

SMITH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION BOARD MINUTES

The Smith County Board of Education met at 5:00 PM on Monday, July 20, 2026, at the Board of Education Office.

Present: 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, Scotty Lewis (District 8): Present.

I. Call to Order

The Smith County Board of Education met at 5:00 pm on Monday, July 13, 2026, at the Smith County Board of Education. Mr. Hesson provided the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Chairman Tommy Manning welcomed all visitors and called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Agenda

Request to approve the Agenda for the July 20, 2026, meeting of the board Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the Agenda for the July 20, 2026 meeting of the board. 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

III. Consent Items

Enoch (District 2) moved to accept the following Consent Items A-D 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 - June 8, 2026 (Regular Meeting)

Request to approve the regular meeting minutes of the Board - Monday, June 8, 2026.

B. Board Minutes: Minutes of the Board - July 13, 2026 (special called meeting)

C. Smith County High School Requests

Smith County High School requests permission for the following:

1. Smith County High School FFA requests permission to attend the National Convention on October 20-24, 2026, in Indianapolis, IN. This will be an overnight trip.

2. Smith County High School FFA requests permission to attend the 99th Tennessee FFA State Convention on March 21-24, 2027, in Gatlinburg. This will be an overnight trip.
3. Smith County High School Agriculture classes request permission to attend U.S. National Parks: Grand Canyon, Bryce, and Zion, in June 2028. This will be an overnight trip.

D. School Support Organization - SCHS

Request to approve Smith County High School Volleyball as a Board-Approved School Support Organization (SSO). They have submitted all the required paperwork to become a Board-Approved School Support Organization and to fundraise in our district.

IV. Superintendent Actions

The Superintendent took the following actions:

1. Staff Placement

- Gustavo Albear, Spanish teacher, Gordonsville High School
- Anita Shawn Baker, first grade teacher, Forks River Elementary School
- Heather Bertram, full-time substitute, New Middleton Elementary School
- Nevaeh Conner, special education paraprofessional, Smith County High School
- Kayla Donahue, CDC special education paraprofessional, Smith County Middle School
- Scott Edens, volunteer assistant softball coach, Smith County High School
- Isaac Flatt, PE teacher & Boys basketball coach, Smith County Middle School
- Robin Anne King, volunteer assistant softball coach, Smith County High School
- Laura Johnson, speech pathologist, County-Wide
- Ben Malone, after school site director, Forks River Elementary School
- Leona Phillips, art teacher, Carthage Elementary School and Smith County High School
- Steven Ray, baseball coach, Smith County Middle School
- Natoshia Sensabaugh, paraprofessional, Smith County High School
- Dalton Stallings, softball coach, Smith County High School
- Meaghan Underwood, assistant softball coach, Smith County High School

2. Transfers

- Emily Anderson, transferred from third grade teaching position at Carthage Elementary School to third grade teaching position at Defeated Elementary School
- Emily Atkins, transferred from fourth grade teaching position at Defeated Elementary School to a third grade teaching position at Gordonsville Elementary School
- Megan Campbell, transferred from third grade math teaching position at Gordonsville Elementary School to an eighth grade math teaching position at Gordonsville High School

