

PENDING BOARD APPROVAL

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UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION AND SIGNED BY THE
CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

All official meetings of the Cobb County Board of Education conform to state law and are open to the public. The minutes of this meeting are available for public review anytime during the regular office hours or on our website: www.cobbk12.org

BOARD MEETING

The Cobb County Board of Education convened for a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., at 514 Glover Street, with the following members present: Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Hutchins, Scamihorn, Wheeler, Ms. Sayler, Mr. Ragsdale, Executive Secretary, and Ms. Wilcox and Ms. Ams, Interim Board Attorneys. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scamihorn, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Scamihorn, Board Chair, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were six (6) public commenters.

Mr. Banks arrived to the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Mr. Chastain arrived to the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Without objection, the Board approved the following meeting minutes:

- Thursday, November 14, 2024, Board Meeting

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Monthly Board Financial Status Update
 - Chief Financial Officer Mr. Bradley Reuben Johnson presented the monthly school district financial status update to the Board. A copy of the report was given to all Board Members.
- Federally Identified Schools Update
 - Chief Academic Officer Dr. Catherine Mallanda provided an update to the Board on the performance of Federally Identified Schools in the District and the District's plan for support.

BOARD AGENDA ITEMS

The Board discussed the Agenda Items listed below. These items will be brought forth for a vote during the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting:

AGENDA ITEM #1 – Recommendation for Authorization of School Properties Disposal per District Administrative Rule DO-R

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Consent Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #2 – Authorization to Purchase Seven (7) Police Vehicles

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Discussion Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #3 – Authorization to Purchase Twenty-Five (25) School Buses

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Discussion Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #4 – Recommendation for Approval to Award a Contract for Parcel Surveys and Soil Testing to Support the Annex Replacement Projects at Kincaid Elementary School, Mount Bethel Elementary School, Murdock Elementary School, Sope Creek Elementary School, and Tritt Elementary School

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Discussion Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5 – Recommendation for Approval to Award a Contract for Timber Ridge Elementary School Renovations

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Discussion Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #6 – Recommendation for Approval of a Short-Term Construction Note Resolution Approving the Issuance of Request for Bids for the Purchase of \$100 Million of Construction Notes

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Discussion Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #7 – Recommendation for Approval of New Board Policy JBC (School Admissions)

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Discussion Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #8 – Recommendation for Approval of the 2025 Legislative Priorities

- Without objection, this item was placed on the **Discussion Agenda** for the Voting Session of the Thursday, December 5, 2024, Board Meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE MODIFICATIONS

- Without objection, the Board approved modifications to the following administrative rules:

INDEX	ADMINISTRATIVE RULE TITLE
JBC (1)-R	Homeless Students
JBCD-R	Transfers
JBCB-R	Non-Traditional Students

EBBG-R	Risk Management
GAAA-R	Equal Opportunity Employment
GARA-R	Employee Health Examination/Driving Record
GARC-R	Employee Recruitment
GARH-R	Leaves and Absences
GBA-R	Compensation Guides and Contracts
GBBA-R	Personnel Qualifications and Duties
GBRIB (1)-R	Catastrophic Illness Leave Bank

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Without objection, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Banks, and unanimously approved by the Board at 4:22 p.m. to convene to Executive Session following a 10-minute break to discuss land, legal, student and personnel matters. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the vote.

VOTING SESSION

The Cobb County Board of Education met for a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, December 5, 2024, with the following members present: Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Hutchins, Scamihorn, Wheeler, Ms. Sayler, Mr. Ragsdale, Executive Secretary, and Ms. Wilcox and Ms. Ams, Interim Board Attorneys. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

RECONVENE

Without objection, the Board reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Scamihorn, Board Chair, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD RECOGNITIONS

- Cobb STEM Certification – Cheatham Hill Elementary School
- 2024 GHSA Class 5A Cross Country Girls Individual State Champion – Josie Hutchinson, Pope High School
- 2024 GHSA Class 5A Cross Country Girls State Champions – Pope High School
- 2024 GHSA Class 5A Volleyball Girls State Champions – Pope High School
- The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Farm to School Award – Food & Nutrition Services
- The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) School Nutrition Division Cafeteria Award of Excellence – Lindley Middle School
- Mr. Ragsdale presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Banks thanking him for 16 years of commitment and dedicated service to the District

PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were five (5) public commenters.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel

Administration recommended approval of the identified employment actions of the individuals listed on the Personnel Action Report as discussed in Executive Session.

