

**Gibson County Special School District
Board of Trustees**

GCSSD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Gibson County High School Library

June 26, 2025

Members Present: Mr. Scott Ball, Mr. Benny Boals, Mr. John Campbell II, Mr. Tom Lannom, Ms. Treva Maitland, Mr. Eddie Watkins. Michael Hill, the attorney, was also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Treva Maitland led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tom Lannom called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Benny Boals to approve the consent agenda, with a second by Mr. Scott Ball. *Motion passed.*

ALC Report

Bullying/Harassment Report

Finance Reports

Funding Applications

Maintenance/Technology Reports

Minutes Approval

Overnight Field Trips

Policy Revisions - Second Readings

RECOGNITION

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Chantel Campbell emphasized she was there to hear the board's decision on her daughter's DHA appeal.

REGULAR AGENDA

Disciplinary Action Appeal

Ms. Chantel Campbell challenged the Director of Schools' decision regarding her daughter's discipline.

A motion was made by Mr. John Campbell II to deny a hearing and affirm the decision of the Director of Schools, with a second by Mr. Benny Boals. *Motion passed.*

Teacher & Staff Budget Amendment

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the Teacher & Staff Budget Amendment.

- A total of 275 teachers will receive a \$2,000 bonus, resulting in fixed charges of \$634,975.00, which will be reimbursed in the 2025-2026 school year.
- Additionally, 208.73 non-teaching staff members will receive \$1,000, leading to fixed charges of \$240,978.79.

The budget expenditures will be amended by \$875,953.79.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to amend the budget expenditures by \$875,953.79, with a second by Ms. Treva Maitland. *Motion passed.*

2025-2026 Teacher Salary Schedule

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the 2025-2026 Teacher Salary Schedule.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to approve the 2025-2026 Teacher Salary Schedule, with a second by Mr. Benny Boals. *Motion passed.*

Budget Approval

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the Budget Approval. There will be no property tax increase. The total expenditures amount to \$44,194,716.54. Additionally, there will be a \$2,500 raise for 10-month-certified staff and a 4% raise for non-certified staff.

A motion was made by Mr. John Campbell II to approve the 2025-2026 General Purpose, School Aged Child Care, and the Food Service Budgets, with a second by Mr. Tom Lannom. *Motion passed.*

Federal Consolidated Application

The GCSSD Board of Trustees is required to approve the proposed expenditures for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Title I Part A funds each year. These federal funds are established to improve the academic achievement of students attending area schools with a higher poverty percentage. School allocations are spiraled down using an average per pupil amount to each eligible school. Percentages represent direct certification students pulled per school from April 2025 data. The 5 schools eligible to receive Title I funds are listed in rank/spiraling order.

Kenton Elementary (67.19%) \$40,850.00

Dyer School (66.46%) \$165,240.00
 Yorkville School (56.41%) - \$50,490.00
 Spring Hill School (53.41%) \$35,955.00
 Rutherford School (42.80%) \$78,012.00
 TOTAL SCHOOL AMOUNTS: \$370,547.00

District-wide positions and set-asides partially and/or fully funded by Title I funds include:

Title I Director
 Federal Programs Bookkeeper
 Literacy Coach
 Parent Involvement Activities/Meetings
 Professional Development
 Travel

TOTAL DISTRICT WIDE AMOUNTS: \$81,828.09

The Title I Part A total budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is \$452,375.09.

I seek your acceptance in approving the Title I Part A portion of the Federal Consolidated Application.

Erica DuRall
 Federal Director

The District Board of Trustees is required to approve the proposed expenditures for Part B IDEA funds each year. These are federal funds and the application process requires detailed expenditure projections. These are included with the general program budget which will be approved later.

Gibson County Special School District is eligible for IDEA Part B federal funds for the projected amount of \$799,656 for students with disabilities ages 6-21 and an additional \$18,604 in federal preschool funds for students, ages 3-5. General-purpose state and local funds are budgeted in the amount of \$3,824,750 for next year. Total funds budgeted for special education services in Gibson County Special School District for the school year 2025-2026 are \$4,643,01.

Summary of Projected Programs

535 students (ages 6-21) with disabilities identified for services (projected)
 45 students (ages 3-5) with disabilities will also receive services (projected)
 3 integrated preschool programs for children who have developmental delays (ages 3-5)
 3 buses for special transportation
 3 bus attendants
 3 vans-transportation to special programs outside our district (Vocational Rehab and work sites)
 2 alternating drivers (and van) contracted to provide daily transportation to the West TN School for the Deaf and additional sped transportation within district as needed during the day.
 4 employed Speech-Language Pathologists, 1 contracted Speech-Language Pathologist
 29 classroom and inclusion teachers
 53 teacher assistants and attendants
 1 Transition School to Work Case Manager -approx. 85% funded with Voc Rehab grant for next 2 years
 2 Workplace Readiness Specialists (job coaches) - approx. 85% funded with Voc Rehab grant for next 2 years
 1 full-time Special Education Supervisor
 1 Preschool Consulting Teacher (special state grant funded)
 1 Behavior Interventionist

1 clerical position

A full range of therapies are provided through private contracts with LeBonheur HealthCare (physical and occupational therapies), and Psychological Services (evaluation and assessment services).

