

The Dale County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, March 10, 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 Priscilla McKnight, Jerald Cook, Shannon Deloney, Dale Sutton, Attorney William 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 – Dale Sutton, Second – Jerald Cook, carried.

6 Approval of Minutes

a. February Board Meeting – February 10, 2026

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

7 Visitors – No visitors were present.

No action required.

8 Approval of Bills and Accounts

The Superintendent recommended that all bills and accounts be paid.

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

9 Financial Statement/Bank Reconciliations

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

No action required.

10 Financial

a. Lawn Care Bid and Contact Renewals

The following Lawn Care Bids were received on or before March 3, 2026:

Bridge Academy Grass Cutting Bid
Herring Lawn Care Service– \$180.00

Newton Elementary School Grass Cutting Bid
Barefield Lawn Care – \$200.00

Ariton School
Herring Lawn Care Service – \$892.00

Long Elementary/High School
Long Lawn Care – \$500.00

Midland City Elementary School
Quality Land & Lawn - \$365.00

South Dale Middle School
Quality Land & Lawn - \$395.00

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve all Lawn Care Bids as presented.

The following schools wish to renew Lawn Care Contracts beginning April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.

Bus Barn
Herring Lawn Care Service

Dale County High School
Michael Kemp

All Lawn Care Contract Renewals were recommended by the Superintendent.

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

Financial (Cont.)

b. New Softball Facility Bids (Ariton)

The following bids were received on or before March 6, 2026:

Anderson Construction Company of Fort Gaines – \$3,297,850.00
Covington Contracting, Inc. – \$2,863,562.00
Elite Building Group, LLC – \$3,256,642.00
Hughes Construction Services, LLC – \$2,657,000.00
S A Graham Co. Inc. – \$2,835,000.00
Walker Construction & Consulting Services, LLC – \$3,037,350.00
Wyatt Sasser Construction, LLC – \$2,867,089.00

Superintendent Baker recommended the Board approve the Ariton Softball Facility Bid be awarded to Hughes Construction Services, LLC, in the amount of \$2,657,000.00.

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

c. Technology Purchase Recommendations

Superintendent Baker recommended the Board approve the following Technology Purchases as presented:

Hardware Parts & Cloud Subscriptions:
(ALJP Contract ERATE) ClearWinds-Extreme Networks-ExtremeIQ
(WIFI-Network components)- \$15,799.47

Hardware Parts: (ALJP Contract ERATE)
Synergetics- Easton Backup Power Supply - \$7,770.00

Software Cloud Subscriptions: Migration and deploying application – From Remind to ParentSquare – Student/Parent/Staff Communications - \$13,176.25

Add on AI Safety: FSI – IBOSS – (Cybersecurity State Grant) - \$7,325.00

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

11 Accountability Notifications

General Education Donation of \$1,000.00 from Steve Clouse

No action required.

12 Field Trip Requests

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve the following field trip:

- a. NES 3rd grade – Wonderworks, Panama City, FL, May 8, 2026

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

13 School Calendar

The Superintendent presented the 2026-2027 School Calendar for Board approval.

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

14 Personnel 2025-2026

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

Personnel 2025-2026

Non-Certified

Resign

1 – Tommy Whitaker, Bus Driver, (Utility)

Employ

2 – Judie Langevin, Bus Driver, (Utility)

Subs

3 – Jacee Faulk, Substitute Teacher

Certified

Employ

4 – William Baxter Garner, Head Football Coach/Teacher, (DCHS)

Maternity Leave

5 – Baylee Murphy, Speech Pathologist, (LES)
expected dates for leave May 12, 2026 – September 25, 2026

6 – Mandi Sneed, replacement for Baylee Murphy
expected dates for leave May 12, 2026 – May 22, 2026

7 – Angie Barefield, replacement for Baylee Murphy
expected dates for leave August 3, 2026 – September 25, 2026

Personnel 2025-2026 (Cont.)

Certified

Retire

- 8 – Greg Brown, Teacher, (Ariton)
- 9 – Michelle Kelley, Teacher, (Ariton)
- 10 – Debbie Moseley, Teacher, (MCES)
- 11 – Dawn Snell, Teacher, (NES)
- 12 – Wendy Weathers, Teacher, (NES)
- 13 – Rachel Watts, Teacher, (LHS)
- 14 – Tiffany Wells, Teacher, (SDMS)

Transfer

- 15 – Thomas Pitchford, PE Teacher, (DCHS) to PE Teacher, (NES)

Principal Contract Renewals (All three-year renewals)

- 16 – Michael Stevens, (SDMS)
- 17 – Eric Andrews, (NES)
- 18 – Matt Humphrey, (DCHS)

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

15 Adjourn –

With no other business, President Phillip Parker adjourned the meeting.



Secretary



President