

MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Hunter called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

II. INVOCATION

Mr. Wilson gave the invocation.

III. PLEDGE TO FLAGS

Ms. Stoker led in the pledges to the American and Georgia Flags.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Hunter called for a motion to approve the Board agenda as presented. Ms. Stoker made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Painter and approved unanimously.

V. SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

i. LaFayette High School FFA Advisors and FFA Officers - Two Gold Star Chapter

LaFayette High school was awarded Two-Star National Chapter Award in the second session of the 97th National FFA Convention. Approximately 2-3% of FFA Chapters nationwide receive a Two-Star National Chapter Award each year. This award recognizes chapters that excel in their programming and contributions to the FFA mission of personal growth, career success, and premier leadership. This was LaFayette High School's FFA Club first time to ever receive this award. President, Miss Meah Hobbs, and Vice President, Miss Emma Frame, received the award for the LaFayette High School FFA Chapter with Ms. Maggie Stultz, LaFayette High School Principal in Indianapolis, Indiana with the Chapter. Ms. Samantha Wilhoite thanked everyone that contributed to the Chapter's success. Ms. Wilhoite stated the Chapter can't wait to keep growing and making a positive impact on its community.

Mr. Ronnie Massey, LaFayette High School Athletic Director and Assistant Principal, along with Ms. Lugenia Suttles, LaFayette High School, Assistant Principal, thanked Mr. Michael Gardner and Ms. Samantha Wilhoite for the hard work and dedication to the program and students.

ii. LaFayette High School - Volleyball and Softball Players - Elite 8

The LaFayette High School softball team finished the season 28-6, which happens to be the best in the program's history. The team had the second-highest power ranking in 3A in the State of Georgia, making it to the Elite 8 tournament in Columbus, Georgia, for the first time in five years. The team finished in the top six at the tournament. A lot of credit goes to our five seniors, Alvia Hughes, Jaiden Vinyard, Olicia Acuff, Raven Yancy, and Olivia Free. Olivia had a career record of 89-29-1. Two senior players have committed to play softball at the next level. Olivia Acuff committed to play softball at Northeast Alabama Community College. Raven Yancy has committed to play softball at Southern Wesleyan University.

The 2024 LaFayette High School Volleyball team finished the season with a 32-18 record. The team was led by two seniors, Naudia Dodson and Gracie Headrick. The Lady Ramblers made a run through the toughest quadrant of the bracket in the GHSA State Tournament, finishing in the Elite 8 in a tough five-set match. The Lady Ramblers had five members named to the All-Region Team:

- First Team - Addy Cagle, Junior and Gracie Rambo, Junior
- Second Team - Kaylee Scoggins (junior) and Jaslyn Capello (Sophomore)
- Honorable Mention - Mary Alice Ertz(Junior)
- Gracie Rambo was also named to the GCVA All-State Volleyball Team.

iii. LaFayette Middle School FFA Students

Ms. Kim Woodard, LaFayette Middle School Assistant Principal, introduced and recognized the following students:

- Mika Gardner
- Chloe Maher
- Peighton Smith
- Reaghan Thurman
- C. J. Martin
- Brendan Matteson
- Ryker Hardwick
- Dani Winkler
- Tieta Taylor

The LaFayette Middle School FFA has been named the North Region Olympics Region Rally Champions. The group was also named the Region Rally Middle School Community Service Champions.

VI. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

i. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Raines presented information on the following items:

- A meeting concerning ESPLOST was held today at 1:00 p.m. at the Central Office.
- Mr. Raines thanked Ms. Rachel Elliott, Director of Finance, and Mr. Glen Brown, Director of Student Services, for attending the HB581 training in Cartersville, Georgia, on Thursday, November 14, 2024. There may be a called session in December 2024.
- There may be a called session in December to discuss HB581 and ESPLOST.
- Planning session will be held at the Advancing Education Center on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.
- Board members will attend the Annual GSBA Conference, virtually at the Central Office on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The training will begin at 8:00 a.m. Board members will receive six hours of training.
- The regular session will be held at the Central Office on Monday, December 16, 2024, and will begin at 6:00 p.m.

ii. Facilities Update

Mr. Chris Wallace, Director of Facilities and Operations, stated there was no Facilities Update.

