

MEETING MINUTES

Approved 11/07/2024

Attendees

Voting Members

Hon. Allen Millican, Board Chairman-District 7
Mr. Mark Dayton, Vice Chairman – District 5
Mr. Mike Haney, Board Member – District 4
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

Non-Voting Members

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

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

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

B. Recognition of Visitors/Guests

Chairman Millican recognized Council members Kent Back and Steve Smith for being in attendance. Chairman Millican also acknowledged Mr. Scott Suttle with the AASB, District 6, at the meeting. Mr. Suttle is conducting the Whole Board Training immediately following the regular board meeting.

1. Superintendent Blackwell welcomed the Gadsden City Scholars’ Bowl team and the coach to the board meeting. The coach, Colonel Davenport, explained the team is young so the JV and Varsity are the same team. The team members are: Avery Clark, Wren Gaines, Corbin Ho, Christopher Holder, Alvinh Nguyen, and Latika

Prasadh. The varsity team won the 6A State Championship and JV team won Nationals. The JV team finished second in the state for all classifications, not just 6A. Col. Davenport is the JROTC instructor at Gadsden City High School. The JROTC program has been recognized as one of the top programs in the world.

Superintendent Blackwell and Board of Education Members congratulated the Scholars' Bowl team on their accomplishments.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

D. Reports

No reports were given.

E. Board Action

1. Approval of Minutes

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

a. Budget Hearing #1 – September 5, 2024

Motion made by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

b. Regular Board Meeting and Budget Hearing #2 – September 10, 2024

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

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

2. Reinstatement of sick leave days (On-the-job-injury)

Superintendent Blackwell asked the board to approve Gloria McDaniels's reinstatement of three (3) sick leave days for an on-the-job-injury that occurred on August 28, 2024, at Ray Thompson Elementary School.

Motion made by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

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

3. Out-of-State Field Trips

a. Gadsden City High School Competition Cheerleaders – Lafayette, LA

Superintendent Blackwell recommends the board approve the out-of-state field trip for the competition squad to travel to the UCA Competition in Lafayette, LA on December 14 – 16, 2024. This competition is to receive a bid to Nationals.

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
Mr. Mike Haney – Yes
Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes
Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

b. Gadsden City High School Scholars’ Bowl Tournament – Alpharetta, GA

Superintendent Blackwell recommends the board approve the out-of-state field trip for the Gadsden City High Scholars’ Bowl team to travel to Alpharetta, GA from February 28 – March 1, 2025, for the Phoenix 4 Invitational Tournament.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Voting:

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

4. Surplus Property

Superintendent Keith Blackwell recommended the board approve listed property from Emma Sansom Middle School as surplus items.

Motion made by: Mrs. Rita Smith

Motion seconded by: Mrs. Nancy Stewart

Voting:

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

5. Personnel Action Recommendations

Superintendent Blackwell recommended the following personnel actions be approved:

<u>Resignation:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
Savannah Phillips (w/f)	Systemwide Special Education Aide Adams Elementary School	07/22/2024 Pending Board Approval
Zach Hart (w/m)	Emma Sansom Middle School 7 th Grade History Teacher	09/30/2024 Pending Board Approval
Tamiah Hill	Gadsden City High School CNP Worker	09/11/2024 Pending Board Approval
<u>Family Medical Leave of Absences:</u>		<u>Effective Date:</u>
Marlon Russell (b/m)	Thompson Elementary School	10/25/24-5/23/25

PE Teacher

(Part A) Reemployment

		<u>Effective Date:</u>
(A-1) Phillip Morgan (w/m)	Systemwide Special Education Aide Adams Elementary School 2425.131	08/22/2024 Pending Board Approval
(A-2) Brennetta Watkins (b/f)	Striplin Elementary School Title I Instructional Aide 2425.147	10/02/2024 Pending Board Approval
(A-3) Celeste Back (w/f)	Donehoo Elementary School Classroom Teacher	08/01/2024 Pending Board Approval
(A-4) Samantha Roper (w/f)	Systemwide/Emma Sansom Middle School Fine Arts (Music Teacher)	08/01/2024 Pending Board Approval
(A-5) Jamie Self (w/f)	Systemwide Fine Arts Teacher/Gadsden Middle School – Visual Arts	08/01/2024 Pending Board Approval
(A-6) Hilary Williams (w/f)	Systemwide/Gadsden City High School Homeschool – RN/Nurse	08/01/2024 Pending Board Approval
(A-7) Sally Waldrop (w/f)	Systemwide Fine Arts Walnut Park Elementary School Homeschool	08/01/2024 Pending Board Approval
(A-8) Erin Lockridge (w/f)	Eura Brown Elementary School Pre-K Auxiliary Teacher 2425.149	10/02/2024 Pending Board Approval

