

Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes May 12, 2026

The Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting was held on May 12, 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 6:03 p.m.

1.1. Pledge of Allegiance (Chase Howard)

Chase Howard, a senior at D-B EXCEL, led the Board of Education and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A motion was made by Melissa Woods (Vice President) and seconded by Dr. Phillip Marshall to accept the agenda, including the Consent Agenda, as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

2. RECOGNITIONS

2.1. Northeast State Community College Post-Secondary Technical Certificates and Middle College Academy Graduates (Jamie Jackson)

Board member Jamie Jackson recognized 12 seniors from Dobyns-Bennett High School and D-B EXCEL who recently graduated from Northeast State Community College with post-secondary technical certificates. Through Career and Technical Education programs, these high school students had an opportunity to earn post-secondary technical certificates alongside their high school diploma. Students completed certificates in Combination Welding, HVAC, Entrepreneurship, and Emergency Medical Technician.

Career & Technical (CTE) Certificate Graduates

Combination Welding Certificate Graduates:

Joey Dodson - D-B EXCEL
Daniel Cenite - Dobyns-Bennett High School
Evan Reyes - Dobyns-Bennett High School
Nathan Fields - Dobyns-Bennett High School
Dusty Dean, Jr. - Dobyns-Bennett High School
Jordan Slemp - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Jordan Weatherly - Dobyns-Bennett High School
Logan Broadwater - Dobyns-Bennett High School

HVAC Certification Graduate:

Zaine Austin - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Entrepreneurship Certificate Graduate:

Nevaeh Hartsock - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Emergency Medical Technician Certificate Graduates:

Kora Houlihan - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Augustine Merritt - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Jamie Jackson also recognized 17 seniors from Dobyns-Bennett and D-B EXCEL that are recent Middle College Academy graduates with Associate Degrees from Northeast State Community College. Through a mix of dual enrollment classes taught at Dobyns-Bennett High School and the Kingsport Center for Higher Education as well as online coursework, these students have had the opportunity to pursue and earn the Associate of Science General TBR Transfer degree from Northeast State Community College. This degree essentially allows students to complete general education core requirements at the college-level, while also using dual enrollment coursework to complete many of their final high school graduation requirements.

Middle College Graduates

Associate of Science: General TBR Transfer - Middle College:

Abraham Athey - D-B EXCEL

Alayna Bailiff - D-B EXCEL

Lustre Barnette - D-B EXCEL

Riley Compton - D-B EXCEL

Maggie Dunworth - D-B EXCEL

Elijah Hayes - D-B EXCEL

Chase Howard - D-B EXCEL

Colt Lark - D-B EXCEL

Alexander McCarthy - D-B EXCEL

Zeva Nichols - D-B EXCEL

Lucas Bowman - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Stone Collier - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Tyler Gay - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Alyssa Mahon - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Emma Martin - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Rylan Moore - Dobyns-Bennett High School

Associate of Science: General TBR Transfer Graduate:
Jazmund Coleman - Dobyns-Bennett High School

2.2. TSBA SCOPE Conference Recognition and Report (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

Dr. Fletcher recognized Dobyns-Bennett High School seniors Emery Corpstein, Jackson Haren, Andraia Gordon, and Piper Osterhus for participating in the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) Student Congress on Policies in Public Education (SCOPE) Conference on March 3, 2026. Mr. Joshua French, Dobyns-Bennett Social Studies teacher, served as chaperon for the event.

High school students from across the state gathered in Nashville to express their views on public education in Tennessee at the TSBA SCOPE Conference. The event took place on the campus of Belmont University. Now in its 43rd year, SCOPE is designed to give students a voice where public education issues are concerned and to involve young people in finding solutions to the topics that are discussed. Attendees participated in mock school board sessions, where they assumed the roles of school board members, school officials, parents, students, and concerned citizens. During the afternoon, students had a policy debate session, led by school board members and superintendents from across the state.

2.3. Julia C. West Foundation Grant Award Presentation to Antonia Adinolfi (Dr. Phillip Marshall)

Dr. Phillip Marshall recognized Antonia Adinolfi, Chemistry and STEM teacher at D-B EXCEL, for being awarded nearly \$10,000 from the Julia C. West Foundation for STEM equipment. The Julia C. West Foundation supports initiatives that provide opportunities for further education, particularly for those who may face financial barriers to continuing beyond secondary school. Chris Rose, Board President of the Julia C. West Foundation, presented a check on behalf of the foundation to Ms. Adinolfi in the amount of \$9,804.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1. Personnel Considerations (Jennifer Guthrie)

4.2. Approval of Minutes - April 14, 2026 BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

4.3. Approval of Minutes - April 28, 2026 BOE Special Called Meeting (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

4.4. Acceptance of Donations (David Frye)

4.5. Approval to Participate in The Tennessee AI Ecosystems Project (Dr. Brian Cinnamon)

- 4.6. Approval to Accept Preschool Development Grant (Dr. Rhonda Stringham)
- 4.7. Approval to Adopt Revised Random Drug Testing Regulations and Procedures (Dr. Andy True)

