



August Regular Board Meeting
08/04/2026 05:00 PM
Gadsden City Board of Education
Central Office

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, Roll Call

Chairman 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. Roll was called and Chairman Millican declared a quorum was present.

B. Approval of Agenda

The August agenda was presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Yes: 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

C. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

Superintendent Blackwell recognized and thanked the Titan Ambassadors, Nyla Franklin and Naomi Taylor. Officer Mitchell James, former Superintendent Tony Reddick, and Councilman Steve Smith were also in attendance.

D. Reports

1. Virtual Academy - Mrs. Sharon Maness

Assistant Superintendent Sharon Maness provided an overview of the forthcoming Virtual Academy, with plans to be introduced later this year. Key points discussed were that the Virtual Academy is designed as a flexible, tuition-free educational option tailored for middle school and high school students. Mrs. Maness highlighted various benefits for both students and families, encompassing medical, behavioral, and additional supportive services. Students must meet specific qualifications to enroll in the Virtual Academy, which has limited capacity.

The board expressed interest in further details as the program develops.

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes

a. July 07, 2026, Regular Board Minutes

A recommendation was made to approve the minutes as presented from the July 07, 2026, board meeting.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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. Mark Dayton

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

b. July 23, 2026, Special Called Board Minutes

A recommendation was made to approve the minutes as presented from the July 23, 2026, special board meeting.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Yes: 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

2. Approval of Personnel Recommendations

Superintendent Blackwell made the recommendation to approve the following personnel items:

RETIREMENT

Angela Craig, b/f, Gadsden City Board -Central Office, Accounts Payable, effective 09/01/2026

Tammy L. Parris, w/f, Striplin Elementary, CNP Worker, effective 09/01/2026

RESIGNATION

Summer Rice, b/f, Systemwide (Even Start), Special Education Instructional Aide, effective 05/26/2026

La'Toya Williams, b/f, Adams Elementary, Systemwide Instructional Aide, Special Education, effective 05/26/2026

Nallely Vega, h/f, Litchfield Middle, Science Teacher/TEAMS Science Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Renza Avery Jr., Systemwide, Computer Technician (12-months), effective 07/31/2026

Daphne Littlejohn, w/f, Emma Sansom Middle, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, effective TBD

Patricia McBurnett, w/f, Gadsden City Board-Central Office, Child Nutrition Program Data Manager, effective 09/18/2026

Maritza Swinford, h/f, Gadsden City Board-Central Office, Administrator Assistant, effective 08/21/2026

DECLINED POSITION

Timothy Hobgood, w/m, Secondary Systemwide-Gadsden City High, Special Education Teacher #2627.022, effective 07/25/2026

(PART A) REEMPLOYMENT

(A-1) Jennifer Beal, w/f, Donehoo Elementary, Classroom Teacher #2627.112, effective 08/06/2026

(PART B) TRANSFERS

(B-1) Sharon Underwood, b/f, from Floyd Elementary, Assistant Principal, to Mountainview Administrative Liaison #2627.115, effective 08/04/2026, *pending board approval*

(B-2) Madisyn Horton, b/f, from Floyd Elementary, Classroom Teacher, to Thompson Elementary, Librarian #2627.106, effective TBD

(PART C) NEW EMPLOYEES

(C-1) Ethan Nessler, w/m, Emma Sansom Middle, Districtwide-Stings Teacher #2627.064, effective 08/06/2026

(C-2) Alaina B. Stevens, w/f, Litchfield Middle, TEAMS Science Teacher, #2627.116, effective 08/06/2026

(C-3) Ann Sharpe, w/f, Gadsden Middle, 6th Grade English Language Arts Teacher #2627.051, effective 08/06/2026

(C-4) Wendy Longcrier, w/f, Elementary Systemwide-Adams Elementary,

Special Education Teacher #**2627.096**, effective 08/06/2026
(C-5) Shelly Cantrell, w/f, Emma Sansom Middle, Family & Consumer Science Teacher #**2627.118**, effective TBD
(C-6) Antina Washington, b/f, Gadsden City High, CNP Worker #**2627.102**, effective 08/06/2026
(C-7) Horace Johnson, b/m, Bus Driver #**2627.013**

