SMITH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOARD MINUTES

The Smith County Board of Education met at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at the Board of Education Office.

Present: Jay Hesson (District (District 1): Present, Scotty Enoch (District (District 2): Present, Marty McCaleb (District 3): Present, Joe Taylor (District 4): Present, Tommy Manning (District 5): Present, Ricky Shoulders (District 6): Present, David McDonald (District (District 7): Present, Scotty Lewis (District 8): Present.

I. Call to Order

The Smith County Board of Education met at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at the Smith County Board of Education. Mr. McDonald provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

II. Welcome

Mr. Tommy Manning, Chairman of the Board, welcomed all visitors and called the March 17, 2026, meeting of the board to order.

III. Consent Items

Lewis (District 8) moved to accept the following Consent Items A-E as presented by the Director. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote: Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

A. Board Minutes: Minutes of the Board - February 17, 2026 (Regular Meeting)
Request to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Board - Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

B. Board Minutes: Minutes of the Board – February 28, 2026 (Director of Schools Applicant Interviews)
Request to approve the meeting minutes of the Board - Saturday, February 28, 2026 (Director of Schools Applicant Interviews)

C. Board Minutes: Minutes of the Board - March 9, 2026 (Special Called Meeting)
Request to approve the meeting minutes of the Board - March 9, 2026 (Selection of Candidates for Second-Round Interviews)

D. Smith County High School Requests
Smith County High School requests permission for the following:

1. Smith County High School would like permission to install new scoreboards/video equipment in the Bill Landreth Gym. Costs associated with the purchase of the equipment and installation of the video board will be funded through donations from the Basketball Booster Club.
2. Smith County High School girls' basketball team requests permission to travel to Murfreesboro for the TSSAA State Tournament from March 11 through March 14, 2026. This will be an overnight trip. (This request was granted by Director Barry H. Smith through emergency approval due to time constraints.)
3. Smith County High School boys 'basketball team requests permission to travel to Murfreesboro for the TSSAA State Tournament from March 17 through March 21, 2026. This will be an overnight trip.

E. Forks River Elementary School Request

Forks River will be completing the requirements for the School Uplift Reimbursement Grant this month. Upon completion, we will be awarded $10,000. The students have voted on how they would like to spend the money. Therefore, this is to request permission to purchase and install a GAGA Ball pit and 9 Square in the Air Set in the playground area. Thank you for your consideration.

IV. Superintendent Actions

The Superintendent took the following actions:

1. Staff Placement

- Candy McDonald, substitute teacher, county-wide

2. Transfers

- Melissa Poindexter, transferred from cafeteria manager position at Carthage Elementary School to a cook position at Smith County Middle School
- Alyce Evans, transferred from paraprofessional position at New Middleton Elementary School to a paraprofessional position at Gordonsville Elementary School
- Jackie Baggett transferred from cook position at Smith County High School to interim cafeteria manager at Carthage Elementary School

3. Volunteers

- Danny James, volunteer assistant baseball coach, Gordonsville Junior High School
- Shawn Smith, volunteer assistant baseball coach, Smith County High School

4. Suspensions

- Melissa Poindexter, cafeteria manager, Carthage Elementary School

- Margaret Batz, special education paraprofessional, Carthage Elementary School

V. New Business

A. Director of Schools Position
Director of Schools PositionShoulders (District 6) made the motion to approve John Ash as the new Director of Schools. McDonald (District 7) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

B. Policy Amendment - 1.400 School Board Meetings
Request to amend Policy 1.400 School Board Meetings to change the monthly meeting day from the third Tuesday of the month to the third Monday of the month and to clarify that a board member may attend a meeting electronically due to a work-related absence two times per calendar year.

This is the second and final reading of this policy amendment.Hesson (District 1) made the motion to approve the request to amend Policy 1.400 School Board Meetings to change the monthly meeting day from the third Tuesday of the month to the third Monday of the month and to clarify that a board member may attend a meeting electronically due to a work-related absence two times per calendar year. Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

C. Grant Tenure
The following teachers are recommended to be granted tenure upon rehire for the 2026-2027 School Year:

School	Teacher	Motion	Second	Vote
Carthage Elementary School	Maggie Taylor			
Defeated Elementary School	Allison Jett			
Forks River Elementary School	Nancy Mimms			
Gordonsville Elementary School	Caroline Turner Jopes			
New Middleton Elementary School	Cortney Dillard			
Smith County High School	Nicholus Bussell			

Smith County High School	Teri Robinson Dockery
Smith County High School	Amanda Kemp
Smith County High School	Chelsea Tucker
Union Heights Elementary School	Emily Lackey Long
Union Heights Elementary School	Haven Jenkins Murphy
Union Heights Elementary School	Karen Wisniewski

Shoulders (District 6) Made the motion to grant tenure to Maggie Taylor upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

Hesson (District 1) Made the motion to grant tenure to Allison Jett upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. McCaleb (District 3) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

Lewis (District 8) Made the motion to grant tenure to Nancy Mimms upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

McCaleb (District 3) Made the motion to grant tenure to Caroline Turner Jopes upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

McCaleb (District 3) Made the motion to grant tenure to Cortney Dillard upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Manning (District 5) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

Lewis (District 8) Made the motion to grant tenure to Nicholus Bussell upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. McDonald (District 7) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

Shoulders (District 6) Made the motion to grant tenure to Teri Robinson Dockery upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y,

McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y
Hesson (District 1) Made the motion to grant tenure to Amanda Kemp upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Enoch (District 2) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y
Shoulders (District 6) Made the motion to grant tenure to Chelsea Tucker upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y
Taylor (District 4) Made the motion to grant tenure to Emily Lackey Long upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y
Taylor (District 4) Made the motion to grant tenure to Haven Jenkins Murphy upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y
Taylor (District 4) Made the motion to grant tenure to Karen Wisniewski upon rehire for the 2026-2027 school year. McDonald (District 7) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

D. Request Permission to Sell Buses on govdeals.com
Request permission to sell buses 51 and 52 on govdeals.com. These buses were purchased in 2009 and are at the end of their extended utilization. They have been removed from service.Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the request to sell buses 51 and 52 on govdeals.com. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

E. Request to Reschedule the May Board Meeting
Request for the May Board Meeting be rescheduled to Monday, May 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in order to avoid conflicts with school graduation ceremonies.McCaleb (District 3) made the

motion to approve the request for the May Board Meeting be rescheduled to Monday, May 11, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., in order to avoid conflicts with school graduation ceremonies. Shoulders (District 6) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

F. Bid Approval for Diesel Fuel
Request to approve the low bid of $3.34583 per gallon for 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel from Parman Energy for delivery on March 5, 2026.Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the low bid of $3.34583 per gallon for 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel from Parman Energy for delivery on March 5, 2026. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

G. 2026 Summer School Guidelines for Grades 9-12
Request to approve the 2026 Summer School Guidelines for Grades 9-12Shoulders (District 6) made the motion to approve the 2026 Summer School Guidelines. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

H. Request to Approve United Data Technologies, Inc. for E-Rate Services Category I
This letter seeks approval for Internet services from the winning Mini-Bid vendor for E-Rate Category 1: Broadband and permission to enter a State Master Contract Agreement with the winning vendor. Category 1 services are recurring services for Internet access and Wide Area Network access across all school sites. Services are funded by the federal E-Rate program at 80%, with the district covering the remaining 20%. The E-Rate funding percentage is calculated yearly based on National School Lunch Program (free and reduced lunch) eligibility. The winning vendor was United Data Technologies, Inc. We received a total of 4 submissions, but only 2 were properly received. The bid evaluation matrix for these services is attached. Detailed services and pricing will be obtained once approval has been granted, but UDT is the lowest-cost solution from the proposals we received.Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve United Data Technologies, Inc. for E-Rate Services Category I. McCaleb (District 3) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

I. Request to Accept the State Master Contract Agreements for E-Rate Category 2
This letter seeks permission to enter a State Master Contract Agreement with the winning

vendors for E-Rate Category 2: MIBS and Category 2: Internal Connections mini-bids that will be conducted prior to the April meeting of the Board of Education. The mini-bids for these services cannot yet be conducted as we are waiting for final contract approvals by the state, but the federal deadline to apply for funding is April 1. Granting permission to accept the State Master Contract Agreements will allow us to apply for federal funding by the April 1 deadline. Category 2 Equipment is a one-time cost, and Category 2 MIBS is a yearly cost for services. Equipment and services are funded by the federal E-Rate program at 80%, with the district covering the remaining 20%. The E-Rate funding percentage is calculated yearly based on National School Lunch Program (free and reduced lunch) eligibility.Lewis (District 8) made the motion to accept the State Master Contract Agreements for E-Rate Category 2. McCaleb (District 3) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

J. Resolution 8
This resolution authorizes the reallocation of funds between internal accounts to ensure the proper appropriation of resources to essential line items for the current fiscal period.Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve Resolution 8. Taylor (District 4) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

K. Resolution 9
This resolution authorizes the transfer of funds from the General-Purpose School Fund to the Central Cafeteria Fund.

Option 1 authorizes the transfer of $1,026,113.20 to cover estimated expenses through September 2026

Option 2 authorizes the transfer of $456,531 to cover estimated expenses through June 30, 2026Manning (District 5) made the motion to approve Option 1 for Resolution 9. McDonald (District 7) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:
Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): Y, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

VI. Discussion

A. School Audit 2024-2025
The Smith County School System Internal School Funds Financial Report for the 2024-2025 school year is in your packet. This discussion is to answer any questions regarding the audit

findings.

VII. Annual Policy Review
Please review the following policies for the Smith County Board of Education to remain compliant in policy review. If you find any inconsistencies or if something needs to be discussed regarding a policy listed below, please bring it to the attention of Mr. Tommy Manning, Chairman of the Board, during the meeting.

Policy 5.400, Health Examinations/Communicable Diseases
Policy 5.401, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
Policy 5.402, Hepatitis B
Policy 5.500, Discrimination/Harassment
Policy 5.501, Complaints and Grievances
Policy 5.502, Complaints about School Personnel
Policy 5.6001, Staff Dress Code
Policy 5.6002, Employee Use of Cellular Telephones
Policy 5.601, Staff Conflicts of Interest
Policy 5.602, Staff Time Schedules
Policy 5.603, Staff Meetings
Policy 5.606, Staff Community Relations
Policy 5.607, Non-School Employment
Policy 5.610, Staff-Student Relations
Policy 5.611, Ethics
Policy 5.700, Interim Employees
Policy 5.702, Student Teachers
Policy 5.800, Director of Schools
Policy 5.801, Recruitment and Selection
Policy 6.200, Attendance
Policy 6.2011, Voluntary Pre-K Attendance
Policy 6.203, School Admissions
Policy 6.300, Code of Conduct
Policy 6.303, Interrogations and Searches
Policy 6.304, Student Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and Intimidation
Policy 6.3041, Title IX & Sexual Harassment
Policy 6.314, Corporal Punishment
Policy 6.319, Alternative School Programs

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Adjourn