

Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes July 14, 2026

The Kingsport City Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting was held on July 14, 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 (Calliope Barrett)

Calliope Barrett led the Board of Education and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. She is a rising 2nd grader at Kennedy Elementary School.

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

A motion was made by Dr. Phillip Marshall and seconded by Jamie Jackson 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. Emery Corpstein, 2026 TSSAA Class AA Boys Tennis Singles State Champion (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

Dr. Fletcher recognized Emery Corpstein for winning the 2026 TSSAA Class AA Boys Tennis Singles State Championship in Chattanooga on May 15, 2026. Emery, a recent graduate of Dobyns-Bennett High School, became the first D-B boys tennis player to win a state championship in 21 years and the first Indians player to win a boys single title. Reedy Toney served as head coach and assistant coaches were Kaelin Toney and Holly Perdue.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Derrick Browder spoke regarding the design of the new elementary school in Lynn Garden, including his desire to keep the existing football field for the Lynn View Pee-Wee Football League to use.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1. Personnel Considerations (Jennifer Guthrie)

4.2. Approval of Minutes - June 9, 2026 BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)

- 4.3. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Schedule for FY 2026-2027 (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)
- 4.4. Approval of Projected School Board Agenda for FY 2026-2027 (Dr. Brandon Fletcher)
- 4.5. Approval of Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority for SY 2026-2027 (Jim Nash)
- 4.6. Approval of School Fees for SY 2026-2027 (Dr. Andy True)
- 4.7. Approval of Differentiated Pay Plan for SY 2026-2027 (Jennifer Guthrie)
- 4.8. Approval of Consolidated Application for Federal Programs FY 2026-2027 (Dr. Rhonda Stringham)
- 4.9. Approval of Amended Policy on First Reading (Dr. Andy True)
- 4.10. Acceptance of Report Required by Policy 3.204 (Dr. Andy True)
- 4.11. Approval of Renewal Agreement with ESS South Central LLC (David Frye)
- 4.12. Approval to Accept Ballad Health Donation for Reset Rooms (David Frye)
- 4.13. Approval of Amended and Restated Purchase Agreement with Solution Tree for Professional Development Services (David Frye)
- 4.14. Approval of Renewal Contractual Agreement with Frontier Health/Holston Children and Youth Services (David Frye)
- 4.15. Approval of Renewal Memorandum of Understanding with Clarvida/Camelot Care Centers, Inc. (David Frye)
- 4.16. Approval of Services Agreement with Blue Ridge Medical Management Corporation (David Frye)
- 4.17. Approval to Enter into an Agreement with SchoolKit for Secondary Literacy Implementation Project, Year 2 (David Frye)

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

- 5.1. Approval of Budget Amendment #2 (David Frye)

Mr. David Frye, Chief Finance Officer, presented Budget Amendment #2 to the FY 2026-2027 KCS Budget. The proposed amendment addressed additional revenue related to TISA Growth Funds, a Ballad Health donation, and a budget reconciliation with the City of Kingsport. It also addressed appropriations related to the Lynn Garden Elementary School project and the Dobyns-Bennett High School renovations.

General Purpose School Funds:

Item 1 - TISA Growth Funds/Fund Balance

Growth funds of \$764,284 were due to the change in using the 1.6% multiplier for concentrated poverty. The growth calculated for KCS was

1.56%, which resulted in growth funds of \$764,284. In order to spend these funds they will have to be appropriated from the fund balance and added to the FY 2027 budget.

It was recommended that the estimated revenue for Fund Balance Appropriations and the appropriation for Fund Transfers be increased by \$700,000. It was further recommended that \$270,000 of these funds be transferred to the Lynn Garden Elementary School project and \$430,000 be transferred to the Dobyns-Bennett Renovation project.

Item 2 - Ballard Health Donation for Reset Room

Kingsport City Schools will receive a donation from Ballard Health in the amount of \$31,500 to fund reset rooms for the 7 remaining schools at \$4,500 each. The schools funded with this donation were Dobyns-Bennett High School, D-B EXCEL, Jefferson, Johnson, Kennedy, Lincoln, and Washington elementary schools. These reset rooms will aid in positive mental health and stress reduction for students and teachers.

It was recommended that the estimated revenue for Other Local Revenue and the appropriations for Non-Instructional Equipment be increased by \$31,500.

