



Gadsden City Board of Education  
November Regular Meeting  
11/07/2024 05:00 PM  
At Gadsden Middle School  
612 Tracy St, Gadsden, AL

## MEETING MINUTES

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### Attendees

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#### Voting Members

Hon. Allen Millican, Board Chairman-District 7  
Mr. Mark Dayton, Vice Chairman – District 5  
Rev. Z. Andre’ Huff, Board Member – District 3  
Ms. Adrienne Reed, Board Member – District 1  
Mrs. Rita Smith, Board Member – District 2  
Mrs. Nancy Stewart, Board Member – District 6

#### Absent Voting Member

Mr. Mike Haney, Board Member – District 4

#### Non-Voting Members

Mr. Keith Blackwell, Superintendent  
Mr. Ed Howard, Attorney  
Mrs. Cory Skelton, Chief School Financial Officer  
Mrs. Kelly Swafford, Superintendent Administrative Assistant

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#### **A. Opening Exercises -Call to Order, Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance**

- B.** Chairman Millican called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Mrs. Rita Smith led with prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chairman Millican declared a quorum was present. Superintendent Blackwell thanked Mrs. Smith for filling his prayer requests to cover the Gadsden City Schools system in prayer as the system has endured much loss and health issues this year: Col. Harrison, Tammy Woods, and more.

#### **C. Recognition of Visitors/Guests**

Chairman Millican recognized Chief Jaggars for being in attendance. Superintendent Blackwell acknowledged Mr. Mitchell with the GSCC Showband and stated they played at the Patriots Luncheon. Emma Sansom Middle School principal Mr. Charlton Giles and Council member Steve Smith were also in attendance. Superintendent

Blackwell introduced Mr. Chance Goodwin, principal of Gadsden Middle School, and thanked him for hosting the board meeting.

1. Principal Goodwin welcomed everyone to Gadsden Middle School. He introduced Mr. Brian Bankston and the Gadsden Middle Drumline. Mr. Bankston introduced the drumline students and stated this is the first year drumline is a separate course. The drumline members performed for the board members and guests. Mr. Bankston stated Mr. Benedetti, GCHS Band Director, for writing a grant for the new drumline equipment. Next, Mr. Goodwin introduced Mrs. Alison Correll and the middle school cheerleading squad. The cheerleaders performed a dance for the board members and guests.
2. Principal Goodwin announced Mr. Wes Beck as the 2025 Teacher of the Year for Gadsden Middle School.

#### **D. Approval of Agenda**

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

#### **E. Reports**

1. Janie Browning – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program Coordinator– Final Evaluator Report for the Nita M. Lowery 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center.

Browning presented the final evaluation summary report for the Gadsden City Afterschool Programs. She reported that all programs met the goals established by the external evaluators and reviewed the methods used to measure the results. Mrs. Rita Smith inquired about the duration of the grant, while Chairman Millican asked about student enrollment. Ms. Browning clarified that the grant is a three-year cycle that will conclude in 2025, with hopes of reapplying. Currently, the afterschool programs serve 973 students, an increase since the time of the report. Ms. Browning also addressed questions regarding the correlation between summer learning, afterschool programs, and feeding programs.

Ms. Browning provided an overview of upcoming events and activities associated with the 21st Century Program. She invited everyone to the Red Carpet Event at the Gadsden City High School auditorium on January 16, 2025. A promotional video created by Gadsden City High students for the Red Carpet Event was shown.

**F. Board Action**

**1. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the following meeting were presented to the board for approval.

**a. Regular Board Meeting on October 1, 2024.**

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

**2. Surplus Property**

**a.** Superintendent Blackwell recommended the board approve listed property from Adams Elementary School as surplus items.

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

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

**b.** Superintendent Blackwell recommended the board approve listed property from Gadsden City High School as surplus items

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

**3. Out-of-State Field Trips**

**a. Gadsden City High School Boys Basketball Team– College Park, GA**

Superintendent Blackwell recommends the board approve the out-of-state field trip for the boys' basketball team to travel to the Woodward Academy in College Park, GA from December 20 – December 21, 2024, to compete in the War Eagle Basketball Classic Tournament.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

**b. Gadsden Middle School Scholars' Bowl Competition – Commerce, GA**

Superintendent Blackwell recommends the board approve the out-of-state field trip for the Gadsden Middle Scholars' Bowl team to travel to Commerce, GA from January 17 – January 19, 2025.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

**4. Textbook Working and Standing Committee**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the board approve the Science and Career Tech textbook adoption working and standing committee. Board Members signed an Oath of Office stating no one has a conflict with the textbook companies.

