Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2026

The Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting was held on March 10, 2026, in the Administrative Support Center, Tennessee Room (3rd Floor) at 6:00 PM. The following Board of Education members were in attendance.

Dr. Brandon Fletcher (President):	Present
Todd Golden:	Present
Jamie Jackson:	Present
Dr. Phillip Marshall:	Present
Melissa Woods (Vice President):	Present

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

   Dr. Brandon Fletcher, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

   1.1. Pledge of Allegiance (Benjamin Pittman)

   Benjamin Pittman led the Board of Education and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. He is a junior at Dobyns-Bennett High School.

   1.2. Additions to and/or Acceptance of the Agenda (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

   A motion was made by Todd Golden and seconded by Melissa Woods to accept the agenda, including the Consent Agenda, as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

2. **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

   2.1. Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Elizabethton Recognition of Partnership with Kingsport City Schools and the Dobyns-Bennett High School Career & Technical Education Program (Dr. Richard Church)

   Dr. Richard Church, Vice President of Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Elizabethton (TCAT), presented the recognition acknowledging Kingsport City Schools and the Dobyns-Bennett High School Career & Technical Education (CTE) Department for being TCAT-Elizabethton's Gold Level Dual Enrollment partner for Spring 2026. KCS received a gold level designation for the total number of students enrolled and a bronze level designation for the percent of students enrolled in the program. Dr. Church reported KCS currently has 500 dual enrollment students at TCAT Campuses or in embedded programs at D-B, which represents 22% of the D-B student body. He discussed plans for next year, showing TCAT's commitment to KCS and D-B.

3. **RECOGNITIONS**

   3.1. National Merit Scholarship Finalists (Melissa Woods)

Board Vice President Melissa Woods recognized four Dobyns-Bennett High School students as National Merit Scholarship Finalists. The students recognized are Eesha Kothari, Arrush Nagre, Aparajita Vashisth, and Laila Venzon. This program identifies and honors the top high school students in the United States, based on achievements in the classroom, commitment to co-curricular activities, and meaningful contributions in the community. These students will compete with the top high school students in the nation for approximately 6,900 National Merit Scholarships worth more than $26 million that will be offered in the spring. National Merit Scholarship winners for 2026 will be announced beginning in April and concluding in July.

3.2. United States Presidential Scholars Program Candidates (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

Board President Dr. Brandon Fletcher recognized five Dobyns-Bennett High School seniors named as candidates in the 2026 United States Presidential Scholars Program. The students are Henry Clendennen, Benjamin Culp, Emily Doyle, Eesha Kothari, and Laila Venzon. Candidates are identified based on their scores on the SAT or ACT exam or their nomination by a Chief State School Officer during their year of graduation from high school. Semifinalists will be announced in April and national winners are announced in May. Students chosen as U.S. Presidential Scholars receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June for National Recognition Weekend featuring various events, enrichment activities and culminating in the presentation of the Presidential Scholars Medallion during a White House-sponsored ceremony.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA**

5.1. Personnel Considerations (Jennifer Guthrie)

5.2. Approval of Minutes - February 10, 2026 (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

5.3. Approval of Biennial Policy Review (Dr. Andy True)

6. **BUSINESS ITEMS**

6.1. Budget Amendment #5 (David Frye)

David Frye, Chief Finance Officer, presented a proposed amendment reflecting increased revenues due to interest earnings and expense allocations related to Kingsport City Schools capital projects as follows:

Item One: Interest Earnings and Bank Services Charges
It was recommended that the estimated revenue for Interest Earnings be increased by $100,000 and that the appropriation for Technology - Other Equipment be increased by $34,500 and the appropriation for Board of Education - Other Charges be increased by $65,500.

General Project Fund items included an excess in funding for the Washington HVAC Replacement project and the establishment of a contingency of approximately $20,000 for the Robinson Fire Alarm Replacement project. It was recommended to transfer the excess funds from the Washington HVAC Replacement project to the Robinson Fire Alarm Replacement project. The amount of the transfer will be $350,000. These funds originally came from the General Purpose School Fund Unreserved Fund Balance.

A motion was made by Dr. Phillip Marshall and seconded by Jamie Jackson to approve Budget Amendment #5 as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

6.2. Approval of Internet Service Provider Agreement (Andy Arnold/David Frye)

Mr. Frye and Andy Arnold, Chief Technology Officer, presented a recommended agreement to provide internet services for Kingsport City Schools. The proposed agreement would change KCS from the current internet provider, Zyo Education, Inc. to United Data Technologies (UDT), utilizing the Anderson County Schools agreement dated February 27, 2025. The estimate reflects a monthly cost of $3,480 for the same services currently provided by Zayo Education, resulting in a monthly cost savings of $2,365.50 and an annual cost savings of approximately $28,386.00. Funding will be from the School General Purpose Fund.

A motion was made by Todd Golden and seconded by Melissa Woods to change from the current internet provider Zayo Education to United Data Technologies, Inc. using the Anderson County Schools Agreement. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

7. TIME AND DATES OF MEETINGS

Dr. Chris Hampton, Superintendent, reminded educators and community members that primary and general elections will be held in a few months. He encouraged the public to educate themselves and be an informed voter.

Dr. Hampton stated that KCS has a remarkable partnership with TCAT that has evolved in a short time. This is life-changing for the students receiving benefits from this program. He also mentioned having four National Merit Scholars and five U.S. Presidential Scholars this year is an incredible testament to the work students do at home and the learning they receive from KCS schools. These are incredible life-changing opportunities for students and their families.

7.1. March 31, 2026 - BOE Work Session (6:00 PM)

7.2. April 14, 2026 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)

7.3. April 28, 2026 - BOE Work Session (6:00 PM)

7.4. May 12, 2026 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Dr. Brandon Fletcher, Board President

Vivian L. Altizer, Board Secretary