

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION
CABOT SCHOOL BOARD

Board President Joe Trusty called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Those in attendance were school board members Pam Clem, Corey Williams, James Hertzog, Kevin Tipton, Marvin Jones and Sarah Owen. Also, in attendance were Dr. Tony Thurman, Michael Byrd, directors, and community members.

The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence were led by Magness Creek Elementary student Gracie Van Dorple.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from the regular January 30th meeting were approved as presented. January financials were approved as presented.

Motion by James Hertzog, second by Marvin Jones; passed 7-0.

RECOGNITION

Eagle Scout Recognition – Dr. Thurman recognized three Cabot High School students for earning the distinction of Eagle Scout: Blake Wilbur, Kaleb Wilbur, and Spencer Byrd. To earn this distinction, each scout had to complete a service project. Blake planted trees at Reeds Bridge Civil Ward Park in Jacksonville. Kaleb leveled headstones and made some grave markers at the cemetery at Reeds Bridge. Spencer removed broken curbing and cleaned the area around the museum at Camp Robinson.

Student Spotlight – Gracie Van Dorple was recognized from Magness Creek Elementary for her 'go-getter' personality, leadership, and creativity. She is willing to take on any challenge and always makes it magnificent. She currently does a segment called "Getting to Know You with Gracie" for the "News from the Creek" group.

Sean Rogers was recognized from Cabot Learning Academy for his resilience, both academically and socially. He strives to learn and shows great courage in moving forward. Sean created a desk and flag for the class guinea pig's cage.

PLC Building Recognition – Emily Cain, ed tech at Magness Creek Elementary, is extremely creative and identifies students' strengths and helps them build confidence and skills through those strengths. She started a coding club that meets in the mornings before school, and she also oversees the "News from the Creek" group.

Toni Schiesz, teacher at Cabot Learning Academy, is a strong collaborator and focuses on shared learning. She is excellent at supporting students with diverse needs.

CURRICULUM REPORT

CTE Program Update – Nicole Gatewood provided an update on the CTE program, which includes 19 pathways. Cabot students earn approximately 1200 certificates annually, and there are 469 completers on target for this year. Most pathways have a competitive component. Cabot High School has a 100% pass with the 27 students in the CNA program. This year we have 15 students who are in the intern program with Unity Health to shadow doctors.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Legal Transfer Approvals - Dr. Thurman reported that 1 outgoing legal transfer was approved.

Buildings and Grounds Report – Michael Byrd reported that the canopies at both pre-k buildings have been installed and sheetrock is going up inside. Carpet will be replaced at CAO over spring break. The roof is going up at the special programs' addition to CAO. Weights have been delivered to the fieldhouse, and they are working on the epoxy floors. The fieldhouse renovations are still on target to be completed in April.

Free and Reduced Lunch Percentages – For information.

Current Enrollment – For information.

Upcoming Events – For information.

SUPERINTENDENT PRE-ACTION REPORTS

2026 -2027 Proposed Budget of Expenditures – Michael Byrd presented the 2026-2027 budget of expenditures and explained that this was something that had to be published prior to the spring school board elections.

School Board Legal Liability Program – Dr. Thurman explained that there was a change in the carrier for the school board legal liability program, but the premium will remain the same this year.

Resolution to Sell District Property - Athletics – Dr. Thurman presented a resolution to sell old lockers from the athletic department.

Expulsion – Dr. Thurman presented the expulsion for student 6450.

Expulsion – Dr. Thurman presented the expulsion for student 4602.

ACTION

The board voted to approve the proposed budget of expenditures for the 2026-2027 school year.

Motion by James Hertzog, second by Sarah Owen; passed 7-0.

The board voted to approve the School Board Legal Liability program renewal as presented for the 2025-2026 school year.

Motion by Kevin Tipton, second by James Hertzog; passed 7-0.

The board voted to uphold the administration's recommendation to expel student 6450 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion by Corey Williams, second by James Hertzog; passed 7-0.

Representatives for student 4602 appealed the expulsion recommendation. They requested a closed appeal hearing. After hearing statements from both sides, the board moved into executive session for discussion. Upon returning, the board voted to uphold the administration's recommendation to expel student 4602 for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

Motion by Marvin Jones, second by James Hertzog; passed 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

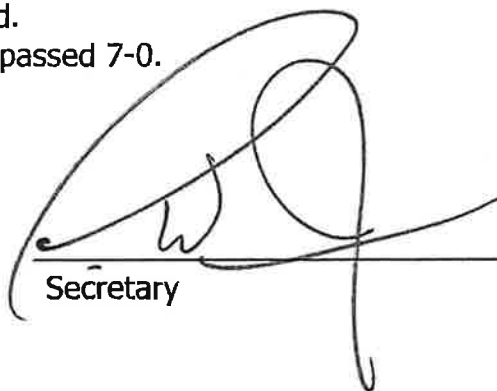
The board voted to approve personnel as presented.

Motion by Sarah Owen, second by Corey Williams; passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.



President



Secretary



CABOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

602 North Lincoln Street CABOT, ARKANSAS 72023 (501) 843-3363

**CABOT SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION
PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS
2/25/2025**

CERTIFIED RETIREMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Debra Rogers	High School	Chemistry Teacher	06/30/2025

CERTIFIED RESIGNATIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Edgar Fonda	Middle School South	Assistant Principal Instructional Facilitator	06/30/2025
Kimberly Robertson	Middle School South	Teacher	06/03/2025

All recommendations and hiring of licensed certified personnel are contingent on applicants completing all licensure requirements, as well as clearing their criminal background check and child maltreatment registry.



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CABOT SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS 2-25-25

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Oweta Babbs	Transportation	Bus Driver	1/30/25
Leah Hutchens	High School	Special Education Paraprofessional	6/3/25
Jayda Kilduff	Stagecoach	Custodial Response Team I	2/3/25
Cassie Lea	Jr. High South	Food Service	2/3/25
Clarissa Smith	Middle School South	Special Education Paraprofessional	2/28/25

CLASSIFIED ONE SEMESTER LEAVE OF ABSENCE

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Amanda Neal	Southside	Food Service

CLASSIFIED TRANSFERS/ REASSIGNMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Dan Edwards	Stagecoach	Custodian
Kellie Jones	Westside	Food Service
Tina Ognoskie	Southside	Food Service
Wanetta Riegling	Transportation	Bus Driver
Donna Waddle	Middle School South	Food Service

Marissa Warden	Jr. High South	Food Service	
CLASSIFIED NEW HIRES			
NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	
Steven Minor	High School	Custodial Response Team I	
Abby Robertson	Middle School South	Secretary	

All recommendations and hiring of classified personnel are contingent on applicants clearing their criminal background check and child maltreatment registry.