



July Regular Board Meeting
07/07/2026 05:00 PM
Gadsden City Board of Education

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 - **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, Roll Call

Chairman Millican called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Board Member Rev. Andre Huff led with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The roll was called, and a quorum was declared present.
Board Member Rita Smith entered the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda

The chair entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

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

C. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

Visitors were recognized in the audience.

1. Recruitment Videos for Gadsden City Schools

Superintendent Blackwell introduced the new "Why We Choose to be Titans" campaign aimed at promoting the Gadsden City School System. Two recruitment videos produced by Venture Marketing were presented to both the board and the audience. The first video featured parents sharing their reasons for choosing Gadsden City Schools for their children, highlighting the benefits and values of the district. The second video showcased employees discussing their motivations for working within the Gadsden City School System, emphasizing a commitment to education and community. The campaign and videos are part of ongoing efforts to engage and attract families and staff to the district.

2. Mr. John Moore, Director of Commercial Development for the City of Gadsden

Superintendent Blackwell introduced Mr. John Moore, the Director of Commercial Development for the City of Gadsden. Mr. Moore provided an overview of the city's campaign titled "Got to Get to Gadsden," which aims to promote Gadsden as a desirable destination. He emphasized that the initiative will promote "Why We Choose to be Titans" to increase awareness and support for the school system. Mr. Moore highlighted several past and upcoming events, thanking the school board and community members for their support of the Freedom Fest, which was held on the Fourth of July. He also informed everyone about the upcoming Back to School Bash, scheduled for July 25 and July 26, and that tickets will be available for "Slide the City", featuring a 1,000-foot slip-n-slide.

D. Reports

1. Auditor's Report - Scott Lee, CPA

Mr. Scott Lee, Certified Public Accountant with Richard, Harris, Ingram and Bozeman, P.C., presented a summary of the auditor's report for the year ended September 30, 2025.

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes from June 2, 2026

The minutes from the June 02, 2026, Regular Board Meeting were presented for approval.

Motion made by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

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

b. Special Board Meeting Minutes from June 11, 2026

The minutes from the June 11, 2026, Special Called Board Meeting were presented for approval.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

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. Approval of CNP Bid Extensions

a. Supplemental Joint Purchasing Bid

Gadsden City Schools CNP will participate in a Joint Purchasing Agreement with approximately 60 school systems statewide to purchase supplemental grocery items and supplies for a minimum term of one year, with the term effective July 1, 2026, and ending on June 30, 2027, with the provision for an optional renewal for an additional subsequent year.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

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. Milk Products Bid #2026-6-11

The Gadsden City Schools Child Nutrition Program will participate in a joint purchasing agreement with Attalla City School and Etowah County Schools for the purchase of milk and milk products. The bid is effective August 1, 2026, and ends July 31, 2027, with the provision for an optional renewal for an additional subsequent year. The bid was awarded to New Dairy Opco.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

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. Bread Bid #2026-7-7-BREAD

Mr. Johnnie Parker recommended that Bimbo R&I/Sara Lee, Decatur, AL, be awarded the bid for bread products. Bimbo R&I was the only bid received.

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

3. Approval of Sales Contract for Gadsden Annex building: 501 S. 12th Street

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the sale contract to sell the Gadsden Annex building located at 501 South 12th Street, Gadsden, AL 35901. The contract allows Gadsden City School System to continue to have access to areas needed after the sale is finalized.

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

4. Approval of Policy JBAB: Student Toileting Readiness and Bathroom Independence

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the new policy on Student Toileting Readiness and Bathroom Independence, as discussed at the June regular board meeting.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

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

5. Approval of Personnel Actions

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

Resignation:

Julie Gilchrist, w/f, Striplin Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Christin Nolin, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Karli Strickland, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Angelle Hooten, w/f, Adams Elementary School, Special Education Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Jasmine Little, w/f, Adams Elementary School, Systemwide Special Education Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Kaitlin Clark, Gadsden Middle School, 8th Grade English Language Arts Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Megen McCright, Gadsden Middle School, 8th Grade Science, effective 05/26/2026

Dylan Walker, Gadsden City High School, Special Education Teacher, effective 05/26/2026