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

- 5.1. Approval to Accept Monetary Donation from Kingsport City Schools Education Foundation, Inc. (David Frye)

David Frye, Chief Finance Officer, presented a recommendation to accept a monetary donation in the amount of \$500,000, given by Bharti and Natu Patel. He reported the donation was received from the Kingsport City Schools Education Foundation, Inc., earmarked for Kingsport City Schools to assist teachers in expanding professional learning opportunities, providing stipends for highly effective teachers who mentor other educators, offering teacher-driven grants for instructional materials and technology, upgrading science and STEM tools, and setting aside funds for enrichment recognition and school support initiatives. Mr. Frye anticipated the funds would be spent over the next five years.

Mrs. Woods reported she had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Patel in Charleston, SC. His two children attended Kingsport City Schools, so he wanted to give back to an education system that gave so much to his own children. Both children are highly successful in their careers.

A motion was made by Todd Golden and seconded by Dr. Phillip Marshall to accept a donation of \$500,000 from the Kingsport City Schools Education Foundation, Inc. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

- 5.2. Recommendation to Approve Textbook Purchase (David Frye)

David Frye presented a recommendation to approve a three-year purchase of *Into Reading Literacy Program* subscription for elementary schools through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt from Tennessee Book Company for a total purchase price of \$277,200. He also recommended a blanket order for FY 2027 be issued to Tennessee Book Company in the amount of \$275,000 to cover the remaining literacy program cost, other textbook freight costs and consumables. Funding for this purchase will be from the current year's General Purpose School Fund (\$87,000) and from FY 2027 General Purpose School Fund (\$189,400).

A motion was made by Melissa Woods (Vice President) and seconded by Jamie Jackson to approve the purchase of a three-year Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Into Reading Literacy Program* subscription for elementary schools from Tennessee Book Company for a purchase price is \$277,200, and issuing a blanket order in FY 2027 to Tennessee Book Company for \$275,000 to cover the remaining literacy program cost, other textbook freight costs and consumables. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

- 5.3. Approval to Award Beverage Agreement to Pepsico (David Frye)

David Frye presented a proposed recommendation regarding the beverage pouring rights and advertising partnership for Kingsport City Schools. Pepsico is the current vendor for the district. Bids were opened on April 2, 2026, with proposals being received from Pepsico and Coca-Cola Consolidated. The proposed three-year agreement with Pepsico would be for the "Non-Alcoholic Beverage Pouring Rights and Advertising Partnership." All funds paid and received regarding the agreement would be from the high school's and middle school's internal school funds.

A motion was made by Todd Golden and seconded by Melissa Woods (Vice President) to enter into a three-year agreement with Pepsico for the Non-Alcoholic Beverage Pouring Rights and Advertising Partnership with Kingsport City Schools. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

5.4. Approval of Budget Amendment #6 (David Frye)

David Frye presented Budget Amendment #6 for Board consideration. The proposed Budget Amendment items included the summer learning grant, the Dobyns-Bennett High School renovation project, and minor miscellaneous transfers within school accounts. Additional items were related to the Federal Projects Fund, the School Special Projects Fund, and the General Project Fund.

A motion was made by Dr. Phillip Marshall and seconded by Melissa Woods (Vice President) to approve the Budget Amendment #6 as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

5.5. Approval to Award Bid for Renovation Project at Dobyns-Bennett High School (David Frye)

David Frye reported the City of Kingsport issued an Invitation to Bid on April 15, 2026 for the Dobyns-Bennett High School Select Renovations Phase I Project. Five sealed bids were received and opened on May 8, 2026. Thompson & Litton reviewed the bids and recommended awarding the bid to the lowest compliant bidder, Construction Partners, in the amount of \$2,840,000. The administration also wanted to add the following alternates:

- Alternate #3 - All demolition and new work associated with the removal of the existing porcelain drinking fountains (\$13,000)
- Alternate #5 - All demolition and new work associated with the replacement of the existing directional signage (\$30,000)
- Alternate #6 - The removal and replacement of the room signage in the old Science Pod and replacement to match the existing signage (\$4,000)
- Alternate #7 - Provide one coat of paint to the walls and soffits not in the base bid (\$14,801)

The total cost for the base bid and selected alternates is \$2,901,801. Major components of the designed renovations include new flooring in the academic pods and ramps, removal of lockers, painting, and renovation of the current Annex pod for use by the Dobyns-Bennett special education

department.

The total cost of the project will be \$3,269,384, including architect fee (\$193,475), construction costs (\$2,901,801), and a 6% contingency (\$174,108). Funding will be from the Dobyns-Bennett Renovation Project GP2111.

