

MINUTES 26-04
CITY OF MADISON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
February 26, 2026

Mr. Travis Cummings, president, called the City of Madison Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:02 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 26, 2026, school board meeting agenda. Mrs. Cara Welsh motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Tommy Overcash seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 5-0.

III. PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Susan Zinkil, director of special education, introduced students who were winners in the Helen Keller Art Show. Students who participated in the contest all have a visual impairment. Dr. Zinkil presented each winner with a certificate of recognition from the school board and superintendent.

Mr. Karl Fernandez, assistant coordinator of accountability, introduced members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW Post 5162) of the United States contest winners. A teacher from Horizon Elementary and two students received awards (Teacher of the Year, Voice of Democracy Award, and Patriot's Pen Award) from the VFW organization. Certificates of recognition from the school board and awards from the VFW were presented to the students and the teacher.

Mr. Jamie Golliver, coordinator of safety and security, presented school resource officers with a certificate of appreciation in recognition for National School Resource Officer Day. Mr. Golliver thanked each for their service and dedication to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Mr. Shane Bagwell, presented an update on the construction of Russell Branch Elementary School. Phase two (electric and gas) is almost completed at the school. Pictures of the construction progress were also shown to the Board and public. An above ceiling inspection is scheduled within two weeks. The revised completion date is April 21, 2026.

Mr. Scott Newberry motioned to amend the agenda to add an additional presentation from Mr. Keith Anderson, band director at James Clemens High School. Mrs. Cara Welsh seconded the motion to add the presentation from Mr. Keith Anderson.

The motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Keith Anderson and the school board recognized Dr. Ed Nichols for receiving the 2026 Alabama Music Educators Association Outstanding Administrator Award. An ensemble from James Clemens High School's Jazz band played a selection during the school board meeting to honor Dr. Nichols. Mr. Travis Cummings presented Dr. Nichols with a certificate of recognition on behalf of the school board.

The motion was approved 5-0.

Mr. Tommy Overcash leaves the school board meeting for another appointment.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

V. ACTION ITEMS

The superintendent recommended approval of consent agenda item(s): (a) Minutes #26-03, February 5, 2026; (b) field trip requests for Madison City Schools; (c) facility use agreements for Madison City Schools; (d) 2026 Summer Coding Camp to be held on June 9-11, 2026 for rising 6th – 9th graders at James Clemens High School; (e) a music camp offered by the James Clemens High School Band to rising beginners – rising 9th graders on June 8-12, 2026 for \$200 per camper; and (f) an agreement by and the City of Madison Board of Education Transportation Department and the City of Madison to provide transportation services using Board buses driven by Board bus drivers for events - Easter Event (March 28, rain date April 4, 2026); July Fourth Event (July 3, 2026); Summer Day Camp (June 10, June 17, June 24, July 8, July 15, and July 22, 2026); Madison Police Kids Camp (June, date TBD); Trunk or Treat (October 29, 2026) and Christmas Parade (December 12, 2026) beginning March 28, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2026, as described in the agreement. 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 4-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of school bank account signers for the following schools:

- Bob Jones High School – Mrs. Stephanie Maher
- Russell Branch Elementary School – Mrs. Kristin Kolenich, Mrs. Taciana Hunter, Dr. Ed. Nichols, Mr. Eric Terrell, Mrs. LaVerne Williams and Mrs. Jana Gray.

Mr. Scott Newberry motioned to approve changing the school bank account signers. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 4-0.

The superintendent recommended approval of a list of substitutes, a list of supplemental contracts, a coaching contract for Mr. Seth Parker, 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. Mrs. Tess Halbrooks seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 4-0.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Dr. Nichols thanked instruction staff for the federal programs update provided during the Instruction Committee Meeting. He then mentioned that he attended and presented at the State of the Schools event sponsored by the Schools Foundation at the Jackson Center in Huntsville, Alabama. He also attended and introduced the speaker for the Principally Speaking Network event. Dr. Nichols went on to thank band and choir instructors for their nomination of him for the 2026 Alabama Music Educators Association Outstanding Administrator Award. Additionally, he thanked the Board and his wife for their continued support.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mrs. Tess Halbrooks thanked the Madison City Schools English Language Learners team for their presentation during the Instruction Committee meeting. Mrs. Halbrooks then congratulated Dr. Nichols for receiving the Outstanding Administrator Award from the Alabama Music Educators Association.

Mrs. Cara Welsh thanked all who presented during this school board meeting. She extended additional gratitude to our school resource officers.

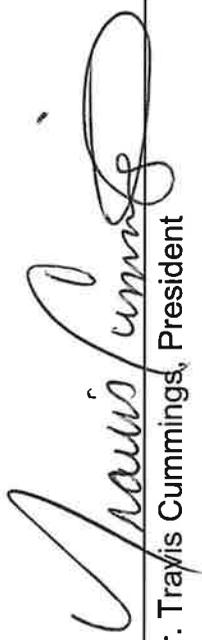
Mr. Scott Newberry mentioned the State of the Schools presentations were great – A wonderful call to action by the superintendents. Mr. Newberry then thanked the instruction team for their presentation.

Mr. Travis Cummings thanked School Resource Officer Bullington for attending the school board meeting. He also stated he enjoyed the presentations, especially the Helen Keller Awards.

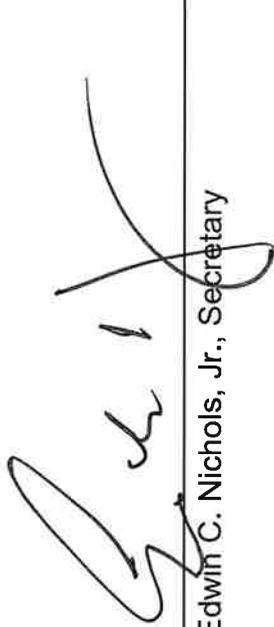
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Travis Cummings announced the next school board meeting would be held on March 12, 2026 at 5:00 PM (board room at the central office), to be preceded by a Madison City Schools Finance Committee Meeting at 4:00 PM. Mr. Travis Cummings then called for a motion to adjourn the February 26, 2026 school board meeting. Mrs. Cara Welsh motioned to adjourn the school board meeting. Mr. Scott Newberry seconded the motion.

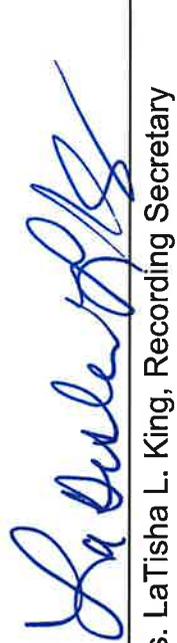
The motion was approved 4-0.



Mr. Travis Cummings, President



Dr. Edwin C. Nichols, Jr., Secretary



Mrs. LaTisha L. King, Recording Secretary