Item 3 - FY 2027 Budget Reconciliation with the City

Budget #1 appropriated an additional \$200,000 of TISA funds to the FY 2027 budget to fund a custodial pay reclassification. Due to some miscommunication, the City of Kingsport made a change to the original budget and, on second reading of the FY 2027 Budget Ordinance, increased the General Purpose School Fund budget by \$244,400. This amount represented additional TISA funds from the May TISA estimate. These funds were appropriated for the custodial pay increase and for the purchase of the Transportation Software. To bring the approved budget in line with the City of Kingsport's approved budget, it was necessary to increase the budget by \$44,000.

General Project Fund:

Lynn Garden Elementary School - A total of \$7,219,798 has been appropriated for the project, with a balance of (\$270,000). It was recommended that the estimated revenue for School Fund Transfers and the appropriations for Architect Fees and Construction Contracts be increased by \$270,000.

Dobyns-Bennett Renovations - Various alternates for this project were not accepted due to lack of funding. The three alternates totaled \$502,000 and a 6% contingency on these items totaled \$30,120. It was recommended that the clocks throughout the school be replaced. This was an alternate to the bid, and it was recommended that this work be handled outside the

Construction Partners contract for an anticipated cost of \$40,000 - \$50,000.

There is currently \$152,668 available for this project and the total cost of the above work totals \$582,120. It was recommended that the estimated revenue for School Fund Transfers and the appropriations be increased by \$430,000.

A motion was made by Melissa Woods (Vice President) and seconded by Todd Golden to approve Budget Amendment #2 as presented. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

5.2. Approval to Enter into Contract with Thompson & Litton for Phase 3 for New Elementary School in Lynn Garden (David Frye)

Mr. Frye presented a recommendation to enter into an architectural agreement for Phase 3 of the Lynn Garden elementary school project. He noted this was the final contract for this project. The proposed contract with Thompson & Litton, Inc. would be for professional architectural and engineering services to provide the design development, construction documents, bidding assistance, and construction administration for Phase 3 of the new elementary school in Lynn Garden. The agreement would be for a lump sum fee of \$2,265,000, including \$188,795 for additional services for landscaping consultant, kitchen equipment consultant, furniture design consultant, furniture bidding, and cost estimating. There was also \$48,000 included for reimbursable expenses. Funding for Phase 3 is designated in the Lynn Garden Elementary School Project GP2507. The projected completion date for the new elementary school is scheduled for the end of May 2029, with classes starting in August 2029. The building capacity will be approximately 750 students in pre-k through 5th grade (at 85% capacity).

Brian Alderson, Senior Architect/Project Manager with Thompson & Litton, reported this phase of the work would begin the process of designing the building itself and also includes all the items south of Walker Street (parking lot, detention pond, etc.). Construction of a new road would be completed first, with part of the main road being reconstructed. Once the project is complete, Walker Street will be closed to through traffic and will be used as part of the project property.

A motion was made by Melissa Woods (Vice President) and seconded by Jamie Jackson to enter into an agreement for a lump sum fee of \$2,265,000 with Thompson & Litton, Inc. for professional architectural and engineering services to provide the design development, construction documents, bidding assistance, and construction administration for Phase 3 of the new elementary school in Lynn Garden. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

5.3. Approval of Recommendation to Issue a Change Order for the Dobyns-Bennett High School Select Renovations Phase 1 Project (David Frye)

Mr. Frye presented a recommendation to issue a change order for the Dobyns-Bennett High School Select Renovations Phase 1 project at Dobyns-Bennett High School. The Board previously approved an agreement with Construction Partners for the Dobyns-Bennett High School project in the amount of \$2,901,801 and a 6% contingency in the amount of \$174,108. With the receipt of TISA growth funds, a recommendation was being made to the agreement to add alternate 1, alternate 2, and alternate 9A as follows:

- Alternate 1 - \$236,000 for all demolition and new work associated with renovating the old administrative area.
- Alternate 2 - \$160,000 for all demolition and new work associated with the construction of the existing building connector, which would remove the existing fire shutters and replace an approved divider.
- Alternate 9A - \$106,000 for technology wiring in the current annex pod, which is being renovated and redesigned to add additional classroom space.

Mr. Frye reported the total cost for the construction costs agreement would be \$3,403,801, making the total cost of the project \$3,852,052. The administration recommended issuing a change order to the agreement with Construction Partners in the amount of \$502,000 and increasing the 6% contingency by \$30,120. Funding would be from the Dobyns-Bennett Renovation Project GP2111.

