

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 8, 2025**

**7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Sumter County Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Patricia Harris with the following other members present: Edward Jackson, Rick Barnes, Abbis Bivins, Carolyn Hamilton, and Dwight Harris.

Vincent Kearsse participated virtually.

A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOARD ELECTIONS**

As required by policy, the annual board elections for chairman and vice chairman were conducted. Mr. Jackson offered a motion for Ms. Abbis Bivins to be chairman; second by Mrs. Hamilton. There being no other nominations, Ms. Bivins was elected as chairman with six in favor (P. Harris, E. Jackson, A. Bivins, C. Hamilton, V. Kearsse, and D. Harris), and one abstention (R. Barnes).

Ms. Bivins assumed the office of chairman and asked for nominations for vice chairman. Mr. Harris nominated Mrs. Hamilton; second by Mr. Jackson. There being no other nominations, Mrs. Hamilton was elected as vice chairman with six in favor (A. Bivins, P. Harris, E. Jackson, C. Hamilton, V. Kearsse, and D. Harris), and one abstention (R. Barnes).

The chairman called for nominations for school board attorney for school matters. Mr. Barnes recommended law firm Pereira, Kirby, Kinsinger & Nguyen, LLP.; second by Mrs. Hamilton. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Mr. Barnes nominated law firm Gatewood, Skipper and Rambo for local matters; second by Mr. Jackson. The nomination was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Hamilton nominated the Americus-Times Recorder as the legal organ; second by Mrs. Harris. The nomination was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Hamilton motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mrs. Harris; and the vote was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Jackson second by Mrs. Harris:

- A. Minutes of December 11, 2025
- B. Fund Raisers, School Use Requests & Overnight Field Trip Requests

**OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUESTS**

Seven students and two chaperones (SCMS/SCHS Band) to Tifton, GA, February 6-7, 2026, to participate in the District Honor Band.

Ten students and one chaperone (SCHS CTAE/SkillsUSA) to Atlanta, GA, February 19-21, 2026, to attend the SkillsUSA State Leadership Conference.

**OVERNIGHT/OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

Three students and one chaperone (SCMS/SCHS Band) to Jackson, MS, February 26-28, 2026, to participate in the Jackson State Honor Band Performance

- C. Financial Reports
- D. Open Payables – December 2025
- E. Preliminary Cash Flow Report

	Citizens Bank General Fund	GA Fund 1 General Fund	GA Fund 1 Special/ Capital	Citizens Bank SPLOST 2021	Regions Bank Sales Tax 2021	Citizens Bank General Fund 2
November 30, 2025	\$0.00	\$3,470,089.11	\$3,817,400.85	\$105,119.98	\$930,764.25	\$4,007,860.00
Incoming	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$274,574.89	\$486,447.99	\$5,721,934.13
Outgoing	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$179,125.38	\$0.00	\$5,779,540.25
December 31, 2025	\$0.00	\$3,470,089.11	\$3,817,400.85	\$200,569.49	\$1,417,212.24	\$3,950,253.88

F. 396 Fund Balance Revenue Report

G. Resignations

H. Family Medical Leave Request

I. Paid Parental Leave Requests

J. Sumter County Board of Education Meetings Calendar for 2026

K. Resolution of the Sumter County Board of Education confirming the results of the election on November 4, 2025, held to determine the approval of a special purpose sales and use tax for education and the issuance of \$50,000,000 of general obligation debt of the Sumter County School District.

The following personnel matters were approved as part of the consent agenda:

Resignations

Tamika Sparks

Joseph Monts Jr.

George Monts Jr.

Cynthia Holloway

Joshua Drew

FINANCE

A motion was made by Mrs. Hamilton; second by Mr. Jackson to approve the Expenditure Journal Summary Budget Report for December 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson; second by Mr. Kearse to approve the December 2025 SPLOST financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mrs. Hamilton; second by Mr. Jackson to accept the FY26 CTAE Perkins V Carryover Grant in the amount of \$5,484.00. The motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Hamilton; second by Mrs. Harris to accept the U.S. Department of Education School-based Mental Health Grant in the amount of \$1,750,000.00 per year, over the next four years. The motion was carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 8:00 pm by Mrs. Harris; second by Mr. Jackson to enter into executive session for the following reasons as read by the chairman: To discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or to interview applicants for the position of superintendent; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)). The motion was carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson; second by Mrs. Hamilton at 9:29 p.m. to return to open session; the motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Barnes; second by Mr. Jackson to approve the employment of Kevin Worth as a Maintenance Worker, and Brooks Robinson as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Director. The motion was carried with five in favor (R. Barnes, E. Jackson, C. Hamilton, V. Kearse, and D. Harris), and one abstention (A. Bivins).

A motion was made by Mr. Barnes; second by Mr. Kearse to approve the employment of Robert Spikes as Maintenance Supervisor. The motion failed.

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson; second by Mr. Barnes to approve the transfer of Jannie Carter-Jackson from Director of Finance to Interim Director of Title I (Federal Programs). The motion was carried with five in favor (A. Bivins, R. Barnes, E. Jackson, C. Hamilton, V. Kearse) and one abstention (D. Harris).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Hamilton; second by Mr. Jackson. The motion was carried unanimously.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary