SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 8, 2026

7:00 P.M.

SUMTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

MINUTES

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

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

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

The minutes of September 10, 2026 were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Kearse.
The following school use requests and overnight (out of the country) field trip was unanimously approved on a motion made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. D. Harris.

School Use Requests

1. Sumter County Parks and Recreation Department to use the football stadium at Americus-Sumter South Campus, October 17, 2026 for football championship

2. Sumter County Parks and Recreation Department to use the gymnasium at Americus-Sumter South Campus, October 24, 2026 for recreation cheer competition

Overnight / Out of State (Country) / Field Trip

Two students to Konu/Miyoshi, Japan, October 9-16, 2026 to participate in the foster sister city relationship between Americus/Sumter County and Konu/Miyoshi, Japan

The Superintendent, Mr. Jerry Sanders, recommended approval of the purchase of Goal Book in the amount of $20,479.50 to be paid from IDEA funds. A motion was made by Mr. Kearse; seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the superintendent's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Kearse; seconded by Mrs. Hamilton to approve revisions to Policy BCBI – Public Participation in Board Meetings (Request to Appear before the Board). The motion carried unanimously.

The financial reports were presented and are to be filed for audit purposes.

A motion was made by Mr. Kearse; seconded by Mr. D. Harris to amend and change the funding source for Evolve Expedite ($26,063.88) from Title V to SPLOST funding. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kearse offered a motion to purchase 40 chrome books and 10 laptops from Howard Computers in the amount of $32,360 with IDEA funds; seconded by Mrs. P. Harris. The motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

The renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of Valdosta State University and Sumter County Schools for Field Experience was unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Barnes; seconded by Mrs. Hamilton.

A motion was made by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mrs. P. Harris, to approve reimbursement for Board members and the Superintendent for expenses incurred in attending the GSBA/GSSA Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, December 2–4, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made at 8:18 p.m. by Mr. Barnes; second 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.

Mr. Barnes excited the meeting.

OPEN SESSION
A motion was made at 9:23 p.m. by Mr. Harris and seconded by Mr. Jackson to return to open session; motion was carried unanimously.

The following personnel matters were unanimously approved on a motion made by Mr. Jackson; seconded by Mr. Kearse:

Employments
Shanice Murphy
Travin Hollis
Sujatha Nalla
Andrew Sadler

Resignations
Alexis Burton Willis
Virginia Tullis
Kalicia Harpe
Phillip Harper Jr.

Terminations
Jamee Robinson

Transfers
Michael Yearby
Demarcus Carter
Kadeja Davis
Brandi Laster
Shyericka Thornton
Embreyana Pickett
Corey Richardson
Reasia Smith

Contracted Services
Robert Morgan
Shinell Battiste
Shameka Evans-Russell
Tyreke Howell
A&W Instructional Math Consulting
Illumination Math Consulting LLC

Long Term Substitute
Delphine McGrady
Joseph Oyeniya

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Kearse; seconded by Mrs. Hamilton; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman

Secretary