

MINUTES 26-03
CITY OF MADISON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
February 5, 2026

Mr. Travis Cummings, president, called the City of Madison Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:00 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 February 5, 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, discussed the draft 2026 - 2027 secondary curriculum booklets for Madison City Schools. The draft included proposed course changes made to middle and high school curriculum, graduation requirements, college and career readiness requirement and workforce diploma options.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A parent of students in the school system asked the Board to publicly affirm the students who protested the actions of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents (ICE).

V. ACTION ITEMS

The superintendent recommended approval of consent agenda Item(s): (a) Minutes #26-02, January 29, 2026; (b) field trip requests for Madison City Schools; (c) facility use agreements for Madison City Schools; (d) elementary summer camps to be held at Madison, Midtown, Mill Creek and Rainbow elementary schools on June 1, 2026 – July 17, 2026 (from 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. weekdays) at a cost of \$200.00 per week per child (There is an additional non-refundable – registration/activity fee of \$200.00 per child), as described in the summer camp flyer; (e) change the daily rate for substitute bus drivers from \$85.00 per day to \$100 per day effective February 6, 2026; and (f) the 2026 2027 secondary (middle and high schools) curriculum catalogs for Madison City Schools. The Board agreed to approve the recommendations as a group. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks motioned to approve consent agenda items a-f. Mrs. Cara Welsh seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of a contract by and between the City of Madison Board of Education and Danmark Technologies for an Avigilon Cloud Conversion (hardware and license) at a total cost of \$675,584.80. Mr. Tommy Overcash motioned to approve the Cloud conversion contract. Mrs. Cara Welsh seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval that the Board authorize, direct, and ratify the action of legal counsel representing the Board in the Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT) litigation to dismiss the complaint in the case, without prejudice, in furtherance of current negotiations with the legislature toward revisions of existing SSUT statutes. Mrs. Cara Welsh motioned to approve the Board to authorize, direct, and ratify the action of legal counsel representing the Board in the Simplified Sellers Use Tax (SSUT) litigation to dismiss the complaint in the case, without prejudice, in furtherance of current negotiations with the legislature toward revisions of existing SSUT statutes. Mr. Scott Newberry seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of an of emergency bid for Fluid Cooler Coils for James Clemens High School air conditioning system, from Pettus Plumbing, Inc., who bid the most responsive/responsible bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$325,000.00. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks motioned to approve an emergency bid for Fluid Cooler Coils for James Clemens High School air conditioning system, from Pettus Plumbing, Inc., who bid the most responsive/responsible bid meeting specifications in the amount of \$325,000.00. Mr. Scott Newberry seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of the December 2025 Financial and Bank Reconciliation Statements for Madison City Schools. Mrs. LaVerne Williams, chief school finance officer, explained the December 2025 financial statements to the Board and public. Mr. Tommy Overcash motioned to approve the December 2025 Financial and Bank Reconciliation Statements for Madison City Schools. Mrs. Cara Welsh seconded the motion.

The motion was approved. 5-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of the December 2025 Budget Amendment for Madison City Schools. Mrs. LaVerne Williams also explained the budget amendment. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks motioned to approve the December 2025 Budget Amendment for Madison City Schools. 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, 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. Tommy Overcash seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Nichols congratulated Madison County Spelling Bee winners (Madison City Students won first, second and third place at the spelling bee). He also emphasized that Madison City Schools has 24 new National Board Certified teachers (122 district-wide). Dr. Nichols thanked school counselors for their work (February is School Counselor Month). He then discussed bus driver appreciation day. Dr. Nichols also talked about how great archery teams are performing at competitions. He then mentioned that both high school received a silver certificate for the number of advance placement classes and dual enrollment courses offered to students. Lastly, Dr. Nichols thanked Mr. Kenneth Jackson, Madison City Council liaison to the Madison City Schools, and all other Madison City Council members for their support in approving the continuation of the half-cent sales tax for Madison City Schools. Dr. Nichols announced there are only 15 weeks until high school senior graduation.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Tess Halbrooks thanked Dr. Susan Zinkil, director of special education, for her presentation regarding the Madison City Schools Special Education Department. Mrs. Halbrooks also thanked the Madison City Council for their continued support of Madison City Schools.

Mrs. Cara Welsh thanked Dr. Heather Donaldson and Dr. Susan Zinkil for their department updates. She also expressed her gratitude to the Madison City Council for support of the school system. Mrs. Welsh then talked about a national cheer competition in Orlando, Florida.

Mr. Tommy Overcash agreed with all the prior statements made by Mrs. Halbrooks and Mrs. Welsh.

Mr. Scott Newberry offered thanks to Madison City Council for their support of the Madison City Schools.

Mr. Travis Cummings thanked Mrs. Connie Spears, former Madison City School Board member and former Madison City Council Member, and Mr. Kenneth Jackson, Madison City Councilman, and School Resource Officer Bullington for attending the school board meeting.

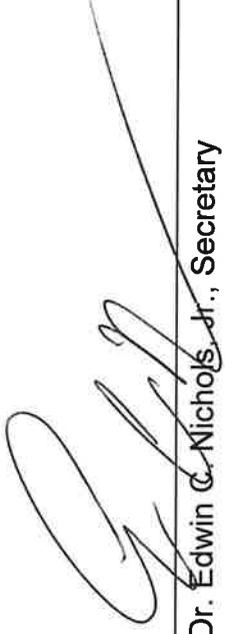
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Travis Cummings announced the next school board meeting would be held on February 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM (board room at the central office), to be preceded by a Madison City Schools Instruction Committee Meeting at 4:00 PM. Mr. Travis Cummings then called for a motion to adjourn the February 5, 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.



Mr. Travis Cummings, President



Dr. Edwin C. Nichols, Jr., Secretary



Mrs. LaTisha L. King, Recording Secretary