A motion was made by Todd Golden and seconded by Dr. Phillip Marshall to issue a change order to the agreement with Construction Partners in the amount of \$502,000 and increase the 6% contingency by \$30,120. The motion carried by a vote of Yea: 5, Nay: 0.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Policy Report (Dr. Andy True)

Dr. Andy True, Assistant Superintendent - Administration, presented a report regarding potential policy revisions for Board consideration for adoption on First Reading at the August meeting. Six of the higher priority policies were reviewed for consideration at the August meeting as follows:

Revised Policies

Policy 1.403 - Agendas

For regular board meetings, they must now be finalized and provided to the public at least 48-hours in advance. The Tennessee School Boards Association's (TSBA) interpretation is that minor changes can be made at board meetings, prior to the adoption of the agenda, as long as board policy is followed.

Policy 4.213 - Family Life Education

A recent change to state law updates the terminology for child trafficking instruction and requires that it be included as a component of health education. It also requires each district to develop a plan to implement this

instruction by August 1, 2026.

Policy 5.302 - Sick Leave/Policy 5.303 - Personal and Professional Leave
Public Chapter 1022 is intended to shift flexibility from sick leave to the personal and professional leave category. Professional employees will now earn: 8 sick days a year for 10-month contracts; 9 sick days a year for 11-month contracts; and 10 sick days a year for 12-month contracts. Additionally, professional employees will now earn four days of personal and professional leave per year instead of two.

6.306 - Interference/Disruption of School Activities

A recent change to state law requires boards to have a policy on alerting parents when a classroom evacuation occurs in response to another student's behavior. TSBA has added information on this topic to an existing model policy.

New Policies

Policy 4.215 - Instructional Use of Digital Devices

TSBA created this new policy in response to a requirement in Public Chapter 808. This new state law requires Boards to adopt a policy prioritizing teacher-led instruction and the use of non-electronic instructional materials in grades K-5. There are several exceptions to the law including, but not limited to, assessments, remediation, students with IEPs/504 plans, and virtual schools.

Policy 6.4053 - Outside Applied Behavior Analysis Therapy

Boards are required to adopt a policy on outside applied behavior analysis therapy per Public Chapter 1112. This new state law requires Boards to adopt a policy allowing these private pay providers access to school property if they are under contract with parents/guardians and have signed a memorandum of understanding with the district. TSBA has created a new model policy to align with these requirements. The Department of Education will be issuing guidance on this topic, and TSBA will send out an update to the model policy, if needed.

7. TIME AND DATES OF MEETINGS

Dr. Chris Hampton, Superintendent, expressed thanks for the hard work by staff over the summer months. The Human Resources staff was very busy working hard to fill open positions, with the number of open positions remaining dwindling, in order to be fully staffed at the start of the year on August 3, 2026. He reported a district-wide Admin Retreat was held for three days on July 7-9. The first day was nuts & bolts of procedures and laws in the school setting. The remaining two days focused on looking at school data and working on school improvement for the new school year.

Dr. Hampton reported that he expects the data to be very good for the 3rd year in a row, with several levels of improvement. He plans to release testing

announcements in the coming weeks and months.

Growth money information received two weeks ago showed the district's student enrollment has slightly increased. However, many districts in the area have seen decreases in student enrollment. He noted FY 2026-2027 would be a tight budget year for all school districts, with many experiencing budget cuts.

Dr. Hampton announced that a few employees and students will be invited to attend next month's meeting in recognition of their participation in the recent National Special Olympics in Minnesota. Several of the athletes won medals. He expressed appreciation to Sarah Good for coaching/sponsoring the trip to Minnesota. Only one coach was allowed to attend the event, which was held over a 9-day period.

The district received a visit by Lizzette Reynolds, Tennessee Commissioner of Education, to Johnson Elementary School's summer learning site in June. The Commissioner and her team met with the leadership of the KCS Summer Learning Program and were able to speak with students and staff. They were very complimentary of their experience. Dr. Hampton expressed appreciation to the summer school staff for their hard work planning and executing the program.

Dr. Hampton mentioned early voting opens on Friday, July 17, 2026. He encouraged staff members to educate themselves on candidates running for the Board of Education, Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and Sullivan County Commission.

7.1. July 17-18, 2026 - TSBA Summer Law institute (Gatlinburg)

7.2. July 28, 2026 - BOE Work Session (6:00 PM)

7.3. August 11, 2026 - BOE Regular Monthly Meeting (6:00 PM)

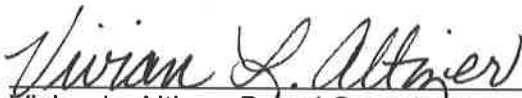
7.4. August 25, 2026 - BOE Work Session (6:00 PM)

8. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.



Dr. Brandon Fletcher, Board President


Vivian L. Altizer, Board Secretary