

SMITH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MINUTES

The Smith County Board of Education met at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at the Board of Education Office.

Attendance: Jay Hesson (District 1): Present, Scotty Enoch (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 7): Present Electronic Attendance, Scotty Lewis (District 8): Present. Also in attendance: Director Dr. John Ash, Board Secretary Traci Bratcher, School Board Attorney Robin Moore.

I. Call to Order

The Smith County Board of Education met at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at the Smith County Board of Education. Mr. McCaleb provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Mr. Tommy Manning, Chairman of the Board, welcomed all visitors and called the meeting to order.

Public Comment - Tommy Manning collected the signup sheet for public comment. Jared Stangenberg spoke for two minutes on the importance of special education paraprofessionals to assist with IEPs in the schools to prevent lawsuits against the school system. The board thanked him for his comments.

II. Approval of Agenda

McCaleb (District 3) made the motion to rescind the motion of \$35.5 M budget number from the board meeting on Monday night, August 17, 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

Enoch (District 2) Made a motion to enter into Executive Session. 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

Manning (District 5) made the motion to return to Regular Session. 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

III. New Business

A. FY27 General Purpose 141 Budget

Enoch (District 2) made the motion to make the following cuts to get the budget to \$35 M: cut 16 EAs (paraprofessionals), cut coaching supplements 20%, elementary & middle school principals go to 11 month contracts, cut full-time subs, and monthly amount of insurance the board would cover as follows:

- \$625 per month for non-certified employees
- \$800 per month for teachers enrolled in the employee-only plan

- \$900 per month for teachers with spouse or child coverage
- \$1,000 per month for teachers with family coverage

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Manning (District 5) made a motion to approve the monthly amounts the Board will contribute toward employee insurance coverage (2027 calendar year) as follows:

- \$625 per month for non-certified employees
- \$800 per month for teachers enrolled in the employee-only plan
- \$900 per month for teachers with spouse or child coverage
- \$1,000 per month for teachers with family coverage

Enoch (District 2) seconded the motion. Motion failed after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): **Y**, Hesson (District 1): **N**, Lewis (District 8): **N**, Manning (District 5): **Y**, McCaleb (District 3): **Y**, McDonald (District 7): **Y**, Shoulders (District 6): **N**, Taylor (District 4): **N**

Taylor (District 4) made a motion to cut transportation services. Shoulders (District 6) seconded the motion. Motion failed after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): **N**, Hesson (District 1): **N**, Lewis (District 8): **Y**, Manning (District 5): **N**, McCaleb (District 3): **N**, McDonald (District 7): **N**, Shoulders (District 6): **Y**, Taylor (District 4): **Y**

Hesson (District 1) made a motion to eliminate all non-certified insurance benefits and teachers will pay an additional \$100 per month for insurance (2027 calendar year). McCaleb (District 3) seconded the motion. Motion failed after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): **N**, Hesson (District 1): **Y**, Lewis (District 8): **N**, Manning (District 5): **N**, McCaleb (District 3): **Y**, McDonald (District 7): **Y**, Shoulders (District 6): **N**, Taylor (District 4): **N**

Enoch (District 2) made a motion to cut 17 EAs (paraprofessionals), cut coaching supplements 20%, elementary & middle school principals go to 11 month contracts, cut full-time subs, and monthly amount of insurance (2027 calendar year) the board would cover as follows:

- \$625 per month for non-certified employees
- \$800 per month for teachers enrolled in the employee-only plan
- \$900 per month for teachers with spouse or child coverage
- \$1,050 per month for teachers with family coverage

McCaleb seconded the motion. After discussion this motion was tabled. After other options passed, Enoch withdrew this motion and McCaleb withdrew his second.

Enoch (District 2) made a motion to approve the monthly amounts the Board will contribute toward employee insurance coverage (2027 calendar year) as follows:

- \$625 per month for non-certified employees
- \$750 per month for teachers enrolled in the employee-only plan
- \$1,000 per month for teachers with spouse or child coverage
- \$1,200 per month for teachers with family coverage

McCaleb (District 3) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): **Y**, Hesson (District 1): **N**, Lewis (District 8): **Y**, Manning (District 5): **Y**, McCaleb (District 3): **Y**, McDonald (District 7): **Y**, Shoulders (District 6): **N**, Taylor (District 4): **N**

Lewis (District 8) made a motion to cut capital outlay by \$160,000 and reduce the transportation budget by \$110,000. 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): absent, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): Y

McCaleb (District 3) made a motion to cut 11 EAs (paraprofessionals) and all full-time substitute positions. Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): N, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): Y, Taylor (District 4): N

Lewis (District 8) made a motion to cut middle school and elementary principals to 11 month contracts, high school assistant principals to 10 month 2 week contracts, high school counselors to 10 month 2 week contracts, 3 Central Office employees to 11 month contracts, reduce school board member pay to \$125 per meeting and board chairman to \$150 per meeting. 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): N, Taylor (District 4): Y

Lewis (District 8) made a motion to cut coaching supplements and stipends by 30%. 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): N, Taylor (District 4): N

Manning (District 5) made a motion to approve the FY27 General Purpose 141 Budget in the amount of \$35,000,000 by reducing previously approved line items discussed earlier in the meeting. It was amended that the insurance changes would affect all employees, including those paid from the 142 and 143 budgets. Lewis (District 8) seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

Enoch (District 2): Y, Hesson (District 1): N, Lewis (District 8): Y, Manning (District 5): Y, McCaleb (District 3): Y, McDonald (District 7): Y, Shoulders (District 6): N, Taylor (District 4): Y

IV. Adjourn

McCaleb (District 3) made the motion to adjourn. Hesson (District 1) seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Director of Schools

Chairman of the Board

Date