

# MINUTES

## LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

### REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

The Lafayette County School Board convened in regular session, Tuesday, February 17, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mr. Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Darren Driver, Chairperson; Mrs. Marion McCray, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jeff Walker, Member; Mrs. Kimberly Adams, Member; Mr. Taylor McGrew, Member; and Mrs. Leenette McMillan-Fredriksson, School Board Attorney. Administrators present were Mr. Scott Sadler, Director of Support Services, and Mrs. Lisa Newman, LES Principal.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Darren Driver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and gave the invocation, and Mr. Robert Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH** - The students named below were recognized for being selected *Student of the Month* for February 2026:

LES K-2- Emma Colwell  
LES 3-5- Adelynn Posada

LHS Middle School- Jesus Ramirez  
LHS High School- Isaac Watkins

Each student received congratulations from the Superintendent and School Board along with a Certificate of Award and Student of the Month notebook.

Teacher of the Year, Jerod Brock and School Related Employee of the Year, Amy Skillman were both recognized for this honor. Their respective principals shared the reasons they were both worthy of this designation and an asset to their schools.

## **1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Mr. Darren Driver noted the following changes to the agenda:

### **Additions**

#### **4. ACTION ITEMS**

4.01 Approve Personnel Items:

(1) Resignation- Food Service

- Approve resignation from Tara Del Toro from Lafayette Elementary School as a Food Service Worker effective February 27, 2026.

The agenda was unanimously adopted following a motion by Mrs. Kimberly Adams and a second by Mr. Taylor McGrew.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES-** The minutes from the January 13, 2026, Executive Session, and January 20,

2026, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Marion McCray and a second by Mr. Jeff Walker.

## **3. CONSENT ITEMS**

There were no consent items this month.

## **4. ACTION ITEMS**

**4.01 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES PERSONNEL ITEMS** – The personnel items listed below, as recommended

by Superintendent Edwards, were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Marion McCray and a second by Mrs. Kimberly Adams:

4.01 Approved Personnel Items:

(1) Resignation- Food Service

- Approved resignation from Tara Del Toro from Lafayette Elementary School as a Food Service Worker effective February 27, 2026.

**4.02 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES FUNDRAISER REQUESTS-** The following fundraiser requests were

unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Taylor McGrew and seconded by Mrs. Marion McCray:

- FBLA Raffle- variety of items

**4.03 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES QUEST LAB AGREEMENT-** Superintendent Edwards explained that the agreement with Quest Diagnostics Lab would allow new hires to complete their required drug screenings on their own timeline if it does not align with the availability of the district’s contracted provider. Mr. Jeff Walker made the motion to approve the agreement with Quest Diagnostics. Mrs. Marion McCray seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARING- SCHOOL START TIMES-** At 6:30pm, Mr. Darren Driver convened the scheduled public hearing and opened the floor for public comment regarding a potential change to school start times. Mr. Daryl Fletcher asked what the potential school start time change was? Mr. Robert Edwards explained the legislation requiring school districts to establish school start times no earlier than 8:00am for middle schools and no earlier than 8:30am for high schools. He further explained that districts are no longer required to adjust their start times; however, districts that elect not to make changes must submit a report to the Department of Education documenting that our community has been educated on the health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle and high school students and that public input has been received to support the decision. He further explained that if the District were to adjust our time to 8:30am, it would be for both the Elementary and High School, as the district does not have sufficient staffing to operate more than one bus route for the two schools. There was no additional public comment.

**PUBLIC HEARING- SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES-** Following the time of public comment on school start times, Mr. Darren Driver noted the board would consider the approval of the following revised school board policies as advertised:

| <u>Policy #</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Policy Title</u>                          |
|-----------------|---------------|--|
| 7.06            | Revision      | School Food Service Program Policy and Funds |
| 7.14            | Revision      | Purchasing Policies and Bidding              |
| 2.052           | New           | Public Participation at Board Meetings       |

The public hearing was conducted with no public comment. Mr. Jeff Walker made the motion to approve the revised policies as advertised. Mrs. Kimberly Adams seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. (School Board policies are on file in the district office and district website.)

**PUBLIC HEARING- INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS-** Following the approval of policy revisions, Mr. Darren Driver stated the board would now consider approving the advertised Instructional Materials. The public hearing was conducted with no public comment. Mrs. Marion McCray made the motion to approve the Instructional Materials. Mr. Jeff Walker seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. The regular meeting resumed at this time.

**4.04 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES UNITI SOLUTIONS AGREEMENT-** Mr. Robert Edwards explained that the agreement with Uniti Solutions was to continue the District's analog phone service and internet services. He further stated that Uniti Solutions recently finalized its merger with Windstream, and an updated agreement was required to reflect the company name change. He noted that, at a later date, the District will explore upgrading the existing phone system from a traditional landline system to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), however, for now, the District will remain on an analog line. Mrs. Marion McCray made a motion to approve the agreement with Windstream. Mrs. Kimberly Adams seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**4.05 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES ESE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT-** Mr. Robert Edwards explained that the agreement with EverDriven Technologies, LLC is necessary to provide transportation services for a specific ESE student with extenuating circumstances. He stated that the District is unable to accommodate the student's needs through regular school bus transportation; however, the District is legally required to provide transportation to and from school. This agreement would ensure the District fulfills that obligation. He further noted that the student is currently receiving homebound instruction and does not

presently require transportation services; however, the agreement is needed to ensure the District is prepared should the student return to a classroom setting in Lafayette County School District. Mrs. Marion McCray made the motion to approve the agreement with EverDriven Technologies, LLC. Mr. Taylor McGrew seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**4.06 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES REMOVAL OF COVID-19 VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY**– On a motion by Mr. Jeff Walker and a second by Mrs. Marion McCray, the School Board unanimously approved the removal of the COVID-19 Virtual Meeting Policy from the Policy Manual. The Board determined that the policy had been adopted solely to implement temporary emergency authority issued during the COVID-19 public health emergency, that the emergency authority has since expired, and that the policy is no longer legally operative.

**4.07 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENTS**- The following budget amendments were unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Marion McCray and a second by Mr. Jeff Walker: General Fund #3.

### **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- 5.01 Principal’s Monthly Financial Report on Internal Funds
- 5.02 January Invoices
- 5.03 Financial Statement
- 5.04 2025-2026 Quarterly Safety Inspection Report
- 5.05 Strategic Plan


### **6. CITIZEN INPUT**

There was no Citizen Input.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With business complete Mr. Darren Driver declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

  
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Darren Driver, Chairperson

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Edwards, Superintendent  
and Secretary to the School Board