A motion was made by Jamie Jackson and seconded by Todd Golden to award the bid for the Dobyns-Bennett High School renovation project to Construction Partners in the amount of \$2,840,000 and authorize a 6% contingency. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

5.6. Approval of Kingsport City Schools FY 2026-2027 Budget (David Frye)

David Frye presented the proposed FY 2026-2027 Kingsport City Schools Budget for review and approval. The Proposed General Purpose School Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Federal Projects Fund, and School Special Projects Fund total \$121,020,963. The Tennessee Investment in School Achievement (TISA) April 2026 estimate of funds for FY 2026-2027 was \$73,091,976, which reflects an increase over last year in the amount of \$3,589,497. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) must fund 30% of the total state-wide TISA allocation for base and weighted funding. The base funding amount per student was increased from \$7,295 to \$7,530, representing an increase of \$235 per student. The estimate is based on 7,352 students, for a total amount of \$1,727,720. The increase in TISA funds includes funding required to be spent on teacher salary improvements, with the district being required to spend \$964,888 in FY 2026-2027. The preliminary State share of the TISA allocation for Kingsport City Schools is \$51,494,600, reflecting an increase from last year in the amount of \$2,675,100. County property taxes were estimated to be \$15,213,000, based on a 1% increase in the FY 2025-2026 assessed value. The Local Option Sales Tax estimate for next year was \$16,267,000, which is \$667,000 greater than last year's estimate. For Operations, the FY 2026-2027 estimated revenue includes an appropriation from Fund Balance of \$1,808,500 to balance the operating budget (recurring expenditures). This appropriation will bring the Unreserved Fund Balance to \$4,711,209 (4.4% of the FY 2026-2027 budget). Transfers from the City of Kingsport included \$11,245,300 for transfers from the City of Kingsport for Operations. This amount has not changed since FY 2019-2020. For Debt Service, transfers from the City of Kingsport have increased by \$624,700, for a new amount of \$5,066,100. Expenditures include teacher and classified employee step increases and a 1% cost of living increase for a total cost for employee pay increases totaling \$1,610,000. Other personnel expenditures included a total cost of \$335,000 for new positions, Other Personnel Increases (health insurance, retiree health insurance, classified retirement, teacher retirement, and coaching supplements/stipends) total \$1,030,500. Other miscellaneous expenditures total \$230,000. The proposed General Purpose School Fund Budget for FY 2026-2027 reflects an increase of \$2,660,800 over last year.

The School Nutrition Services Fund budget for FY 2026-2027 totals \$6,048,200. The budget includes \$128,000 to fund a market adjustment increase of one pay grade for each school-based SNS employee in order to help bring these wages more in line with the wages being paid by other school districts. The School Nutrition Services fund continues to be self-supporting, although there is an appropriation from the Fund Balance of \$200,000. These funds will cover the replacement of the Robinson walk-in cooler/freezer. The Community Eligibility Program (CEP) will continue at all schools next year.

The Federal Projects Fund budget for FY 2026-2027 totals \$6,047,748. This includes Title Funds, additional Targeted Support and Improvement, Behavioral Partnership Support, Consolidated Administration, IDEA, Transition School-to-Work, and Carl Perkins Vocational Grant.

The School Special Projects Fund for FY 2026-2027 totals \$1,261,915. This includes funding for Family Resource Center, ETSU Gear Up, Homeless Education Program, State Pre-School Grant, State Special Education Pre-School Grant, and Truancy Intervention Grant.

The total FY 2026-2027 General Purpose School Fund Budget Summary:

General Purpose School Fund	\$107,663,100
School Nutrition Fund	6,048,200
Federal Projects Fund	6,047,748
School Special Projects Fund	<u>1,261,915</u>
Total All School Funds	\$121,020,963

A motion was made by Dr. Phillip Marshall and seconded by Jamie Jackson to approve the FY 2026-2027 Kingsport City Schools Budget as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

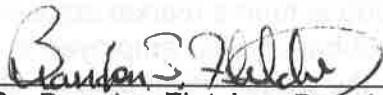
6. TIME AND DATES OF MEETINGS

Superintendent Dr. Chris Hampton reported the school year was coming to a close, with Dobyns-Bennett High School graduation scheduled on Friday, May 22, 2026. He expressed appreciation to Kingsport City Schools leadership, staff, students, families, and the community for a remarkable school year. Dr. Hampton listed some of the many accomplishments during the 2025-2026 school year. He noted that students were taking risks, and they were paying off.

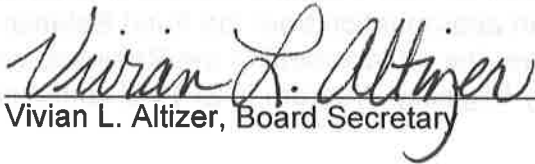
- 6.1. June 9, 2026 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)
- 6.2. July 14, 2026 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)
- 6.3. July 28, 2026 - BOE Work Session (6:00 PM)
- 6.4. August 11, 2026 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.



Dr. Brandon Fletcher, Board President



Vivian L. Altizer, Board Secretary