- Amanda Claridy, transferred from a paraprofessional position at Carthage Elementary School to a paraprofessional position at the Smith County Alternative School
 - Vicki Cook, transferred from paraprofessional position at Union Heights Elementary School to a special education paraprofessional position at Smith County Middle School
 - Heather Cooper, transferred from a special education paraprofessional position at Carthage Elementary School to a CDC special education paraprofessional position at Smith County Middle School
 - Carolyn Dawson, transferred from a fourth grade teaching position at Carthage Elementary School to a fifth/sixth teaching position at Forks River Elementary School
 - **Brenda Gentry, transferred from full-time to part-time cook, Gordonsville High School**
 - Krissa Hackett, transferred from an art teaching position at Carthage Elementary School and Smith County High School to a transition case manager position at Smith County High School
 - Brianna Hatter, transferred from a paraprofessional position at Gordonsville Elementary School to a special education paraprofessional position at Smith County Middle School
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- Brandy Jackson, transferred from sixth grade math teaching position at Gordonsville Elementary School to a math teaching position at Gordonsville High School
 - Amelia Johnson, transferred from a fifth grade ELA teaching position at Smith County Middle School to a fourth grade teaching position at Defeated Elementary School
 - Ty Lowhorn, transferred from a special education paraprofessional position at Smith County Middle School to a CDC special education teaching position at Carthage Elementary School
 - Rachel Newman, transferred from a kindergarten teaching position at Union Heights Elementary School to a second grade teaching position at Forks River Elementary School
 - Zoila Preston, transferred from a full-time substitute position at Gordonsville Elementary School to a special education paraprofessional position at Gordonsville High School
 - Sharon Raines, transferred from substitute cook position to a full-time cook position at Gordonsville High School
 - Trey Sanders, transferred from a transition case manager position at Smith County High School to a teacher at the Smith County Alternative School
 - Kameran Washer, transferred from an English teaching position at Smith County High School to a seventh/eighth grade teaching position at Defeated Elementary School

3. Resignations

- Jacob Shackley, PE teacher & boys basketball coach, Smith County Middle School
- Dalton Stallings, baseball coach, Smith County Middle School
- Amber West, kindergarten teacher, Defeated Elementary School
- Tammy Wilson, special education paraprofessional, Gordonsville High School

- 4. Bid Renewals

The School Nutrition Department will be renewing the following contracts

- US Foods
- Apple's Environmental Pest Management Solutions, INC
- Murfreesboro Pure Milk
- T & T Produce

V. New Business

A. TSBA Policy Recommendations

Request to adopt the following TSBA model policies to ensure compliance with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations due to changes made by the Tennessee General Assembly and the State Board of Education utilizing Policy 1.600 adopting changes on first reading to allow the revised policies to be implemented prior to the start of the school year.

As part of your policy subscription, the TSBA Policy Department monitors statutory and regulatory changes to ensure that our model policies comply with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. Due to changes made by the Tennessee General Assembly and the State Board of Education, TSBA has updated the model policies outlined in this memo. Below are the recommended revisions.

Updated Model Policies

Policy 1.400 - School Board Meetings

Public Chapter 852 creates flexibility for Boards during a natural disaster or inclement weather event. It allows board members to join a meeting electronically when less than a quorum is physically present. This exception may be used three times per year.

Policy 1.403 - Agendas

Agendas for regular board meetings must now be provided to the public at least 48 hours in advance. We have received questions about whether these may be draft agendas (i.e., whether changes can still be made at board meetings). Our 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 1.905 - Charter School Renewal

This change to state law requires charter authorizers to provide annual notice of whether a charter school is "on-track" or "off-track". It further requires automatic renewal of high-performing charters.

Policy 2.100 - Fiscal Management Goals

Recent guidance from the Comptroller's office recommends that Boards require annual internal control reviews. We have added that requirement to our model policy.

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 4.215 - Instructional Use of Digital Devices

We 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 4.301 - Interscholastic Athletics

Students attending small private schools will now be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletics in accordance with TSSAA or TMSAA guidelines. If a school is a member with these organizations, private school students zoned for the particular school shall be able to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other students, but only in athletic programs that are not offered by the private school. If a school is not a member with these organizations, private school students zoned for the particular school shall be able to participate in interscholastic athletics to the same extent as other students. We have added a provision to the model policy on this aspect.

Policy 4.600 - Grading System

This new law clarifies that the high school grading system will apply to coursework completed by students in middle school. We have added clarifying information to this policy.

Please note that Public Chapter 901 also includes a requirement that will go into effect for the 2027-2028 school year. Beginning in that school year, districts are required to automatically enroll students who achieve a performance level of "exceeds expectations" on the math portion of the 7th grade TCAP exam in Algebra I instead of an 8th grade math course, unless a parent/guardian opts them out.