I am seeking approval of the IDEA portion of the Federal Consolidated Application.

Renee Childs

Supervisor of Special Education

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to approve the 2025-2026 Federal Consolidated Application, with a second by Mr. Scott Ball. *Motion passed.*

Retired Employee Health Insurance

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the Retired Employee Health Insurance. No changes were made.

A motion was made by Mr. Benny Boals to approve the Retired Employee Health Insurance, with a second by Ms. Treva Maitland. *Motion passed.*

Feasibility Study Proposal/Quote

Mr. Eddie Pruett presented the proposal and quote for the Feasibility Study. The Board discussed the available options.

A motion was made by Mr. Benny Boals to include architectural assessment for the nine schools, estimate for security vestibules, Kenton Elementary expansion, and amend the budget by \$32,000, with a second by Ms. Treva Maitland. *Motion passed.*

New Hire List

Mr. Eddie Pruett presented the list of new hires, and schools are currently working to fill a few openings.

Policy Revisions

Mr. Eddie Pruett presented the Policy Revisions

1.1021 Student Board Member - appoints a student from each high school as a student board member. Ms. Treva Maitland requested that the student be selected or removed by the board.

1.407 School District Records - removes school district records request via fax

1.901 Charter School Applications - shifts certain responsibilities to the State Board of Education

1.903 Charter School Oversight - shifts certain responsibilities to the State Board of Education

1.905 Charter School Renewal - shifts certain responsibilities to the State Board of Education

1.906 Charter School Revocation - shifts certain responsibilities to the State Board of Education

2.403 Surplus Property Sales - increased property value from \$5,000 to \$10,000 when disposing of surplus property

3.202 Emergency Preparedness Plan - clarifies that NO more than two (2) fire drills are required to occur within the first thirty (30) days

- 3.204 Threat Assessment Team - requires a report to be made to parents/guardians within forty-eight (48) hours of reporting to law enforcement. A quarterly report of incidents is provided at board meetings
- 4.100 Instructional Program - adds the definition of antisemitism
- 4.212 Virtual Education Program - adds the use of hybrid learning in the event of dangerous or extreme weather or an emergency
- 4.301 Interscholastic Athletics - adds that students attending virtual schools can be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics
- 4.403 Library Materials - clarifies that materials may not be excluded from school libraries solely because they are religious
- 4.406 Use of the Internet - requires school districts to prevent students from accessing social media platforms, and set limits regarding age-appropriate content and protecting personal information
- 4.601 Reporting Student Progress - report cards must include the most recent score from universal reading and the results of a dyslexia screener
- 5.100 Personnel Goals - removes the requirement of educator diversity goals
- 5.119 Employment of Retirees - includes sixty (60) days' separation of service before reemployment
- 5.305 Family and Medical Leave - leave must be taken consecutively unless extenuating circumstances are determined by the Director of Schools
- 5.311 Bereavement Leave - NEW - three (3) days of bereavement per occurrence for immediate family members
- 5.500 Discrimination/Harassment of Employee - adds the definition of antisemitism
- 5.701 Substitute Teachers - changes the number of days a substitute teacher can teach without a license from 20 to 30
- 6.200 Attendance - released time courses to submit proof of background check
- 6.303 Questioning Students and Searches - requires training for school personnel who conduct student searches
- 6.304 Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation - adds the definition of antisemitism
- 6.312 Use of Wireless Communication Devices - permits students to use wireless communication devices in certain circumstances
- 6.411 Student Wellness - requires 40 minutes of wellness in elementary
- 6.600 Student Records - student records request sent within five (5) business days
- 5.110 Compensation Guides & Contracts - state permits Boards to determine whether to compensate a teacher's estate or designated beneficiary for unused leave time. Mr. Pruett recommends keeping the current policy.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to approve the recommended policy revisions, with a second by Mr. Scott Ball. *Motion passed.*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Upcoming Conference:

Mr. Eddie Pruett reminded the board of the upcoming conferences.
Summer Law Institute

Gatlinburg - July 17-19
Jackson - August 7

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Scott Ball to adjourn, with a second by Ms. Treva Maitland. *Motion passed.*