

SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 16, 2026

7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Sumter County Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Abbis Bivins with the following other members present: Carolyn Hamilton, Rick Barnes, Dwight Harris, Patricia Harris and Edward Jackson.

Members absent: Vincent Kears

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

Mr. Barnes made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Jackson; and the motion was carried unanimously.

The following consent agenda items were unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Hamilton; seconded by Mr. Jackson:

- A. Minutes of March 9, 12, 23, & 30, 2026
- B. School Use Requests & Overnight Field Trips

Facility Use Requests

- 1. Americus Police Department (APD) to use the Thomas Bell Baseball Stadium at the Old Americus Sumter High School, Saturday, March 28, 2026, for a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt. *(Fees and Insurance Waived)*
- 2. Terri Battle/Americus High School Class of 1986 to use the Old Americus Sumter High School Campus grounds, Saturday, June 13, 2026 for a class reunion cookout. *(Fees waived)*

Overnight Field Trip Requests

- 1. Fourteen students (SCHS FFA) to Macon, GA, April 23-25, 2026 to participate in the 98th Georgia FFA State Convention.
- 2. Fifteen students (SCHS Boys Basketball) to Atlanta, GA, June 14-16, 2026 for a basketball team camp.
- C. Board Policy IHE: Promotion and *Retention (2025-2026 ELA Promotion/Retention Guidance Addendum as recommended by State Board of Education)*
- D. Curriculum Job Descriptions
 - Literacy Content Specialist
 - Math Content Specialist
- E. Interim CTAE Director
- F. Financial Reports
- G. Vendor Payments – March 2026

	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
February 28, 2026	\$0.00	\$12,195,555.75	\$3,852,870.49	-\$1,537,709.16	\$500,510.13	\$6,816,301.90
Incoming	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,856.11	\$1,947,172.35	\$447,977.58	\$6,076,403.03
Outgoing	\$0.00	\$2,568,026.30	\$0.00	\$201,404.70	\$447,977.58	\$8,077,087.49
March 1, 2026	\$0.00	\$9,627,529.45	\$3,866,726.60	\$208,058.49	\$500,510.13	\$4,815,617.44

- H. Open Payables – March 2026
- I. Preliminary Cash Flow Report
- J. Expenditure Journal Summary Budget Report

- K. 396 Fund Balance Revenue Report
- L. The YOSS Platform - GenCloud Annual Subscription (\$18,000 maximum/Local)
- M. Family Medical Leave Act Requests
- N. Employments
- O. Retirements
- P. Resignations
- Q. Transfers
- R. Paid Parental Leave Requests
- S. Long Term Substitutes
- T. Rescindment of Resignation

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

Employments

Kennedy Tarrer
David Finley

Retirements

Angela Meadows
LaShaunda Thomas

Resignations

Margaret Levie
Chasity King
Hannah Cannon
Jade Sims
Ernest Scott
Alexis Wall
Hizachy Garcia
Maria Lewis

Transfer

Landan Frazier
Carrasquel De Gomez
Colbretta Minter

From

SCMS Band
SCHS Custodian
SCMS Counselor

To

SCHS Band Teacher
C.O. Custodian
SCMS Science Teacher

Long Term Substitute

Lelia Frederick
Sharon Tyson

Rescindment of Resignation

Gloria Wakefield

- U. MOU Between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on Behalf of Georgia Southwestern State University and Sumter County High School (*Field experience*)
- V. MOU Between Ignite CCA, Sumter County Schools, and SGTC
- W. Reimbursement to Board and Superintendent for Attending GSBA Summer Conference ~ June 8-10, 2026 in Savannah, GA

NEW BUSINESS

The Interim Superintendent, Mr. Jerry Sanders, recommended the realignment of grades Pre-K through 2nd for the 2026-2027 school year. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Mr. Barnes; seconded by Mrs. Hamilton; motion carried on the following vote: five in favor (Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jackson & Mr. Harris); one opposed (Ms. Bivins).

A motion was made by Mrs. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Barnes to approve the formation of the Sumter County Accelerated Achievers Academy, as recommended. The motion was approved on the following vote: Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jackson & Mr. Harris; one opposed (Ms. Bivins).

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the recommended job description for Transportation Supervisor. The motion carried on the following vote: five in favor (Mr. Jackson, Mr. Harris, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Barnes & Mrs. Harris); one opposed (Mrs. Bivins).

A motion was made by Mr. Barnes; seconded by Mrs. Hamilton to approve the recommended job description for the Assistant Principal/Accelerated Achievers Academy Coordinator. The motion carried

five in favor (Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Jackson & Mr. Harris); one opposed (Ms. Bivins).

The recommended job description for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ignite College and Career Academy was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Barnes and seconded by Mrs. Hamilton.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 7:31 p.m. by Mr. Barnes and seconded by Mrs. Harris 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)). To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1)). The motion was carried unanimously.

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made at 8:30 p.m. by Mrs. Hamilton and seconded by Mrs. Harris to return to open session; motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mrs. Harris to approve Dr. Sebrina Pitts as the Federal Programs Director. The motion carried five in favor (Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Harris, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Hamilton & Mr. Harris); one abstention (Ms. Bivins).

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Barnes to approve Mr. Jodie Knight as the Principal of Sumter County Primary School. The motion carried five in favor (Mr. Jackson, Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Hamilton & Mr. Harris); one opposed (Ms. Bivins).

Mrs. Brittany Brock was unanimously approved as the Assistant Principal/Gifted Coordinator at SCES on a motion by Mrs. Hamilton and seconded by Mrs. Harris.

Ms. Tiera Wallace was unanimously approved as the Math Content Specialist (K-6) on a motion by Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Harris.

A motion was made by Mrs. Hamilton; seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the salary supplement for Code 300 individuals (Contractors) in the amount of \$1,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Contracts for the following individuals were unanimously approved on a motion made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Barnes:

Shirley Fair-Johnson
Molly Speir
Takesha Walker-Lavender

A motion was made by Mrs. Hamilton; seconded by Mrs. P. Harris to approve the rescindment of a non-renewal; motion carried unanimously.

The job description for Administrative Assistant to the Human Resources Director was unanimously approved on a motion made by Mr. Barnes; seconded by Mr. Harris.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Harris; seconded by Mr. Barnes; motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman 

Secretary 