

SMITH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MINUTES

The Smith County Board of Education met at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Board of Education Office.

Present: Jay Hesson (District (District 1): Present, Scotty Enoch (District (District 2): Present, Marty McCaleb (District 3): Present, Joe Taylor (District 4): Present, Tommy Manning (District 5): Present, Ricky Shoulders (District 6): Present, David McDonald (District (District 7): Present, Scotty Lewis (District 8): Present.

I. Call to Order

The Smith County Board of Education met at 5:00 pm on Monday, May 11, 2026, at the Smith County Board of Education. Mr. XXX provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

II. Welcome

Mr. Tommy Manning, Chairman of the Board, welcomed all visitors and called the May 11, 2026, meeting of the board to order.

III. Consent Items

Lewis (District 8) moved to accept the following Consent Items A-H as presented by the Director. Taylor (District 4) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote: Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

A. Board Minutes: Minutes of the Board - April 20, 2026 (Regular Meeting)

Request to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Board - Monday, April 20, 2026.

B. Permission to Bid Janitorial Supplies for the 2026-2027 School Year

Request permission to seek bids for janitorial supplies for the 2026-2027 school year.

C. Permission to Bid School Bus for the 2026-2027 School Year

Mrs. Diana Gochcoff, Transportation Supervisor, requests permission to seek bids for one type D 78 passenger school bus with luggage compartments for the 2026-2027 school year

D. Permission to Bid Copy Paper for the 2026-2027 School Year

Request permission to seek bids for copy paper for the 2026-2027 school year.

E. Permission to Bid Paving/Patching/Striping Parking Lot

Tim Towns, CTE Director, requests permission to bid paving/patching/striping of the parking

lot at the CTE Career Center (former SAVE A LOT building).

F. Gordonsville Elementary School Request

Gordonsville Elementary School would like to request permission to purchase 25 Lenevo Chromebooks with the \$10,000 TVA School Uplift Grant

G. Gordonsville High School Requests

Gordonsville High School requests permission for the following:

1. Gordonsville High School Band requests approval to conduct band camp, hold rehearsals, perform at the Fair, participate in a field trip, and engage in additional summer activities during June, July, and August 2026.
2. Gordonsville High School Cheer requests permission to attend UCA Cheer Camp at the Park Vista Resort in Gatlinburg on June 11-14, 2026. This will be an overnight trip.
3. Gordonsville High School volleyball requests permission for the volleyball team to travel to Ooltewah for camp this summer July 21-23, 2026. This will be an overnight trip.

H. Smith County High School Request

Smith County High School requests permission for the following:

1. Smith County High School Track & Field Team requests permission to participate in the State Track & Field Event in Knoxville, on May 18-19, 2026. This will be an overnight trip.

IV. Superintendent Actions

The Superintendent took the following actions:

1. Staff Placement

- Lisa Gibbs, substitute cook, School Nutrition Department
- Sidney Jones, paraprofessional, Forks River Elementary School
- Megan Nixon, volunteer 3-4 basketball coach, Defeated Elementary School
- Allie Rollin, volunteer assistant cheer coach, Smith County Middle School
- Dalton Stallings, volunteer assistant football coach, Smith County Middle School
- Chandler Vincent, assistant girls basketball coach, Smith County Middle School
- Allyssa Williams, Assistant girls basketball coach, Union Heights Elementary School
- Barry H. Smith, volunteer coach, Gordonsville Jr High and High School

2. Transfers

- Jerri Lynn Brooks, transferring from fifth grade math teaching position to literacy leader position at Smith County Middle School
- Morgan Burlison, transferring from ELA teaching position to math teaching position at Smith County Middle School
- Rachel Carson, transferring from paraprofessional position at Smith County Middle School to a full time substitute position at Carthage Elementary School
- Amy Cornwell, transferring from paraprofessional position to full time substitute position at Smith County High School
- Lindsey Hackett, transferring from kindergarten teaching position to guidance counselor position at Defeated Elementary School
- Donna Livingston, transferring from in-school-suspension position to sixth grade science teaching position at Smith County Middle School
- Jessica Overstreet, transferring from third grade teaching position to first grade teaching position at Forks River Elementary School
- April Ray, transferring from library paraprofessional position to RTI paraprofessional position at Smith County Middle School
- Julie Robinson, transferring from fifth and sixth grade teaching position to kindergarten teaching position at Defeated Elementary School
- Tara Saunders, transferring from CDC paraprofessional position to in-school-suspension position at Smith County Middle School
- Tommy Washer, transferring from substitute position to special education paraprofessional position at Carthage Elementary School

3. Resignations

- Lisa Gibbs, cook, Gordonsville High School
- Leah Bretveld, teacher, Gordonsville High School
- Elizabeth Davis, paraprofessional, Forks River Elementary School
- Riley Grecol, teacher, Gordonsville High School
- Michael Hesson, teacher, Carthage Elementary School
- Sarah Lankford, Literacy Leader, Smith County Middle School
- Ava Preston, paraprofessional, Smith County Middle School
- Anna Tongate, teacher, Carthage Elementary School
- Mary Beth Buchanan, teacher, New Middleton Elementary School, retiring
- Barry H. Smith, Director of Schools, retiring
- Larry Eddlemon, full time substitute, Smith County High School, retiring
- Denise Hackett, teacher, Smith County High School, retiring
- Christy Scudder, teacher, Smith County High School, retiring

V. Employment Action Concerning JR Smith

More information will be presented during the meeting. Taylor (District 4) made the motion to terminate Jason Robert Smith based on the assumption that the charges are true as presented.

Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion failed after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): A, Hesson (District 1): N, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): A, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): N, Shoulders (District 6): N, Taylor (District 4): Y

McDonald (District 7) made the motion to uphold the suspension of Jason Robert Smith based on the charges and the assumption that they are true. Shoulders (District 6) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): N, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): N

VI. New Business

A. Approval of FY27 General Purpose 141 Budget

Review and approval of the FY27 General Purpose 141 Budget for School Year 2026-2027.

Original Option - \$39,320,570 (lights, turning lane included, insurance premium increase)

Peach Option - \$38,520,570 (insurance premium increase)

Yellow Option - \$38,100,000 (same as previous 2 years) Taylor (District 4) made the motion to approve the original option budget of \$39,320,570. Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): N, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): N, Shoulders (District 6): N, Taylor (District 4): Y

B. Approval of FY27 Central Cafeteria 143 Budget

Review and approval of the FY27 Central Cafeteria 143 Budget for School Year 2026-2027. Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the FY27 Central Cafeteria 143 Budget.

McCaleb (District 3) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

C. TSBA Policy Recommendations

Request to adopt the following TSBA model policies to ensure compliance with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations due to changes made by the Tennessee General Assembly and the State Board of Education.

As part of your policy subscription, the TSBA Policy Department monitors statutory and regulatory changes to ensure that our model policies comply with state and federal laws, rules,

and regulations. Due to changes made by the Tennessee General Assembly and the State Board of Education, TSBA has updated the model policies outlined in this memo. Below are the recommended revisions.

This is the second and final reading for these policy updates.

Updated Model Policies

Policy 1.404 - Appeals to and Appearances Before the Board

On March 26, Governor Lee officially signed [HB 22/SB 178](#) into law. As amended, this newly enacted legislation requires local governing bodies, including boards of education, to allow public comment "on any matter that is germane to the jurisdiction of the local governing body, regardless of whether such matter is an item on the agenda for the meeting." This is in addition to the requirement that boards allow public comment "on matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for the meeting."

This legislation, which became effective upon the Governor's signature, does not change the ability to place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the public comment period. For example, limiting speakers to a specific amount of time or when the public comment period occurs during the board meeting are still permissible. While the finalized version of the language is not available yet, we encourage all boards to review their current board policy and meeting procedures on public comment periods.

Policy 1.804 - Alcohol & Drugs in the Workplace

This updated policy contains a provision on examinations based on reasonable suspicion.

Policy 2.400 - Revenues

Due to the federal government's decision to discontinue production of pennies, the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury has issued guidance regarding payment practices. We have updated our corresponding model policy with suggested language that Boards may incorporate.

Policy 5.114 - Personnel Files

This updated policy clarifies that disciplinary action is part of an employee's personnel file.

Policy 5.1151 - Telework During Emergencies

This policy has been updated to clarify that telework outside of emergency situations is not permitted.

Policies 5.200-5.202 - Separation Practices for Employees

These policies include a provision for temporary suspensions that may involve suspending with pay in limited circumstances. We recommend reviewing this language with your board attorney.

Policy 5.302 - Sick Leave

This updated policy includes a provision on verifying absences of five days or longer. Additionally, it contains a provision regarding suspected misuse.

Policy 5.400 - Personnel Health Examinations/Communicable Diseases

This policy includes a new provision on providing options for employees who may be ill.

Policy 5.403 - Drug & Alcohol Testing for Employees

This updated policy contains new information on best practices for reasonable suspicion testing.

Policy 5.800 - Director of Schools

This updated policy includes provisions clarifying the personnel responsibility of the Director.

Policy 6.411 - Student Wellness

The State Board of Education recently made updates to its Coordinated School Health Program Policy. These revisions were made to align State Board language with statutory requirements as well as reflect the current practices and needs of school districts. We have updated our corresponding model policy to align with these changes.

Manning (District 5) made the motion to approve the following policies. This is the second and final reading for these policy updates table by Tommy Manning until next month. Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

D. Bid Approval for Diesel

Request to approve the low bid of \$4.0108 per gallon for 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel from Tri Star Energy, LLC, for delivery on April 28, 2026. Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the low bid of \$4.0108 per gallon for 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel from Tri Star Energy, LLC, for delivery on April 28, 2026. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

E. School Board Meeting Schedule 2026-2027

Request to approve the school board meeting schedule for 2026-2027. Board meeting dates are on the third Monday of the month unless noted. Request to move the September, December, January, February, and May dates to the second Monday of the month due to schedule conflicts or school closures. Hesson (District 1) made the motion to approve the school board meeting schedule for 2026-2027. Board meeting dates are on the third Monday of the month unless noted. Request to move the September, December, January, February, and May dates to the second Monday of the month due to schedule conflicts or school closures. McDonald (District 7) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y,

McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

F. Differentiated Pay Plan 2026-2027

Request to approve the Differentiated Pay Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the Differentiated Pay Plan for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Taylor (District 4) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

G. Special Education Contracts for School Year 2026-2027

Request to approve the following contracts for Special Education services for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Spanish Interpreter - \$50.00 per meeting as needed for language translation services
- Certified Surrogate Parent - \$50.00 per meeting as needed/meetings that exceed 1 hour, then payment will be paid proportionally up to \$25.00 per hour.
- Parent transportation - The Smith County Board of Education shall pay the costs for transportation of 3 children to Smith County Schools at .45 cents per mile per day for home transportation.
- Request to approve Michelle Woodard for an eighty (80) day contract as a psychological testing and evaluation personnel for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Therapy Service Agreement between Smith County Board of Education and Empowering Therapy Services Inc. to provide occupational therapy and physical therapy services beginning August 1, 2026, and ending July 31, 2027, unless terminated sooner pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 6 or under applicable law.
- Therapy Services Agreement between Smith County Board of Education and Stellar Therapy Services, LLC, to provide therapy services from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.
- Contractual agreement between Smith County Board of Education and Vanderbilt for hearing and speech services by an educational audiologist for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Contractual agreement between Smith County Board of Education and Vanderbilt for hearing and speech services by a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Request to approve the Partnership Agreement between L.B.J. & C. Head Start and Smith County Board of Education for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Contractual agreement between Smith County Board of Education and Deborah L. Curlee Communication Consultants, LLC, d/b/a Sidekick Therapy Partners for the 2026-2027 school year.

Taylor (District 4) made the motion to approve. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

H. Resolution 10

This resolution authorized the reallocation of funds between accounts to ensure the proper appropriation of resources to essential line items for the current fiscal period. Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve Resolution 10. Shoulders (District 6) seconded the motion.

Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

VII. Discussion

A. Discuss Building a Running Track, Archery, and Skeet Sports Area

A board member has requested a discussion regarding the potential development of a running track, as well as facilities for archery and skeet shooting within the school system.

B. Nicotine Free Futures Grant

Barbara Kannapel, representing the Youth and Family Resource Network (The Spot), will present to the Board regarding the Nicotine Free Futures Grant and outline her proposed plan for its implementation within the Smith County School System pending board approval.

VIII. Annual Policy Review

Please review the following policies for the Smith County Board of Education to remain compliant in policy review. If you find any inconsistencies or if something needs to be discussed regarding a policy listed below, please bring it to the attention of Mr. Tommy Manning, Chairman of the Board, during the meeting.

Policy 6.400, Guidance Program

Policy 6.4001, Student Surveys, Analyses, and Evaluations

Policy 6.401, Student Health Services

Policy 6.403, Communicable Diseases

Policy 6.4031, Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Policy 6.404, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

Policy 6.406, Student Psychological Services

Policy 6.407, Student Social Services

Policy 6.408, Supervision of Students

Policy 6.4081, Safe Relocation of Students

Policy 6.410, Accidents and Illnesses

Policy 6.411, Student Wellness

Policy 6.412, Emergency Allergy Response Plan

Policy 6.413, Prevention and Treatment of Sports Related Concussions
Policy 6.414, Prevention and Treatment of Sudden Cardiac Arrest
Policy 6.501, Married and/or Pregnant Students
Policy 6.502, Foreign Exchange Students
Policy 6.504, Migrant Students
Policy 6.601, Annual Notification of Rights
Policy 6.602, Inspection and Correction Procedures
Policy 6.604, Media Access to Students
Policy 6.700, Student Activities
Policy 6.701, Student Solicitations/Fund-Raising
Policy 6.702, Student Clubs and Organizations
Policy 6.703, Student Government
Policy 6.704, Student Publications
Policy 6.705, Student Social Events
Policy 6.707, Contests for Students
Policy 6.708, Awards and Scholarships
Policy 6.709, Student Fees and Fines
Policy 6.711, Student Volunteers

IX. Executive Session

McDonald (District 7) Made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Shoulders (District 6) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

McDonald (District 7) made a motion to return to Regular Session. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

X. School Nutrition Department Updates

XI. Adjourn

Taylor (District 4) made the motion to adjourn. Enoch (District 2) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y