

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

**GCSSD Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
South Gibson County Elementary School Library**

March 10, 2026

Members Present: Dr. Richard Addo, Mr. Scott Ball, Mr. Benny Boals, Mr. John Campbell II, Mr. Tom Lannom, Ms. Treva Maitland, Mr. Eddie Watkins. Also in attendance was Mr. Isaac Scherer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Eddie Watkins 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 Dr. Richard Addo to approve the consent agenda, with a second by Mr. John Campbell II. *Motion passed.*

ALC Report

Bullying/Harassment Report

Finance Reports

Funding Applications

FY 26 TN Tutoring Grant

Juvenile Court Referrals

Maintenance/Technology Reports

Minutes Approval

Overnight Field Trips

Policy Revisions — Second Readings

1.901 Charter School Application
2.804 Expenses and Reimbursements

RECOGNITION

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

****AMENDED AGENDA**

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

Healthier Schools Challenge Budget Amendment

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the Healthier Schools Challenge Budget Amendment. Ms. Amy Richardson, CSH Coordinator, received \$8,000 for participating in the Healthier Schools Challenge.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to approve and amend the budget revenue and expenditures by 8,000, with a second by Mr. Eddie Watkins. *Motion passed.*

Healthier Schools Challenge

Ms. Amy Richardson introduced the Healthier School Challenge, a statewide initiative that recognizes and rewards school districts for promoting student wellness and academic success through healthier school environments.

GCSSD was recognized as one of the top 17 districts, meeting 12 out of 13 criteria. As a result, GCSSD qualified for the Platinum Level and was awarded \$8,000.

Criteria We Met

- TNDOE School Climate Survey: Achieved a participation rate of 44.44%.
- Health Care Resources: With the assistance of the LeBonheur Mobile Health Unit, Lions Club, Community Foundation of West Tennessee Gibson County Chapter, and TCAT Nursing Students, we provided access to healthcare, eyeglasses, health screenings, transportation, and school-based/school-linked clinics.
- Vaping Prevention: Implemented a program addressing the harms of vaping and drug abuse among students.
- Breakfast Participation: Introduced alternative breakfast models, such as Second Chance Breakfast and Sharing Tables.
- Physical Education/Physical Activity Compliance: All elementary schools are compliant with the Tom Cronan Physical Education Act, providing 130 minutes of physical activity per week; middle and high school students receive 90 minutes of physical activity weekly.
- Staff and GCSSD Board Wellness: Initiated a staff wellness program for board members, achieving a 50% participation rate. Provided water at meetings and distributed the CSH Newsletter.
- Health/Wellness Information: Shared the GCSSD CSH Newsletter quarterly with parents and guardians through social media and the district website.
- Lifetime Wellness Standards: Offered five lessons covering essential health topics in

accordance with health education standards, including Drug Prevention, Suicide Prevention, Safe Driving, Abstinence Education, and Pacer Test.

- Community Partnerships: Increased school health community partnerships and/or grants and in-kind contributions to local education agencies by 10%. A formal partnership was established with local behavioral health providers to ensure students have access to mental health services.

- Grant Funding Increase: Achieved a 41% increase in grants and in-kind contributions compared to the last two years.

- School-Based Behavioral Health Liaison: Appointed at Dyer School.

Ms. Richardson mentioned that she intends to use the funds for the TN Teen Institute, health screening equipment, tables and chairs for schools and groups within GCSSD, technology purchases such as a copy machine and iPads, and initiatives aimed at staff wellness.

State Special Schools Transportation Reimbursement FY26

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the State Special Schools Transportation Reimbursement.

A motion was made by Mr. Scott Ball to approve and amend the budget revenue and expenditures by 16,775.70, with a second by Mr. Benny Boals. *Motion passed.*

Tutoring Grant

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the Tutoring Grant.

A motion was made by Mr. Benny Boals to approve and amend the budget revenues and expenditures by 74,600, with a second by Mr. John Campbell II. *Motion passed.*

2026-2027 School Supply List

Mr. Eddie Pruett presented the 2026-2027 school supply list. For Kindergarten through 4th grade, the list has been reduced, while grades 5 through 12 remain unchanged. The Physical Science course and its fee have been eliminated, and the STEM program is now called BioSTEM, with a decreased fee for high school students.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to approve the school supply lists, with a second by Mr. Benny Boals. *Motion passed.*

State Report Cards: ACT / SAT / TCAP Scores

Principals from each school shared their State Report Cards: ACT / SAT / TCAP scores from the 2024-2025 school year. Each principal shared their strengths, highlighted accomplishments, and identified areas for improvement, along with strategies implemented for enhancements.

June Work Session & Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Eddie Pruett presented the dates for the June Work Session and Board Meeting. Board members discussed and agreed on holding the work session on June 9th and the board meeting on June 25th.

****Series 2015 Bond Maturity Pay-off**

Mr. Rory Hinson presented the details regarding the payoff of the next three-year maturities on the Series 2015 bonds. This payoff totals \$5,470,000, plus any interest accrued before the

payment date. These bonds were originally issued in December 2014. By retiring the upcoming maturities early, the district will save \$363,850 in interest over the life of the bond. This action will also free up funds that were previously allocated for principal and interest payments over the next three years, allowing those dollars to be redirected toward other district needs.

As of the beginning of the 2023-2024 budget year, the GCSSD had approximately \$46 million in outstanding principal and interest obligations. After this payoff, the district's remaining obligation will decrease to roughly \$23 million. Over the past three budget years, the district has paid off \$8,713,970.07 in principal ahead of schedule, all without increasing property taxes. This has resulted in total interest savings of \$854,086.62.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to approve and amend the budget to prepay the maturities of the District's School Bonds, Series 2015, originally issued on December 24, 2014, which are due from April 1, 2027, to April 1, 2029. The approximate principal amount to be prepaid is \$5,470,000, plus accrued interest up to the payoff date, with a second by Dr. Richard Addo. *Motion passed.*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

High School Updates

Mr. Isaac Scherer provided the board with an update on SGCHS sports, noting that spring sports are beginning their season. The juniors will be taking the ACT, while the seniors will be participating in job shadowing.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lannom to adjourn, with a second by Mr. John Campbell II. *Motion passed.*