

MINUTES

LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 20, 2026

The Lafayette County School Board convened in regular session, Tuesday, January 20, 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; Mrs. Leenette McMillan-Fredriksson, School Board Attorney and Deputy Bobby Lawson. 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. Mr. Taylor McGrew gave the invocation and Mr. Robert Edwards led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS

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

Month for January 2026:

LES K-2- Elizabeth Colwell

LHS Middle School- Madalyn Folds

LES 3-5- John "Tucker" Howell

LHS High School- Brandon Clayton

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

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously adopted following a motion by Mrs. Marion McCray and a second by Mr. Jeff Walker.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- The minutes from the December 11, 2025, Executive Session, and December 16, 2025, Regular Board Meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. Jeff Walker and a second by Mrs. Kimberly Adams.

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. Kimberly Adams and a second by Mr. Jeff Walker:

4.01(1) Personnel Recommendations-

- Approved Caitlin Brady for the Secretary/Receptionist position at Lafayette Elementary School for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved Brittney Peterson as a Substitute Food Service Worker and Substitute Custodian for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved updated Out of Field Teacher List:

Teacher	School	Current Certification	ESOL Pts. Needs 300 or Endorsement	Out of Field Teaching Assignment	Out of Field Certification
Deas, Brittany	LES	1029 - Humanities	Needs 300 or Endorsement	Elementary - Grade 1	1013 - Elementary Education 1016 - ESOL Endorsement
Griffith, Justine	LHS	1038 - Physical Education (K-12)	Needs 18	Physical Education	ESOL (18 hours)
Gravina, Marcus	LHS	1031 - Physical Education (K-12)	Needs 18	Physical Education	ESOL (18 hours)
Emerson, Case	LHS	1067 - Agriculture	Needs 18	Agriculture	ESOL (18 hours)
Fike, James	LHS	1013 - Elementary Education 1002 - Social Science (6-12) 1034 - Middle Grades Integrated 1056 - Physical Education (K-12) 1077 - ESE (K-12)	1016 - Endorsed	All Content Areas K-12 Music Agriculture Geology Algebra Geometry Math College Lib Arts	1025 - Music 1027 - Agriculture 1031 - Mathematics 6-12 1003 - Biology
Galbraith, Channah	LES	1013 - Elementary Education 1048 - Reading Endorsement 1012 - Educational Media Spec	Needs 300 or Endorsement	PreK - ESE	1041 - PreK/Primary Ed 1016 - ESOL Endorsement 1077 - ESE (K-12)
Graham, Courtney	LHS	1021 - Middle Grade Math 5-8	Needs 60	Math College Lib Arts Algebra 1 MJ Grade 5 PreCalc	1031 - Mathematics 6-12 ESOL (60 hours)
Hingston, Colby	LHS	1015 - English (6-12)	Needs 60	MJ Core MJ US History	1016 - ESOL Endorsement
Jones, Carla	LHS	1033 - General Science (5-9) 1013 - Elementary Education	60/60	MJ Physical Science Chemistry	1004 - Chemistry
Land, Adam	LHS	1077 - ESE (K-12)	Needs 300 or Endorsement	ESE Support Facilitator	1016 - ESOL Endorsement
Lee, Sarah	LHS	1059 - Biology	Needs 60	Biology 1 Environmental Science	ESOL (60 hours)
McCray, Hannah	LES	1013 - Elementary Education 1077 - ESE (K-12) 1048 - Reading Endorsement	1016 - Endorsed	PreK - ESE	1042 - PreK/Primary Ed
McCray, MaryAnna	LHS	1013 - Elementary Education	1016 - Endorsed	ESOL	ESOL Endorsement
McCray, Ruby	LHS	1013 - Elementary Education	1016 - Endorsed	MJ 7th Math MJ Math Found Skills	1031 - Middle Gr Math 5-9
Moreno, Atila Ismael	LHS	1038 - Physical Education (K-12)	Needs 18	Physical Education Spanish 1	1054 - World Lang - Spanish ESOL (18 hours)
Norris, Rebecca	LHS	1031 - Math (5-9)	Needs 60	MJ Math Found Skills Algebra 1 Math Coll Lib Arts	1031 - Mathematics 6-12 ESOL (60 hours)
Pearson, Katherine	LES	1007 - Agriculture	Needs 300 or Endorsement	Elementary - Grade 2	1013 - Elementary Education 1016 - ESOL Endorsement
Stanley-Lee, Brycen	LHS	1038 - Physical Education (K-12)	Needs 60	MJ Math Found Skills Algebra 2 Math College Alg	1031 - Mathematics 6-12 ESOL (60 hours)
Tanner, Dida	LES	1013 - Elementary Education 1048 - Reading Endorsement	Needs 300 or Endorsement	Elementary - Grade 3	1016 - ESOL Endorsement
Taylor, Camryn	LHS	1013 - Elementary Education 1077 - ESE (K-12) 1048 - Reading Endorsement	1016 - Endorsed	MJ Math Found Skills MJ Earth Space Sci	MJ Earth Space Sci
Thomas, Benjamin	LHS	1022 - Social Science (6-12)	Needs 60	MJ 6th Math MJ Math Found Skills	1031 - Middle Gr Math 5-9 ESOL (60 hours)
Williams, Hannah	LES/LHS	1035 - Music	Needs 18	Band K-12 Music K-12	ESOL (18 hours)

