

The Dale County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 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 – Shannon Deloney, carried.

6 Approval of Minutes

a. January Board Meeting – January 13, 2026

Motion – Jerald Cook, Second – Priscilla McKnight, carried.

7 Visitors – FFA Representatives/FBLA Representatives/Bridge Academy Representatives were present.

No action required.

8 National FFA Week Proclamation

Superintendent Baker designated the week of Feb. 21-28, 2026, as National FFA Week.

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

9 National FBLA Week Proclamation

Superintendent Baker designated the week of Feb. 8-14, 2026, as National FFA Week.

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

10 Career and Technical Education Month Proclamation

Superintendent Baker designated the month of February as Career and Technical Education Month.

Motion – Jerald Cook, Second – Priscilla McKnight, carried.

11 Approval of Bills and Accounts

The Superintendent recommended that all bills and accounts be paid.

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

12 Financial Statement/Bank Reconciliations

The Superintendent presented the most recent financial statements to the Board with all bank accounts reconciled through December 2025.

No action required.

13 Field Trip Requests

The Superintendent recommended the Board approve the following field trips:

- a. Ariton – 1st Grade, Pirate Cruise, Panama City, FL, March 20, 2026
- b. Ariton – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, Wonderworks, Panama City, FL, May 7, 2026
- c. Ariton – Career Tech Students, Wild Adventures, Valdosta, GA, May 7, 2026

Motion – Jerald Cook, Second – Dale Sutton, 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**

**Certified**

Maternity Leave

1 – Sara Sanders, School Counselor, (Ariton)  
expected dates for leave March 2, 2026 – May 1, 2026

2 – Lisa Littlefield, replacement for Sara Sanders  
expected dates for leave March 2, 2026 – May 1, 2026

**Personnel 2025-2026 (Cont.)**

**Certified**

Maternity Leave

3 – Phyllis Ledbetter, replacement for Allison Rominger, teacher (MCES)  
expected dates for leave August 3, 2026 – October 2, 2026

4 – Breanna Merritt, Teacher, (LES)  
expected dates for leave March 30, 2026 – May 22, 2026

5 – Michelle Tharpe Baxter, replacement for Breanna Merritt  
expected dates for leave March 30, 2026 – May 22, 2026

Resign

6 – Evan Ballard, Teacher/Head Football Coach, (DCHS)

**Non-Certified**

Resign

7 – Chester Atwell, Bus Driver, (Utility)

Employ

8 – Savannah Dinnall, Bus Driver, (Utility)

Non-Staff Coach (Volunteer)

9 – Austin Evans, Volunteer Assistant Baseball Coach, (Ariton)

10 – Ethan Grissom, Volunteer Assistant Soccer Coach, (DCHS)

Staff Coach (Supplemented)

11 – Josh Evans, Assistant Boys & Girls Soccer Coach, (Ariton)

Subs

12 – Shelby Bass, Substitute Teacher

13 – Princess Heaven Brown, Substitute Teacher

14 – Brittany Chatham, Substitute Teacher

15 – Linda Michelle Craft, Substitute Teacher

16 – Annette Hulett, Substitute Teacher

17 – Amy Nicole Johnson, Substitute Teacher

18 – Kimberly Smith, Substitute Teacher

19 – Loren Tew, Substitute Teacher

20 – Ethan Cade Whigham, Substitute Teacher

21 – Peggy Avirett Walker, Substitute Teacher & CNP Substitute

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

Regular Board Meeting (cont.)

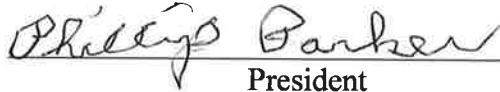
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15 Other

With no other business, President Parker adjourned the meeting



Secretary



President