Yes: Mrs. Nancy Stewart
Yes: Hon. Allen Millican
Yes: Mr. Mike Haney
Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed
Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

7. First Reading of New Policy JBAB: Student Toileting Readiness and Bathroom Independence

Superintendent Blackwell would like the board to review the first reading of Policy JBAB: Student Toileting Readiness and Bathroom Independence. The board will approve the new policy at the next meeting if no second reading is recommended.

8. 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 April 30, 2026.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting results:

Not Present: 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

a. Schedule for the 2026-2027 Board Meetings

The Board Meeting Schedule was distributed for the 2026-2027 academic year.

2. New Business

Superintendent Blackwell informed the board members that he would like to schedule a called board meeting next week. He explained the hiring committee process for the Gadsden City High School principal position.

Janie Browning invited the board members to Blast Off into Summer Learning at the Challenger Learning Center on Thursday, June 11, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is a free family event with STEM activities and hands-on fun.

3. Next Regular Board Meeting is July 07, 2026, Central Office

G. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Board Member Nancy Stewart.

Date

Superintendent/Secretary