

School Committee Meeting Minutes

12 January 2026

School Committee Chair Commissioner Judy Pruett opened the meeting asking Commissioner Roger Reedy to offer a prayer and lead the pledge. The minutes of 3 October 2025 were moved for approval by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, seconded by Commissioner Terry Jones, and were approved unanimously. Commission Chair David Wamble noted that the vacancy due to Commissioner Joseph Sutton's death has been announced and is expected to be filled by February 2026.

Handout was provided for the General-Purpose School Fund 141 and addressed the following: Community Reinvestment for Healthier Schools Health Services, STEM Classroom Award (Richland School), STEM Classroom Award (Bridgeforth Middle School), LEAPs Donation, Transportation, CCEIS to Align with State, and Special Education Support (ASL Interpreter). No additional funding was requested for the proposed amendments as the funds were from within the school's approved budget and were moved between line items. A motion to approve all the amendments was made by Commissioner Terry Jones, seconded by Commissioner James Lathrop, and after the following discussion was approved unanimously.

Director of Schools Dr. Vickie Beard addressed in detail two of the specific needs of the schools, i.e., a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and an American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter. Commissioner Matthew Hopkins asked if the BCBA was a state mandate and Dr. Beard said no but the position will serve all Giles County schools and there are approximate 650 students benefiting from this support. She noted that the support is for students with challenging behavior and/or disabilities. Commissioner Caleb Savage asked if the school had considered contracting the ASL service on an as needed basis. Director Beard said that this position will be a part-time position, and noted the advantages of having a person available for face-to-face interactions, as well as the tools required in providing this support. She also noted previously they had used contracted services and the cost advantage was to hire and use this PT position. The Chair asked if there was any public comment prior to the vote.

Old or New Business – Financial Manager Beth Moore-Sumners discussed a grant where the county had started the application process in 2025, and of the 147 Tennessee public school districts, 50 have been selected, Giles County being one. The grant will cover effort for 2026 – 2030. No motion was required at this time. The public was again asked if there were any comments (none).

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner James Lathrop, seconded by Commissioner Matthew Hopkins, and was approved unanimously.

ATTENDEES: Members of the Committee Chair Commissioner Judy Pruett, Other Commissioners James Lathrop, Terry Jones, Rickie Carpenter, Matthew Hopkins, Matt Rubelsky, Evan Baddour (for Joseph Sutton vacancy) Other Commissioners in attendance – David Wamble, Tracy Wilburn, Shelly Goolsby, Erin Curry, Roger Reedy, Carman Brown, David Adams, Gayle Jones, Joyce Woodard, Annelle Guthrie, Other - County Executive Graham Stowe, Director of Schools Dr. Vickie Beard, Sheriff Joe Purvis, Road Superintendent Gene Barnickle, Economic Director Phil Reese, EMA Josh Young, School Board Chair Knox Vanderpool