MINUTES
LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
WORKSHOP, OCTOBER 21, 2025

The Lafayette County School Board held a workshop on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, beginning at 5:15pm. Present were Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Darren Driver, Chairperson; Mrs. Marion McCray, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jeff Walker, Member; Mrs. Kimberly Adams; Mr. Taylor McGrew, Member; and Mrs. Leenette McMillan-Fredriksson, School Board Attorney. Administrators present were Mr. Scott Sadler, Director of Support Services and Mr. Gerald Powers, Director of School Safety.

Update on Special Facilities Funding

Mr. Darren Driver, Chairperson, opened the workshop at 5:00 p.m. and turned the floor over to Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent. Mr. Edwards introduced Mr. Patrick Bell and Mrs. Elizabeth Bell of Capital Solutions, who provided an update on the Special Facilities Funding process.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bell explained that a meeting was recently held in Tallahassee, attended by Superintendent Edwards, the district's contractor and architect, and Senator Simon, to discuss potential improvements to the Special Facilities Funding process. She noted that these discussions began after Lafayette County Schools were ranked number one, with the focus on exploring alternative methods of funding such projects.

Mrs. Bell further explained that there are currently eleven schools in the funding queue, with an estimated total cost of approximately half a billion dollars. Due to the rising cost of construction, state officials are considering a possible revamp of the process beginning next year, moving away from the previous per-pupil station funding model. However, she stated that no legislative changes are expected in the current year.

Mrs. Bell also clarified that, under the current three-year funding structure, construction typically cannot begin until the second year because the first-year allocation is insufficient to

enter into a construction contract. Although the process allows for an 18-month construction period, project funding is distributed over a 36-month timeframe. Our first year of funding is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2026, and may be structured differently from how school projects have been funded in the past.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Darren Driver, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Robert Edwards, Superintendent
and Secretary to the School Board