VII. INDIVIDUAL ACTION ITEMS

i. Financial Report - September 2024

Ms. Hunter called for a motion to approve the financial report for the month ended September 30, 2024. The total for local and state revenue is 11.04% of the budget. Local revenue is at 5.9% of the budget. The total expenditures is 10.29% of the budget, which is 14.71% below the fiscal year completed to date, which is 25%. With a motion from Mr. Wilson and a second from Ms. Stoker, the motion was unanimously approved.

ii. Tentative 2025 Planning and Regular Session Meeting Schedule

Ms. Hunter called for a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of meeting dates for the 2025 calendar year. A motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2025 calendar of planning and regular session meeting dates was made by Ms. Stoker and seconded by Ms. Harden. The motion unanimously carried

VIII. CONSENT ACTION ITEMS

A motion to approve Consent Items #'s 1-8 was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Ms. Harden. The motion unanimously carried.

i. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a. October 8, 2024 - Planning Session
- b. October 18, 2024 - Called Session for Personnel
- c. October 21, 2024 - Regular Session

ii. Karis Rehabilitation Services, Incorporated

Federal guidelines require that students who are identified with a disability receive needed special educational services and related services as determined by the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) team members. Related services, including the evaluation for those services, may include speech language, occupational or physical therapy services from a licensed Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), Occupational Therapist (OT), or Physical Therapist (PT) as deemed necessary.

Related services must be provided by licensed professionals, who are trained to deliver direct services, indirect services, and address specific therapy needs for students who are eligible in the Walker County School System. Needs occasionally arise that make it necessary for the Walker County School System to enter into an agreement to ensure qualified therapists are readily available if needed.

The Walker County School System is in need of a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) due to a current Speech Language Pathologist taking maternity leave at the end of November. Related services such as speech, language, occupational and physical therapy are typically funded through local funds due to the requirements of Medicaid billing.

iii. Kate's Club Memorandum of Understanding

Kate's Club is a provider of grief support services whose essential mission is to provide an integrated network of social services and behavioral health services in Northwest Georgia to eligible individuals. Kate's Club is a Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities core provider of mental health

services. The Walker County School System wants to make available Kate's Club, for treatment and support services to eligible students, parents and guardians in the Walker County School System.

iv. Custodial Supplement

The Georgia Department of Education awarded State funds in the amount of \$77,000 to be used to pay a one-time supplement to the Walker County School System's current custodians. The supplement is in recognition of increased services and support required to maintain clean and safe environments for students and staff. The supplement will be paid on the custodians' December 31, 2024, paycheck.

v. Coca Cola Bottling Company Agreement

The Agreement between Coca Cola Bottling Company and the Walker County Board of Education will enable the Board to provide additional services to the schools, students, teachers, and other support staff.

vi. Credit Change Order #1 - Naomi Elementary School HVAC Renovation

The Credit Change Order #1 is a refund for Project #305, from J & J Contractors, Incorporated in the amount of \$48,910. Project #305 was for the Naomi Elementary School HVAC renovations.

vii. Purchase of Hard Drives - MCA Technology Solutions

The purchase in the amount of \$41,216 is for Dell NVME solid state hard drives from MCA Technology Solutions. The purchase will double the amount of the school system's storage space. There is still the ability to add twelve more drives in the future.

viii. School Contracts

- a. LifeTouch Yearbook Service Agreement

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Tina Painter

- Ms. Painter thanked Lindsey Oliver for her help with organizing the *Rockin' the Ridge* at the Rossville Recreation Center.

Dale Wilson

- Mr. Wilson thanked Shirley and James A. Smith for their contributions throughout the years to the school system and the community. The planetarium was renamed this afternoon as the *Shirley and James A. Smith Planetarium*.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following Walker County teacher and student took advantage of the public participation policy and presented information to the Board and those present.

- Harrison Gilstrap - LaFayette High School Student - Spoke concerning Mr. Raines
- Bam Timmerman - Chattanooga Valley Middle School Teacher - Spoke concerning the Walker County School System's dress code and political attire

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Hunter called for a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of personnel. Mr. Wilson made a motion to enter into executive session, and Ms. Harden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At the conclusion of executive session, Ms. Stoker made a motion to return to regular session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Harden. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Ms. Hunter called for a motion to approve the amended Personnel Report dated November 18, 2024, with Certificated Personnel, Non-Certificated Personnel, Substitute Teachers, and Lay Coaches. After a motion by Ms. Stoker and a second by Ms. Harden, the motion unanimously carried.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Wilson and a second by Ms. Stoker, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Board Chairperson

Secretary