Policy 4.603 - Promotion & Retention

We have updated policy 4.603 to include another pathway for students to be promoted to fourth grade. This is based on Public Chapter 1030 that permits this promotion if the student was administered a state-mandated assessment in third grade and demonstrated proficiency in ELA based on scoring in the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered universal reading screener.

Policy 4.605 - Graduation Requirements

Recent changes to state law alter the Move on When Ready early graduation requirements. Public Chapter 912 adds the Classic Learning Test as an option for students seeking to graduate early through this pathway. Additionally, Public Chapter 1040 requires the Director of Schools to annually report the total number of Move on When Ready requests to the Department of Education.

We have also updated this policy to clarify that students who successfully complete high school credit prior to grade nine, shall receive graduation credit for that coursework.

Policy 5.106 - Application and Employment

State law now requires all school districts to use the E-Verify program to ensure that an employee is eligible to work in the U.S. Previously, this was an optional program.

Policy 5.200 - Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers & Policy 5.201- Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers

Previously, a teacher who resigned and breached their contract mid-year could have their license suspended by the State Board of Education if the local Board submitted a complaint. Public Chapter 898 removes the option for Boards to file these types of complaints. Based on this, we have removed that option from policies 5.200 and 5.201.

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.

Policy 5.600 - Staff Rights & Responsibilities

An update to the Teacher Code of Conduct requires teachers to refrain from any sexually related behaviors with students, including students who have graduated or withdrawn in the immediately preceding twelve months. We have updated this policy to highlight that requirement.

Policy 6.200 - Attendance

Public Chapter 844 requires districts to determine whether a mid-year transfer student was previously enrolled in a public school in the same school year and request the student's attendance records. The receiving district must then include the unexcused absences from the previous school district in the student's current total to implement the appropriate truancy intervention tier, if applicable.

Policy 6.202 - Home Schools

Previously, state law required certain actions if a home school student fell below grade level. Public Chapter 912 has removed this portion of the statute. Additionally, this new law changes the types of tests that may be administered to home school students and permits the parent to select a standardized test.

Policy 6.205 - Student Assignments

State law now requires that principals create a safety plan for a student with an order of protection against another student. We have added language on this to the corresponding model policy.

Policy 6.303 - Questioning Students and Searches

Public Chapter 1040 expands on last year's legislation regarding who may conduct searches of students. This new law adds school employees who have completed the required orientation and training to the list of individuals who may conduct searches authorized by the principal.

Policy 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. We have added information on this topic to an existing model policy.

Policy 6.318 - Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students

Public Chapter 760 permits school districts to continue an investigation of a student disciplinary incident even if the student withdraws. Further, it clarifies that the investigation and/or disciplinary consequences may resume if the student re-enrolls. We have added information on this process to clarify those options in our corresponding model policy.

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. We have created a new model policy to align with these requirements.

The Department of Education will be issuing guidance on this topic. We will send out an update to the model policy, if needed.

Policy 6.412a - Emergency Allergy Response Plan

We maintain two model policies regarding emergency allergy response plans. One of them contains a provision on schools storing epinephrine in case of emergency. If your Board maintains that version, we recommend updating it with the new version below. Public Chapter 947 updates state law to clarify that epinephrine may be purchased in a variety of forms, not solely as an auto-injector. We have updated the relevant model policy to align with that language.

Policy 6.506 - Students from Military Families

Public Chapter 834 updates requirements for school districts regarding students from military families. Previously, state law allowed Boards to choose how much time these students had to provide documentation of relocation to the district. Per this recent change, students must now provide this information within one calendar year of the date of enrollment. The new law further clarifies that districts must take appropriate steps to assist any of these students with

IEPs, 504 plans, or individualized family service plans. Additionally, Public Chapter 834 states that if a military family relocates outside of the district, any students enrolled in grades 11 or 12 must be allowed to remain enrolled in the same high school until they either graduate or withdraw. Shoulders (District 6) made the motion to approve the policy updates as recommended by TSBA on the first reading utilizing Policy 1.600. 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**

B. Approval of School Fees

Request to approve the following student school fees for the 2026-2027 school year.