Twyla Weaver, Mitchell Elementary School, Counselor, effective 05/26/2026

Ashleigh White, Floyd Elementary School, Secretary/Bookkeeper, effective 06/01/2026

Deceased:

Alfonso Jordan, b/m, Donehoo Elementary School, Custodian, effective 06/21/2026

(Part A) Reemployment:

(A-1) Melody Pilkington, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.080, effective 08/06/2026

(A-2) Elena Jones, b/f, Adams Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.043, effective 08/06/2026

(A-3) Melissa Jones, w/f, Donehoo Elementary School, Elementary Teacher #2627.075, effective 08/06/2026

(A-4) Tara Lindsey, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.066, effective 08/06/2026

(A-5) Joshua Richard, b/m, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.047, effective 08/06/2026

(A-6) Summer Mayo Sauls, w/f, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.015, effective 08/06/2026

(A-7) Antonio Watson, b/m, Thompson Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.086, effective 08/06/2026

(A-8) Madison Pate, w/f, Systemwide-Adams Elementary School, Special Education Teacher #2627.087, effective 08/06/2026

(A-9) Mekeja Green, b/f, Donehoo Elementary School, Secretary/Bookkeeper #2627.091, effective 07/27/2026

(A-10) Micah Swain, b/f, Floyd Elementary School, Title I Aide #2627.090, effective 08/06/2026

(A-11) Phillip Swindall, w/m, Floyd Elementary School, Title I Aide #2627.090, effective 08/06/2026

(Part B) Transfers:

(B-1) Sydney Fairchild, w/f, Floyd Elementary, Classroom Teacher, to Walnut Park Elementary, Classroom Teacher #2627.089, effective 08/06/2026

(B-2) Celestia Dawson, b/f, Litchfield Middle, English Language Arts Teacher, to Floyd Elementary, Assistant Principal #2627.057, 10.5 months, one year only, effective 07/20/2026

(B-3) Rayshaun Edwards, b/m, Gadsden City High, P.E/Health Teacher, to Gadsden Middle, Assistant Principal #2627.077, effective 07/20/2026

(B-4) James Lloyd Newcomb, w/m, Litchfield Middle School, TEAMS Science Teacher, to Gadsden Middle, TEAMS Science Teacher #2627.095, effective 08/06/2026

(B-5) Wendy Owens, w/f, Donehoo Elementary, Secretary/Bookkeeper, to Floyd Elementary, Secretary/Bookkeeper #2627.082, effective 07/27/2026

(Part C) New Employees:

(C-1) Michelle Scott, b/f, Adams Elementary School, Principal #2627.078, effective 07/15/2026

(C-2) HaLexix Wyatt, b/f, Adams Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.043, effective 08/06/2026

(C-3) Alison Williams, w/f, Floyd Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.097, effective 08/06/2026

(C-4) Brittany Mathis, b/f, Striplin Elementary School, Classroom Teacher #2627.081, effective 08/06/2026

(C-5) Amin Blake Worthy, b/m, Gadsden Middle School, Social Studies Teacher #2627.065, effective 08/06/2026

(C-6) Nicolas Lewis, b/m, Emma Sansom Middle School, Secondary Social Studies Teacher #2627.040, effective 08/06/2026

(C-7) Tabatha Lendquist-Grace, w/f, Gadsden City High School, Art Teacher #2627.061, effective 08/06/2026

(C-8) Jesse Madden, b/m, Gadsden City High School, Band Director #2627.062, 12-months, effective 07/13/2026

(C-9) Timothy Hobgood, w/m, Secondary Systemwide-Gadsden City High School, Special Education Teacher #2627.022, effective 08/06/2026

(C-10) Jennifer Frederick, w/f, Systemwide, Speech Language Pathologist #2627.020, effective 08/06/2026

(C-11) Estrella Ramirez Chavez, h/f, Systemwide-Even Start (home school), Special Education Aide #2627.050, effective 08/06/2026

(C-12) Jayden Bostick, b/f, Systemwide-Mitchell Elementary School, Instructional Aide w/Behavior Therapist Certificate #2627.060, effective 08/06/2026

(C-13) Bus Drivers #2627.013, effective 08/12/2026:

Carlton Baise, b/m, Brian Brock, w/m, Cody Owens, w/m, Wilma

Patterson, w/f
(C-14) Angela Gray, b/f, Systemwide, Special Education Bus Aide #2627.073,
effective 08/12/2026

Gadsden City Employees with Bus Routes #2627.013

Leah Day, Daryl Douthard, Andrew Elrod, Luz Jones, Andrew Laughlin, Joshua
Nelson, Alina Wood

Contracts:

Jessica Jimenez, Floyd/PTRC/Adams, EL Teacher Training, 6/8/2026-
7/30/2026

Teneisha Ash, Donehoo Elementary, Summer School Aide, 6/1/2026-
6/30/2026

Cory Dunn, Donehoo Elementary, Summer Custodian, 7/1/2026-7/26/2026

Margaret Haygood, Donehoo Elementary, June Secretary, 6/1/2026-
6/30/2026

Valerie Johnson, Floyd Elementary, Reading Specialist/Data Disaggregation,
7/1/2026-7/31/2026

Wendy Owens, Floyd Elementary, Summer Secretary, 7/15/2026-7/24/2026

Amanda Rogers, Floyd Elementary, Summer Math Coach/Data
Disaggregation, 7/1/2026-7/31/2026

Meshonda Burwell, Floyd Elementary, Title Interventionist, 8/6/2026-
9/30/2026

Cathye Mayo, Floyd Elementary, Title Interventionist, 8/6/2026-9/30/2026

Bus Driver Contracts: (August 12th – May 27, 2026)

Tonya Bogle, Areatha Smith, Reginald Thomas

TEAMS Contracts:

Larry Densmore, b/m, Gadsden City High School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 1
Year, effective 07/01/2026

Andrew "AJ" Elrod, w/m, Gadsden Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 3
Years, effective 07/01/2026

Michael O'Brien, w/m, Gadsden Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 3
Years, effective 07/01/2026

Molly Jordan, w/f, Litchfield Middle School, TEAMS Math Teacher, 1 Year,
effective 07/01/2026

James Lloyd Newcomb, w/m, Gadsden Middle School, TEAMS Science
Teacher, 2 Years, effective 07/01/2026

Nallely Vega, h/f, Litchfield Middle School, TEAMS Science Teacher, 2 Years,
effective 07/01/2026

VOID Contract:

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

Substitutes:

Nurse Substitutes:

Hannah Tillery Sims

Bus Substitutes:

David Dail
Carl Lewis

Correction/Updates:

Earl Davis, Bus Driver, updated start date from 08/06/2026 to 08/12/2026
Lorrie Beck, Bus Driver, updated start date from 08/06/2026 to 08/12/2026

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 Site Coordinators (2627.069)

Adrienne Edwards b/f
Eriica Mallard b/f
Teneisha Ash b/f
Kevin Peterson m/w
Leslie (Kay) Tinker b/f
Staci Slick w/f

21st Century Teachers (33) (2627.067)

Shereka Wright
Heather Mabe
Diana Hilton
Nicole Tudor

21st Century Enrichment Teachers (8) (2627.068)

Lashunda Brewster
Tymetric Dillon
Karen Abercrombie

21st Century Bookkeepers (2) (2627.071)

Kristie Mabe
Brandi Newton

21st Century Assistants (10) (2627.070)

Micah Swain
Debra Bishop
Fannie Dillon
Robert Kyle

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

Superintendent Blackwell read the names of the new personnel. Mr. Blackwell welcomed Mr. Jesse Madden, the new band director at Gadsden City High School.

6. 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 May 31, 2026.

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

F. Information Items

1. Old Business

2. New Business

Superintendent Blackwell pointed out the Scholar's Bowl National Championship trophies, a travel trophy, and one for the school to keep.

Superintendent Blackwell may request that the board have a Special Called Board meeting sometime during the week of July 20 - July 23, 2026, for personnel recommendations.

a. New Employee Orientation is Wednesday, August 05, 2026, at GCHS Auditorium

3. Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, August 04, 2026, at Central Office

G. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on motion b

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting results: Unanimously Approved

Date

Superintendent/Secretary