(Part B) Transfers:

From:

To:

Effective Date:

(B-1) Rashida Starr (b/f)	Adams Elementary School Classroom Teacher	Striplin Elementary School ARI Reading Coach 2425.150	10/01/2024
(B-2) Adrienne Edwards (b/f)	Adams Elementary School Second Grade Classroom Teacher	Adams Elementary School Math Coach 2425.143	10/01/2024
(B-3) Grace Walton (w/f)	Striplin Elementary School Reading Coach	Floyd Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher	10/01/2024
(B-4) Lori Burton (b/f)	Thompson Elementary School Instructional Aide	Thompson Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher 2425.136	10/01/2024

(Part C) New Personnel:

Effective Date:

(C-1) Laura M. Biggio (w/f)	Striplin Elementary School 2425.140 ARI Interventionist – One Year Only	10/14/2024 One Year Only
(C-2) Jill Partridge (w/f)	Eura Brown Elementary School 2425.148 OSR Pre-K Lead Teacher	10/02/2024 One Year Only
(C-3) James O. Parker (b/m)	Systemwide Special Education Bus Aide 2425.145	09/23/2024 Pending Board Approval
(C-4) Lexi Gray (w/f)	Mitchell Elementary School 2425.139 Secretary/Bookkeeper	10/01/2024
(C-5) Hannah Weaver (w/f)	Floyd Elementary School 2425.151 Title I Instructional Aide	10/02/2024 One Year Only

Substitutes:

New “Certified” Teacher Sub:

Ann Sharpe

New Teacher Sub:

Seirra Lipscomb
Terry Thompson
Melonie Vinson

Re-Applying Teacher Sub:

James Paschal
Phillip Swindall
Carman Cameran

AFTERSCHOOL SUB:

Cybil Smith (b/f)

6. Monthly Financial Report and Bank Reconciliation

CSFO Cory Skelton presented the 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 August 31, 2024.

Rev. Huff inquired about funding for SRO Officers. CSFO Skelton explained Gadsden City Schools receives an EFT grant and SRO is one category in the grant. The grant has five categories total. This is the fourth year Gadsden City Schools received the grant. Superintendent Blackwell stated SRO Officers and safety are big topics for School Superintendents of Alabama.

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

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

7. Election of one voting board delegate (and an alternate) to attend the AASB Annual Convention

Superintendent Blackwell told the board that one delegate and one alternate delegate should be appointed to attend the AASB Annual Convention. Mrs. Rita Smith was recommended as a delegate and Mr. Mark Dayton as an alternate to represent Gadsden City Schools.

Motion made by: Rev. Z. Andre' Huff

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mike Haney

Voting:

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

F. Information Items

1. Old Business

No old business to report.

2. New Business

a. AASB 2024 Annual Convention is December 5-7, 2024 – Renaissance Montgomery Hotel, Montgomery, AL

b. AASB 2024 Fall Conference is October 6-7, 2024 – Renaissance Montgomery Hotel, Montgomery, AL

c. Work Session Date Options:

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Members of the board concluded that Tuesday, November 19, 2024, was the best option for everyone to attend a work session at the Central Office from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

3. Next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2024, located at the Gadsden Middle School.

G. Adjournment

Motion made by: Mr. Mike Haney

Motion seconded by: Mr. Mark Dayton

Voting:

Rev. Z. Andre' Huff – Yes

Mrs. Nancy Stewart – Yes

Mr. Mark Dayton – Yes

Hon. Allen Millican - Yes

Mr. Mike Haney - Yes

Mrs. Rita Smith – Yes

Ms. Adrienne Reed – Yes

H. Whole Board Training immediately following Adjournment

Secretary/Superintendent Date