Supplemental Positions

- Approved Ben Thomas as Middle School Baseball Coach.

4.01 (2) Family Medical Leave-

- Approved FMLA for Courtney Cornell from February 19, 2026-April 5, 2026, for a total of 32 days.

4.02 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES FIELD TRIP REQUESTS- The following field trip requests were unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Kimberly Adams and seconded by Mr. Jeff Walker:

- Safety Patrol/Student Council to The Woods on Thursday, May 14, 2026.

4.03 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES POLICIES FOR ADVERTISEMENT- The following policies were unanimously approved for advertising on a motion from Mr. Jeff Walker and a second by Mrs. Marion McCray:

<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

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. Robert Edwards explained the legislation requiring school districts to establish school start times to 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 our times; however, districts that elect to not 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 we have received public input to support our decision. He further explained that if we 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.

Ms. Kim Townsend addressed the Board and stated that she did not believe changing the school start times would be beneficial for the community. Ms. Michelle Lee shared that her work start time would remain

unchanged if school start times were adjusted, resulting in her children arriving at school at the same time as they do currently. She further commented that if the current schedule is working, it should not be changed. Ms. Brittany Cazuela asked whether a later school start time would also result in students staying later in the day. Superintendent Edwards confirmed that students would be dismissed later and explained that such a change would also delay the start times of extracurricular activities. There being no further public comment, the public hearing was concluded, and the regular meeting was convened.

4.04 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES INTERNSHIP AGREEMENT WITH VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY- Mr.

Robert Edwards explained that a former student currently attending Valdosta State University is seeking to complete an internship with the Lafayette County School District. This agreement, similar to those previously approved with other colleges and universities, would allow the student the opportunity to complete the required internship within the district's schools. Mrs. Marion McCray made the motion to approve the internship agreement with Valdosta State University. Mrs. Kimberly Adams seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

4.05 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES INSTALLATION OF UTILITY EASEMENT- Mr. Scott Sadler, Director of

Support Services, explained that with *The Gathering* restaurant coming to Mayo and being located just outside the school's property boundaries, the installation of a utility easement would be required. He stated that this would involve approximately an 80-foot bore for the pipeline on school property to provide septic service to the facility. Following a time of discussion Mr. Taylor McGrew made the motion to approve the installation of the utility easement. Mrs. Marion McCray seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

4.06 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES LEA AND SRP CONTRACTS- After a time of brief discussion, Mrs. Kimberly

Adams made the motion to approve the LEA and SRP Contracts from July 2025-June 2028. Mr. Jeff Walker seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

4.07 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENTS- The following budget amendments were

unanimously approved on a motion from Mr. Jeff Walker and a second by Mrs. Kimberly Adams: Contract Program Fund #2.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.01 Principal's Monthly Financial Report on Internal Funds

5.02 December 2025 Invoices

5.03 Financial Statement

6. CITIZEN INPUT

There was no Citizen Input.

ADJOURNMENT

With business complete Mr. Darren Driver declared the meeting adjourned at 6:50p.m.



Darren Driver, Chairperson

ATTEST:



Robert Edwards, Superintendent
and Secretary to the School Board