

MINUTES  
BLEDSOE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2026

The Bledsoe County Board of Education met in regular session on January 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Pikeville Elementary as called to order by Chairman Mr. Andy Billingsley with 7 members present.

Roll Call:      Mr. Andy Billingsley                      -              Present  
                     Mr. Timothy Churches                      -              Present  
                     Mr. Jacob Frady                                      -              Present  
                     Mrs. Carolyn Oakes                                      -              Present  
                     Mr. Steve Perry    -              Present  
                     Mr. Bron Reece    -              Present  
                     Mr. Don Snow    -              Present

1. Approval of the agenda with the following additions and changes:

Move item #7: Approval of Electric bus Grant to Item #5

Addition of: Approval of volunteer coaches for Flag Football.

Motion for approval of changes:

MOTION: Mr. Perry                                      Second: Mr. Churches

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: Aye

Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

Motion for approval of the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Perry                                      Second: Mr. Churches

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: Aye

Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

2. Approval of the minutes from the December 1, 2025 regular meeting of the Bledsoe County Board of Education.

MOTION: Mr. Reece                                      Second: Mr. Perry

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: Aye

Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

3. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director, to approve monthly financial reports for the month ending November 30, 2025.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley                                      Second: Mr. Reece

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES

Mr. Perry: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

4. Request by Mrs. Kara Walling, Finance Director for the approval of budget amendment. 141- Amendment #10 – Cybersecurity Grant

MOTION: Mr. Perry                                      Second: Mr. Reece

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES

Mr. Perry: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

5. Request by Mr. Brian Turner, Transportation Supervisor, to approve electric bus grant.

The grant is for \$405,000.00 for Vehicle Purchase with Grantee Cost Share of 10%. Charger Installation: Grant Amount up to \$22,500.00 with Grantee cost share of 10%

Some Board members raised concerns regarding the electric buses and the life of the electric buses due to battery life expectancy being 8 years and their run time on a charge.

Mr. Churches stated that he had calls from parents expressing that the electric buses are cold in the morning when students are picked up.

Ms. Ashley Scurlock with Cumberland stated that she was not aware of this issue and that there may be somethings that can be done to help with this issue.

Motion was made by Mr. Reece to not approve to accept the electric bus grant.

MOTION: Mr. Reece Second: Mr. Churches

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: NO Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: NO Mrs. Oakes: NO  
Mr. Perry: NO Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

Motion Failed

Motion was made by Mr. Billingsley to approve the accept electric bus grant.

MOTION: Mr. Billingsley Second: Mr. Frady

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: NO Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES  
Mr. Perry: YES Mr. Reece: NO Mr. Snow: NO

Motion Passed

6. Approval of bid for the lease of the property behind Pikeville Elementary School. Only one bid was received from David Taylor McCall. Bid amount \$1,250.00 per year. The lease will be for a 3-year term

MOTION: Mr. Perry Second: Mr. Churches

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: YES Mr. Churches: YES Mr. Frady: YES Mrs. Oakes: YES  
Mr. Perry: YES Mr. Reece: YES Mr. Snow: YES

7. Director's Update:

Mrs. Farrah Fields, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, gave a presentation on school data and scores. Mrs. Fields provided Board members with a hand out on all data.

Mrs. Fields presentation included: Review of district academic performance trends, Focus on growth and achievement and readiness and comparison to state and districts where appropriate.

Multiple schools continue to be Reward Schools. State Letter Grades: 3 schools are at a B, Bledsoe Middle changed from a D to a C and Rigsby Elementary received an A letter grade.

Mr. Matt Ridley, Principal Bledsoe County High School, stated that Bledsoe County High School got a shout out from the state for growth in ACT.

Mr. Corey Garrett, Special Education Supervisor, gave an update on the Special Education program. Mr. Garrett, stated that his role is to protect the schools district legally and compliant.

Mr. Garrett, stated that Bledsoe County Schools is second highest for percentage for students with disabilities among distressed counties and highest in surrounding counties. The four main categories that we continue to have are: Specific Learning Disabilities, Language or Speech, Autism, and Developmental Delay.

Mr. Garrett, stated the Assess to Address program was going well, but there are always opportunities to review. He stated he checks with school administrator and staff regularly.

97% compliant with IEP's, and 92% with re-evaluation timeline.

He stated he would share the answer to the question that he received about had there been any filings or complaint to Board members email.

Mr. Garrett stated that he thought that Special Education was adequately staffed and that the restructuring with the additional para-professionals was going well. He stated he had meet with administrator and had not had any major negative feedback on not liking the additional staff or wanting to give up the additional support. Most schools have had little turnover rate, but there have been some. Schools are not experiencing any shortages or high caseloads.

Mr. Reece asked who set the criteria for testing for students being tested? Mr. Garret answered that the testing is local, but the state sets the criteria.

Mr. Churches stated that kids need continued care. Mr. Garrett stated that you can discontinue the IEP, and still continue to support student through 504. Mr. Perry questioned what the support system was once you discontinue the IEP and support through a 504. Mr. Garrett stated the IEP should be providing the student with maximum support and maximum access in order to allow them to be in the general education classroom with the least amount of adjustments and the least amount of support that they need and this is when you know you should start to step down.

Mr. Reece asked how case load was determined? Mr. Garrett stated again there was no real change in caseload? Mr. Reece also asked if the assistant that were hired are helping teachers. Mr. Garrett stated that meeting with the administrators that he had not heard any negatives, but there is always room for growth.

8. Old Business. No Old Business

9. New Business

9a. Approval of Michael Colvard and Jerry Sherrell as volunteer coaches for flag football.

MOTION: Mr. Reece Second: Mr. Churches

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: Aye  
Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE

Meeting	Date	Time	Place
Board Retreat	January 10, 2026	9:00 A.M.	Gilbert Gaul Room – Fall Creek Falls
Regular Meeting	February 2, 2026	5:00 p.m.	Bledsoe County Middle Schools

10. Adjourn.

MOTION: Mr. Perry Second: Mr. Reece

VOTE: Mr. Billingsley: AYE Mr. Churches: AYE Mr. Frady: AYE Mrs. Oakes: AYE  
Mr. Perry: AYE Mr. Reece: AYE Mr. Snow: AYE