Textbook Working Committee

Staci Slick

Christina Caldwell

Textbook Standing Committee

David Asbury

Marcia Farabee

Stacey Holcomb  
Jennifer Davis  
Robert Sims  
Christona Calhoun  
Latoya Laster  
Christin Nolin  
Megen McCright  
Wesley McGhee  
Michelle Pierce  
Reginald Tillis  
Annalisa Brewster

Keith Blackwell  
Johnnie Parker  
Jamie Whitaker

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton  
Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes  
Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes  
Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes  
Hon. Allen Millican - Yes  
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes  
Ms. Adrienne Reed - Yes

#### **5. CNP Bid for Mitchell**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the board approve the bid for a new serving line at Mitchell Elementary School to be awarded to Singer H&R. The bids were opened on Monday, November 4, 2024.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton  
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith  
Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes  
Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes  
Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes  
Hon. Allen Millican - Yes  
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes  
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

#### **6. Personnel Action Recommendations**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the following personnel actions be approved:

Motion made by: Ms. Adrienne Reed  
Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith  
Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes  
 Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes  
 Hon. Allen Millican - Yes  
 Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes  
 Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

**RESIGNATION**

<u>Resignation:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
Jennifer Vance (w/f)	Striplin Elementary School Classroom Teacher	11/01/2024
Rebekah Oglesby (w/f)	Floyd Elementary School Special Education Teacher	10/13/2024
Shannon Williams (h/f)	Gadsden City High School ESL Teacher	11/30/2024
Zach Contris (w/m)	Floyd Elementary School Special Education Teacher	12/04/2024

**RETIREMENT**

<u>Retirement:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
Joseph Billingsley (w/m)	Systemwide Director of Facilities	12/01/2024
Sylvia Cole (b/f)	Gadsden City High School Lunchroom Worker	01/01/2025
Gerald Presley (b/m)	Gadsden City High School Special Education Aide	01/01/2025

**FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

<u>Leave of Absences:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
Shari Cowan	Floyd Elementary School CNP Lunchroom	12/02/24-5/23/25

**(PART A) REEMPLOYMENT**

<u>Reemployment</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
(A-1) Lorretta C. Jones (b/f)	Thompson Elementary School Title I Instructional Aide <b>2425.156</b> Remainder of Academic Year 2024-2025 only	10/21/2024 Pending Board Approval

**(PART B) NEW PERSONNEL**

<u>New Employee:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
(B-1) Jennifer Beal (w/f)	Adams Elementary School Classroom Teacher <b>2425.154</b>	10/21/2024 Pending Board Approval
(B-2) Desiree Andrews (b/f)	Adams Elementary School Classroom Teacher <b>2425.153</b>	10/24/2024 Pending Board Approval
(B-3) Deonte' Sherrice Huff (b/f)	Striplin Elementary School Elementary Classroom Teacher <b>2425.157</b>	11/04/2024 Pending Board Approval
(B-4) James Wesley Seymour (w/m)	Emma Sansom Middle School 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher <b>2425.152</b>	10/28/2024 Pending Board Approval
(B-5) Dorothy Hawkins (b/f)	Home School: Gadsden City High School Systemwide Special Education Aide <b>2425.132</b>	10/21/2024 Pending Board Approval

(B-6) Dashunia Rudolph (b/f)	Home School: Even Start Family Literacy Center Systemwide Special Education Aide <b>2425.141</b>	10/21/2024 Pending Board Approval
(B-7) Hunter Lowe (w/m)	Home School: Gadsden City High School Systemwide Special Education Aide <b>2425.159</b>	10/21/2024 Pending Board Approval
(B-8) Cindy Mitchell (w/f)	Gadsden City High School Lunchroom Worker <b>2425.142</b>	11/06/2024 Pending Board Approval

**Substitutes:**

**Re-Applying Teacher Substitute:**

Joyclyn Ray

**New Non-Certified Teacher Substitutes:**

Brittany Megois

Katherine Peek

**New Support Substitute:**

Callie Hood

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION AFTERSCHOOL SUBSTITUTES:**

Alexusona Bozeman (b/f)

Susan Scruggs (w/f)

Emma Westbrook (w/f)

VanKedra Wilson (b/f)

Motion made by: Ms. Adrienne Reed

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

**7. Updated Gadsden City Schools Financial Procedures (PD, Travel, Field Trips)**

Superintendent Blackwell recommended that the board approve the updates to the Gadsden City Schools Financial Procedures. CSFO Cory Skelton explained that these changes are being implemented as the system transitions to Droplet in an effort to become paperless. The updates involve modifications to the existing professional development, travel reimbursement, and field trip forms.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican – Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

## **8. Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation**

CSFO Cory Skelton presented the year-end monthly financial report to the board for review and approval. The financial data and cash balances presented are based on the reconciled bank statement and the general ledger as of September 30, 2024.

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

## **G. Information Items**

### **1. Old Business**

No old business to report.

### **2. New Business**

Superintendent Blackwell asked the board to share the Christmas at the Falls & Together We Read campaign flyer on social media. Students who earn 10 AR points by December 5 will receive a free student and adult ticket to the Christmas at the Falls and VIP Holiday Dance Party.

### **3. Next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. located at Emma Sansom Middle School.**

- a. Time moved to 4:00 p.m. due to the Gadsden Christmas Parade beginning at 6:00 p.m.

### **4. GCBOE Work Session – November 19, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at Gadsden City Board of Education**

## **H. Adjournment**



Approved 12/03/2024

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Chairman Millican declared the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

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Secretary/Superintendent                      Date