CONTRACTS

School Contracts:

Ana Manuel, Districtwide-Gadsden Middle, Bilingual Aide, 08/10/2026-09/30/2026, 10/01/2026-05/27/2027
John Reed, Gadsden City High, Job Coach, 08/01/2026-07/31/2027
Sylvia Horton, Even Start, Instructional Aide, 08/12/2026-05/30/2027
Kim Back, Adams Elementary, Interventionist, 08/06/2026-09/30/2026, 10/01/2026-05/27/2027

SUBSTITUTES

Re-Applying Non-Certified Teacher Substitutes:

Amanda Duncan
Mary Billingsley

New Non-Certified Teacher Subs:

LaShonda Davis
Carl Harrison
TaKaylor Jones

Bus Subs:

Cynthia Jones
April Flemming

Updates/Corrections:

Shaquoria Garrett, corrected effective resignation date from 05/26/2026 to 06/09/2026

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.

GADSDEN CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION-ANNEX

21st Century Site Coordinator
2026

21st Century Teachers (33) (2627.067)

Woods, LeNelda b/f	Bailey, Aaron w/m
Mummert, Kimberly w/f	Westbrook, Emma w/f
Madrigal, John b/m	Watts, Vachon b/f
Terry, Ethan w/m	Dunn, Cory b/m
Simmons, Staci b/f	Jones, Luz h/f
Guyton, Jasmine b/f	Bothwell, Joresa b/f

21st Century Enrichment Teachers (8) (2627.068)

Ray, Xavier b/m

21st Century Assistants (10) (2627.070)

Wise, Cillia b/f

Adkinson, Regina w/f

Rivera, Selena h/f

Flor, Juárez h/f

Substitutes:

Cole, Rachel w/f

Newell, Amber w/f

Horton, Sylvia b/f

Rivera, Selena h/f

Knight, Kiara b/f

Isom, Robin b/m

Martin, Mackenzie w/f

Swain, Greta b/f

White, Christina b/f

Underwood, Sharon b/f

Wadley, Catina b/f

Daniels, Gloria h/f

Williams, Conteria b/f

Brown, Sonya w/f

Laster, LaToya b/f

Haygood, Margaret b/f

Calhoun, Christonia b/f

Sullivan, Cristy w/f

Blount, LaTisa b/f

Bussey, Hunter w/m

LeBenne, Brandi w/f

Roberson, Brianna b/f

Underwood, Sharon b/f

Barnes, Gena w/f

Hickman, Dawn b/f

Cambron, Cheslie w/f

Waldrop, Sally w/f

Stevens, Ginger w/f

Correll, Alison w/f

Elliott, Paula w/f

Scruggs, Susan w/f

Jones, Steven b/m

Helms, Brooke b/f

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Yes: 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

Superintendent Blackwell reads the names of the new personnel. Board Member Huff recognized the retirees.

3. Approval of 2026-2027 Salary Schedule

Superintendent Blackwell recommended approval of the 2026-2027 Salary Schedule.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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. Mark Dayton

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

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 June 30, 2026.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

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. Mark Dayton

Yes: Mr. Mike Haney

Yes: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Yes: Mrs. Rita Smith

F. Information Items

1. Old Business

None to report

2. New Business

a. Work Session and Whole Board Training Dates

The following was discussed as new business:

- Monday, August 10, is the main In-Service meeting at Gadsden City High School auditorium for all Gadsden City Schools employees.
- August 5, 2026, New Employee Orientation at Gadsden City High School auditorium
- Superintendent Blackwell would like to have a Special Called Board Meeting next week for personnel recommendations and Code of Student Conduct and Elementary Handbook approvals.
- Work Session and Whole Board Training dates were sent out via email. Please respond, so a date can be scheduled.

3. Next Regular Board Meeting

- a. Budget Hearing #1 is on Thursday, September 3, 2026, 5:00 PM, Central Office**
- b. Regular Meeting and Budget Hearing #2 is on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 5:00 PM, Litchfield Middle School**

G. Adjournment

With no further business, Chairman Millican declared the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m. after a motion from Board Member Z. Andre' Huff.

Date

Superintendent/Secretary