

MINUTES 26-02  
CITY OF MADISON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
January 29, 2026

Mr. Travis Cummings, president, called the City of Madison Board of Education Meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the board room at the Madison City Schools Central Office. After the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, roll call was conducted of school board members.

I. ROLL CALL

Roll Call of school board members recorded as follows:

Place No. 1	Mr. Tommy Overcash	Present
Place No. 2	Mrs. Cara Sexton-Welsh	Present
Place No. 3	Mrs. Tess Halbrooks	Present
Place No. 4	Mr. Scott Newberry	Present
Place No. 5	Mr. Travis Cummings	Present

Also present were Dr. Ed Nichols, superintendent of Madison City Schools, Mr. Woody Sanderson, board attorney, and Mrs. LaTisha King, recording secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Travis Cummings called for a motion to approve the January 29, 2026, school board meeting agenda. Mr. Tommy Overcash motioned to approve the agenda. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Heather Donaldson, chief academic officer, introduced twenty-five new National Board Certified Teachers and those recently renewed their certification. There are 122 National Board Certified teachers within the school district. Madison City School has the most National Board Certified teachers in the state of Alabama. Dr. Donaldson thanked the Committee of 100 and The Schools Foundation for their monetary support of those educators pursuing their certification. Additionally, support through DODEA grants has assisted teachers in their pursuit of NBCT.

Mrs. Lee Shaw, development coordinator, introduced representatives from the Knights of Columbus who presented a check for \$15,130.00 to the school system for the Madison City Schools Special Education Program. The Board and superintendent thanked the Knights of Columbus for their continued support of programs that benefit special education students in Madison City Schools.

Madison City School System administrators, staff and students thanked members of the City of Madison Board of Education for their service to the school district with videos, t-shirts, artwork, and more. January was Board Member Appreciation Month. Madison City's School Board serves faithfully without compensation.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public that addressed the school board during this meeting.

V. ACTION ITEMS

The superintendent recommended approval of consent agenda Item(s): (a) Minutes #26-01, January 8, 2026; (b) field trip requests for Madison City Schools; (c) facility use agreements for Madison City Schools; (d) an agreement by and between the City of Madison Board of Education and Canva, a versatile and user-friendly design tool used to enhance instruction and student engagement in the classroom by assisting in

creating visually appealing documents; (e) a color guard clinic sponsored by the James Clemens High School Winter Guard for students 4th – 8th grades on March 7, 2026 from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm at a cost of \$40.00 per student; (f) a theatre spotlight camp sponsored by James Clemens High School theater students for rising second graders – ninth graders from May 26 – May 29, 2026 (from 9:00 am – Noon) at a cost of \$75.00 per student; (g) an internship agreement by and between the City of Madison Board of Education and Eastern University MS & CAGS in School Psychology for internship placement in the school district beginning school year 2025 as described in the agreement; and (h) an LEA Make-up Day Option Request for Madison City Schools to be granted relief from making up a day of school on January 26, 2026, due to Governor Ivey declaring a state of emergency for areas impacted by a winter storm. The Board agreed to approve the recommendations as a group. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks motioned to approve consent agenda items a-h. Mrs. Cara Welsh seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of an agreement by and between the City of Madison Board of Education and PEEHIP to pay the employer contribution for the months of June, July, and/or August. This applies to all employees under the “3-1 Rule” and allows employees to pay the employee premium rate for health insurance coverage beginning in the 2025–2026 scholastic year. This agreement will remain in effect unless revoked in writing by the agency and signed by an authorized representative as described in the agreement. Mr. Scott Newberry motioned to approve the Employer Paid Contribution Agreement with PEEHIP. Mr. Tommy Overcash seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of Resolution 2026-01, A Resolution to Declare Emergency Under Alabama Code §39-2-2(E) for the Purpose of Authorizing Award of Contract for Purchase of Coils for Both Chillers in the James Clemens High School Air Conditioning System Without Public Advertisement. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks motioned to approve Resolution 2026-01, a Resolution to Declare Emergency Under Alabama Code §39-2-2(E) for the Purpose of Authorizing Award of Contract for Purchase of Coils for Both Chillers in the James Clemens High School Air Conditioning System Without Public Advertisement. Mrs. Cara Welsh seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of a list of substitutes, a list of supplemental contracts, ACCESS Contracts for Spring 2026, and other personnel recommendations for Madison City Schools. All school board members agreed to approve the recommendations as a group. Mrs. Cara Welsh motioned to approve the personnel recommendations. Mr. Scott Newberry seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

#### VI. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Nichols congratulated new and renewed National Board Certified Teachers. He also thanked The Schools Foundation and the Committee of 100 for supporting National Board Certified Teachers in Madison City Schools. He also thanked the Knights of Columbus and Mrs. Lee Shaw for their support of the MCS special education programs. Dr. Nichols also thanked all who assisted students and their families impacted by the recent water disruption at a local apartment complex. Dr. Nichols extended congratulations to Dr. Alicia Malloy and Journey Middle School’s Bella Voce Choir for their performance at the Alabama Music Educators Conference.

#### VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Tess Halbrooks congratulated new and renewed National Board Certified Teachers. She also thanked Dr. Heather Donaldson, chief academic officer, for the wonderful information shared during an Instruction Committee Meeting.

Mrs. Cara Welsh congratulated teachers who were honored during The Schools Foundation Gala. She then thanked Instruction staff for the information they presented during the Instruction Committee Meeting. Mrs. Welsh also thanked administrators and staff for recognizing the school board for School Board Appreciation Month (January).

Mr. Tommy Overcash stated the Instruction Committee Meeting was very informative (great presentations). Mr. Overcash also thanked administrators and schools for honoring the school board during this school board meeting.

Mr. Scott Newberry congratulated new and renewed National Board Certified teachers honored during the school board meeting. He mentioned he attended a safety committee meeting with its lead, Mr. Jamie Golliver, safety and emergency management coordinator for Madison City Schools. Mr. Newberry also thanked staff for honoring the school board for their service.

Mr. Travis Cummings thanked administrators and staff for the wonderful gestures provided to the Board during School Board Appreciation Month. He then thanked School Resource Officer John Kern for attending the school board meeting and providing service to the school system. He also thanked Madison City Councilman, Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Connie Spears, former school board members and former Madison City Councilman, for their attendance during the school board meeting. Mr. Cummings mentioned that Madison City Schools is leading the way in National Board Certified Teachers – benefits students.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Travis Cummings announced the next school board meeting would be held on February 5, 2026 at 5:00 PM (board room at the central office), preceded by a Madison City Schools Finance Committee Meeting at 4:00 PM. Mr. Travis Cummings then called for a motion to adjourn the January 29, 2026 school board meeting. Mr. Tommy Overcash motioned to adjourn the school board meeting. Mrs. Cara Welsh seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

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Mr. Travis Cummings, President

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Dr. Edwin C. Nichols, Jr., Secretary

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Mrs. LaTisha L. King, Recording Secretary