

The Dale County Board of Education met in Regular Session Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room of the Dale County Government Building. Phillip Parker, Board President, presided over the meeting with members Jerald Cook, Dale Sutton, Shannon Deloney, Priscilla McKnight, Attorney William W. Nichols, and Superintendent Ben Baker present.

1 Invocation

Superintendent Baker opened the meeting with prayer.

2 Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3 Dale County Schools Mission Statement

DESTINATION: EXCELLENCE

The mission of Dale County Schools is to develop life-long learners who have personal, economic, technological and social skills needed to be member of a global society.

4 The meeting was called to order by President Phillip Parker.

5 Approval of Agenda

Motion – Jerald Cook, Second – Shannon Deloney, carried.

6 Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Board Meeting – June 9, 2026

b. Special Called Board Meeting – June 29, 2026

Motion – Priscilla McKnight, Second – Dale Sutton, carried.

7 Board Member Comments – Mrs. Shannon Deloney

The Board recognized Mr. Baker and family in honor of being selected the 2027 Alabama Superintendent of the Year.

No action required.

8 Resolution to Honor Ariton Varsity Baseball Team

Superintendent recommended the Board approve a Resolution to honor the Ariton Varsity Baseball Team.

Motion – Jerald Cook, Second – Dale Sutton, carried.

9 Resolution for Ariton School

Superintendent Baker recommended the Board approve the Resolution to divide the existing Ariton unit school into two separate, independently administered schools effective July 1, 2027, as follows:
Ariton Elementary School – Kindergarten through Grade 6
Ariton High School – Grade 7 through Grade 12

Motion – Dale Sutton, Second – Jerald Cook, carried.

10 Visitors – John Cole with American Fidelity

No action required.

11 Field Trip Requests

The Superintendent recommended that the Board approve the following field trips:

- a. DCHS FFA Educational Trip, Orlando, FL, October 29-November 3, 2026

Motion – Priscilla McKnight, Second – Shannon Deloney, carried.

12 Approval of Bills and Accounts

Superintendent Baker recommended that all bills and accounts be paid.

Motion – Dale Sutton, Second – Priscilla McKnight, carried.

13 Financial Statement/Bank Reconciliations

Superintendent Baker presented the most recent financial statements to the Board with all bank accounts reconciled through May 2026.

No action required.

14 Financial

- a. American Fidelity Group Term Life Insurance

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve the Dale County Board of Education enter into an agreement with American Fidelity to provide all full-time employees (those that qualify for PEEHIP and RSA benefits) with a \$10,000.00 Term Life Insurance Policy effective August 1, 2026.

Motion – Shannon Deloney, Second – Dale Sutton, carried.

Financial (cont.)

b. Ariton Property Purchase

Superintendent Baker recommended that the Board approve the Property Purchase in the town of Ariton from Billy C. Herring. The purchase price of two parcels totaling .51 acres is \$10,000.00.

Motion – Jerald Cook, Second – Dale Sutton, carried.

15 Personnel 2026-2027

The Superintendent recommended the following personnel pending certification and background requirements by the State Department of Education.

Personnel 2025-2026

Non-Certified

Resign

- 1 – Kasen Whitehurst, Paraprofessional Aide, (Ariton)
- 2 – Amber Lawrence, Paraprofessional Aide, (NES)

Certified

Resign

- 3 – Hanna Whitt, Teacher, (DCHS)

Personnel 2026-2027

Non-Certified

Employ

- 4 – Savannah Evans, Custodian, (Ariton)

Transfer

- 5 – Kelly Langford, 8-hr CNP Worker (Ariton) to Paraprofessional Aide (Ariton)
- 6 – April Thomas, Custodian (Ariton) to 8-hr CNP Worker (Ariton)

Certified

Employ

- 7 – Patrick Edge, Teacher, (DCHS)
- 8 – Allysia Black, Assistant Principal, (LHS)
- 9 – Kasen Whitehurst, Teacher, (LHS)

Personnel 2026-2027 (cont.)

Certified

Teach During Planning Time

- 10 – Phillip Quincey, (Ariton) 1st & 2nd Semester
- 11 – Amy Swain, (Ariton) 1st & 2nd Semester
- 12 – Mason Black, (DCHS) 1st Semester
- 13 – Ivey Lawson, (DCHS) 1st Semester
- 14 – Patrick Street, (DCHS) 1st Semester
- 15 – Kirstie Johnson, (LHS) 2nd Semester

Supplement Requests

- 16 – Ariton
- 17 – DCHS
- 18 – LES
- 19 – LHS
- 20 – MCES
- 21 – NES
- 22 – SDMS

Non-Staff Coaches (Volunteer & Supplemented)

- 23 – Ariton
- 24 – DCHS
- 25 – LHS

Motion – Priscilla McKnight, Second – Shannon Deloney, carried.

16 Organizational Chart – Mr. Ben Baker

No action required.

17 2026-2027 Salary Schedule (All positions)

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve the 2026-2027 Salary Schedule as presented.

Motion – Shannon Deloney, Second – Jerald Cook, carried.

Regular Board Meeting (cont.)

July 14, 2026

18 Other

With no other business, President Parker adjourned the meeting.



President



Secretary