Section I – Principal Level and Higher Position Recommendation

- Dinizio, Christine, Principal, Dowell Elementary School, retirement effective March 1, 2025

Section II – Position Recommendation Below Principal Level

Elementary School:

- Astin, Wendy, appointment to Assistant Principal, Hollydale Elementary School from Teacher, Dowell Elementary School effective January 2, 2025
 - A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Ms. Sayler, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve the Personnel Action Report as read and presented in Executive Session. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

Student Matter

- SY25-Appeal #9
 - A motion was made by Mr. Scamihorn, seconded by Mr. Chastain, and unanimously approved by the Board to uphold the determination of the student disciplinary tribunal as discussed in Executive Session. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

Legal

- A motion was made by Mr. Chastain, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, and unanimously approved by the Board to accept and approve the First Amendment to Lease Agreement with SBA Properties, LLC., for relocated cell tower premises at Sprayberry High School for a term ending May 26, 2028, with two (2) successive five-year renewal options at the rental rates set forth in the Lease Amendment. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.
- A motion was made by Mr. Scamihorn, seconded by Mr. Chastain, and approved by the Board to remove the word “interim” from the District’s designated law firm of Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein. Motion carried 5-0-1. Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, Wheeler, and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea,” Mr. Hutchins abstained from the vote, and Ms. Davis was not present.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REMARKS

The Superintendent commented on various items occurring throughout the Cobb County School District.

Mr. Ragsdale presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Scamihorn thanking him for a year of dedicated service to the District as Board Chair during 2024.

ACTION AGENDA:

CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #1 – Recommendation for Authorization of School Properties Disposal per District Administrative Rule DO-R

- Without objection, the Board approved the **Consent Agenda Item** as presented.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #2 – Authorization to Purchase Seven (7) Police Vehicles

- A motion was made by Mr. Hutchins, seconded by Ms. Sayler, and unanimously approved by the Board to purchase seven (7) police vehicles from Hardy Chevrolet, Inc., in the amount of \$379,925.00. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #3 – Authorization to Purchase Twenty-Five (25) School Buses

- A motion was made by Mr. Wheeler, seconded by Mr. Banks, and unanimously approved by the Board to purchase twenty-five (25) 48-passenger propane autogas-fueled buses from Yancy Bus Sales and Service in the amount of \$4,287,475.00. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #4 – Recommendation for Approval to Award a Contract for Parcel Surveys and Soil Testing to Support the Annex Replacement Projects at Kincaid Elementary School, Mount Bethel Elementary School, Murdock Elementary School, Sope Creek Elementary School, and Tritt Elementary School

- A motion was made by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, and unanimously approved by the Board to award contracts for Parcel Surveys and Soil Testing at Kincaid Elementary School, Mount Bethel Elementary School, Murdock Elementary School, Sope Creek Elementary School, and Tritt Elementary School as follows:
 - A contract to Frontline Surveying & Mapping, Inc., (Marietta, Georgia) for parcel surveys in the amount of \$161,827.20
 - A contract to Geo-Hydro Engineers, Inc., (Kennesaw, Georgia) for soil testing in the amount of \$46,500.00
- Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #5 – Recommendation for Approval to Award a Contract for Timber Ridge Elementary School Renovations

- A motion was made by Mr. Banks, seconded by Mr. Chastain, and unanimously approved by the Board to award a contract for renovations at Timber Ridge Elementary School to Ward Humphrey, Inc., (Marietta, Georgia) in the amount of \$7,691,138.00. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #6 – Recommendation for Approval of a Short-Term Construction Note Resolution Approving the Issuance of Request for Bids for the Purchase of \$100 Million of Construction Notes

- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, and unanimously approved by the Board to approve administration's recommendation. Motion carried 6-0. Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #7 – Recommendation for Approval of New Board Policy JBC (School Admissions)

- A motion was made by Mr. Scamihorn, seconded by Mr. Chastain, to approve new Board Policy JBS (School Admissions) as presented. Following discussion, Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Hutchins, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted "Yea," and Ms. Sayler voted "Nay". Ms. Davis was not present for the meeting. Motion carried 5-1.

ACTION AGENDA ITEM #8 – Recommendation for Approval of the 2025 Legislative Priorities

- A motion was made by Mr. Chastain, seconded by Mr. Banks, to adopt the 2025 Legislative Priorities as presented.
- Following discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, to amend the original motion to include an additional item under “Safety & Security” to increase school counselor allotments per school. Absent additional discussion, Mr. Hutchins, Ms. Sayler, and Mr. Wheeler voted “Yea,” and Messrs. Banks, Chastain, and Scamihorn voted “Nay.” Ms. Davis was not present for the vote. Motion failed 3-3.
- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, to amend the original motion to include an additional item under “Safety & Security” to support legislation that promotes common sense gun safety. Absent additional discussion, Mr. Hutchins and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea,” and Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay.” Ms. Davis was not present for the vote. Motion failed 2-4.
- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, to amend the original motion to include an additional item under “Safety & Security” to promote food security by supporting legislation that provides children with school meals. Following discussion, Mr. Hutchins and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea,” and Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay.” Ms. Davis was not present for the vote. Motion failed 2-4.
- A motion was made by Ms. Sayler, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, to amend the original motion to include an additional item under “Safety & Security” to increase protections for minors regarding negative impacts of social media / cell phone use. Absent additional discussion, Mr. Hutchins and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea,” and Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Scamihorn, and Wheeler voted “Nay.” Ms. Davis was not present for the vote. Motion failed 2-4.
- With no further discussion requested, Mr. Scamihorn called for the vote on the original motion. Messrs. Banks, Chastain, Hutchins, Scamihorn, Wheeler and Ms. Sayler voted “Yea.” Ms. Davis was not present for the vote. Original motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURN

Without objection, the Board adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY