

MINUTES

LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

WORKSHOP, AUGUST 19, 2025

The Lafayette County School Board held a workshop on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, beginning at 5:00pm. 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; Mrs. Leenette McMillan-Fredriksson, School Board Attorney. Administrators present were Mr. Scott Sadler, Director of Support Services; Mr. Gerald Powers, Director of School Safety, Mrs. Janene Fitzpatrick, Director of Teaching and Learning Services; and Mr. Stewart Hancock, Principal of LHS.

Student Code of Conduct

Mr. Stewart Hancock addressed the Student Code of Conduct, specifically regarding senior pranks and expectations for the upcoming year. In previous years, limited leeway was allowed for senior pranks if they were not disruptive to the school day and did not cause harm or damage to school property. Mr. Hancock stated that he would no longer like to permit senior pranks. Instead, he recommended that class sponsors work with seniors to plan alternative activities to commemorate their senior year—such as a trip or various gatherings during the week leading up to graduation—rather than engaging in pranks that could escalate, disrupt learning, or jeopardize students' opportunity to participate in graduation. He further noted that they would use all avenues available to inform parents and students of this decision moving forward.

School Start Times

Mr. Robert Edwards noted that the topic of changing school start times has been discussed on several occasions and that the Board is approaching a time when a decision will need to be made. He referenced the Bill Analysis of House Bill 733, approved July 1, 2023, which requires school boards to inform their communities about the health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle and high school students. He also referenced the Bill

Analysis of Senate Bill 296, effective July 1, 2025, which does not require school boards to change start times but does require submission of a report to the Florida Department of Education by June 1, 2026, containing specific information.

Mr. Edwards further recommended adding this item to the agenda for the next School Board meeting to decide whether the Board intends to change school start times. If not, he stated that preparations should begin to ensure all required information is documented for the report due next June.

Mr. Scott Sadler, Director of Support Services, noted that moving start times to 8:30 a.m. could have a serious impact on the district's bus driver shortage, potentially resulting in the loss of three additional drivers.

Coca Cola Agreement

Mr. Stewart Hancock informed School Board members that, during pre-planning, a representative from Coca-Cola met with coaches and booster clubs to further explain the district's agreement and the associated benefits. He stated that the meeting was productive and that coaches and boosters left with a clearer understanding of how the agreement works.


Mr. Hancock also addressed the question of what would occur if the contract were terminated. He explained that the district would no longer receive 100 free cases of product, a \$1,000 scholarship, or the use and maintenance of cooling and refrigeration equipment provided by Coca-Cola. Therefore, if the contract were to be terminated in the future, booster clubs would need to be prepared to purchase and maintain their own equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

The workshop was adjourned at 5:56pm.


Darren Driver, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Robert Edwards, Superintendent
and Secretary to the School Board