See attached school fees

- Defeated Elementary School
- Forks River Elementary School
- Smith County High School
- Smith County Middle School
- Union Heights Elementary School

Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the school fees for o Defeated Elementary School o Forks River Elementary School o Smith County High School o Smith County Middle School o Union Heights Elementary School. 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**

C. Bid Approval for Janitorial Bids

Request to accept the following low bids for janitorial supplies for the 2026-2027 school year.

2026-2027 Janitorial Bid Summary		
Trash Liners 60 gallon 250 cases	Unipak	\$6,100.00
Trash Liners 15 gallon 100 cases	Unipak	\$1,718.00
N.A.B.C. 100 cases	American Paper & Twine	\$2,461.00
Pearlux Hand Soap 50 cases	Kelsan	\$1,698.50
Urine Screens 30 dozen	Buckeye Cleaning Center	\$507.00

Hand Towels 600 cases	Lebanon Chemical	\$23,958.00
Toilet Tissue 400 cases	American Paper & Twine	\$19,488.00

Taylor (District 4) made the motion to accept the following low bids for janitorial supplies 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**

D. Bid Approval for Diesel Fuel

Request to approve the low bid of \$3.2999 per gallon for 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel from Mixon Nollner for delivery on June 17, 2026. Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the low bid of \$3.2999 per gallon for 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel from Mixon Nollner for delivery on June 17, 2026. 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**

E. Bid Approval for Gasoline

Request to approve the low bid of \$3.189 per gallon for 1,500 gallons of regular 87 unleaded gasoline without ethanol from Mixon-Nollner for delivery on June 17, 2026. McDonald (District 7) made the motion to approve the low bid of \$3.189 per gallon for 1,500 gallons of regular 87 unleaded gasoline without ethanol from Mixon-Nollner for delivery on June 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**

F. Catch My Breath Program Approval

Request to approve the Catch My Breath Program from the Nicotine Free Futures Grant sponsored by Youth and Family Resource Network (The Spot). Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the Catch My Breath program regarding the Nicotine Free Futures Grant. 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**

G. Smith County High School Request to Remove Trailer

Smith County High School requests the approval to acquire bids/quotes to remove the "coaches' trailer" located at the facility on Owl Street. Lewis (District 8) made the motion to

approve the request from Smith County High School to acquire bids/quotes to remove the "coaches' trailer" located the facility on Owl Street. 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

H. Smith County Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority (SDHA)

Request to approve the following Smith County Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority (SDHA) members to serve for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Bobby Storie, Co-Chair
- Heather Wilmore, Co-Chair
- Jera Huff
- Misty Smith
- Mac Petty
- Eric Swann
- Annette Hord
- LaShae Johnson

Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve the following Smith County Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority (SDHA) members to serve for the 2026-2027 school year: Bobby Storie, Co-Chair Heather Wilmore, Co-Chair Jera Huff Misty Smith Mac Petty Eric Swann Annette Hord LaShae Johnson. 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

I. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between Smith County Sheriff's Office and Smith County Board of Education for School Resource Officers for the 2026-2027 School Year

Request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding Between Smith County Sheriff's Department and Smith County Board of Education for School Resource Officers for the 2026-2027 School Year Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding Between Smith County Sheriff's Department and Smith County Board of Education for School Resource Officers 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

J. FY27 General Purpose 141 Budget

Lewis (District 8) made the motion to approve \$37,325,760.00 budget. McCaleb (District 3)

seconded the motion. Motion carried after a roll call vote:

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

VI. Discussion

A. Tobacco Free Schools Policy Discussion - Barbara Kannapel

Barbara Kannapel representing Youth and Family Resource Network (The Spot) is requesting that the Board review the Tobacco-Free Schools Policy 1.803.

VII. Annual Policy Review

Annual Policy Review (July)

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 1.101, Role of the Board of Education

Policy 1.202, Duties of Board Members

Policy 1.2021, Boardsmanship Code of Conduct

Policy 1.407, School District Records

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Adjourn

Hesson (District 1) made the motion to adjourn. 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**