

**KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR SESSION
April 9, 2026**

MINUTES

The Knox County Board of Education met in regular session at 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 9, 2026 in the Boardroom of the Summer Place Building at 500 W. Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee. The meeting agenda and all supporting documents were posted on the Knox County Board of Education webpage. The meeting could be viewed in its entirety on the video posted on the Knox County Board of Education webpage.

Present: John Butler, District 1
 Anne Templeton, District 2
 Patricia Fontenot-Ridley, District 3
 Katherine Bike, District 4
 Lauren Morgan, District 5
 Betsy Henderson, District 6
 Steve Triplett, District 7
 Travis Wright, District 8
 Kristi Kristy, District 9
 Albert Liu, Student Representative

Chair Kristy presiding

1 A Moment of Silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Mr. Wright.

2 Announcements

- Ms. Kristy welcomed all attendees.
- A community budget meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 5:00 pm in the Summer Place Boardroom.
- A called meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 23 for the Board's consideration of the Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget.

3 Changes to the Agenda

No changes to the agenda were requested.

4 Approval of the Agenda

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

5 Consent Agenda

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- A Payment of Bills
- B Approve Minutes of Meetings
- March 2, 2026 Work Session
 - March 5, 2026 Regular Session
 - March 27, 2026 Policy Review
- C Items/Contracts:
- 1 Approve Award of Bid 3709 to Sysco Knoxville, LLC for provision of Commercially Delivered Food for School Cafeterias for a one (1) year term, which may be extended for four (4) additional years
 - 2 Approve Memorandum of Understanding with the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee (CAC) for provision of Meals at 2026 Summer Learning Camps at an estimated cost of \$100,000.00 using Summer Learning Camp Funds or a General Purpose Fund Balance Designation
 - 3 Approve Terms and Conditions with LIFTONE, LLC for Purchase of a Yale Veracitor GC050VX Lift Truck for Carter High School at a cost of \$44,485.10 using Greenheck Fan Corporation Donated Funds
 - 4 Approve Standard Terms and Conditions with TriMech Solutions LLC for provision of SOLIDWORKS® Software Training for Carter High School at a cost of \$4,880.00 using Greenheck Fan Corporation Donated Funds
 - 5 Approve Contract with SouthCoast Music & Design, LLC for production of Percussion Arrangements for the Bearden High School Marching Band at no cost to Knox County Schools
 - 6 Approve Musical Agreement with Concord Theatricals Corporation for Farragut High School's production of "Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella (Enchanted Edition)" December 10-12, 2026 at no cost to Knox County Schools
 - 7 Approve Agreement with Dramatic Publishing for Farragut High School's production of "The Outsiders" May 7-8, 2026 at no cost to Knox County Schools
 - 8 Approve Agreement with Heritage Education and Festivals, LLC d/b/a WorldStrides for Hardin Valley Middle School's Band and Orchestra Performance Trip to Orlando, Florida March 31-April 4, 2027 at no cost to Knox County Schools
 - 9 Approve Agreement with Crazy Imagination Travel, Inc. for Holston Middle School's Show Choir Trip to Walt Disney World Resort November 27-December 1, 2026 at no cost to Knox County Schools
 - 10 Approve Agreement with Music Theatre International for Northshore Elementary School's Dramatic Performing Rights License to "Disney's Dare to Dream Jr." for the term of March 20, 2026 to March 20, 2027 at no cost to Knox County Schools
 - 11 Approve Request of Rocky Hill Elementary School to complete Playground Surfacing, Border, and Site Work and to Purchase and Install two (2) Playground Structures at a cost of \$28,846.50 using Rocky Hill Elementary School Foundation Donated Funds
 - 12 Approve Contract with John Knox Center for Sequoyah Elementary School's 5th Grade Trip to River Ridge on October 23, 2026 at no cost to Knox County Schools
 - 13 Approve 2026 Music Rental Agreement with Fannin Musical Productions for South-Doyle High School's 2026 Marching Band Field Show on October 20, 2026 at no cost to Knox County Schools

- 14 Approve Production Contract with Music Theatre International for West High School's production of "Little Shop of Horrors (Broadway Version)" February 11-14, 2027 at a cost of \$1,145.00 at no cost to Knox County Schools
- 15 Approve Artwork Agreement with Orel Brodt and Gared Luquet for completion of a Mural at Whittle Springs Middle School at a cost of \$8,996.00 using donated funds from Partners in Education Foundation
- 16 Approve Consulting Services Agreement and Proposal with Boldsquare Group, LLC through December 31, 2026 for Carter High School at a cost of \$24,790.00 using Greenheck Fan Corporation Donated Funds
- 6 Board Policies
- A Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-190 "Code of Behavior and Discipline" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

Ms. Templeton noted that Board Members had been provided with Administrative Procedure AP-J-190. She said that she understood that information currently in Policy J-191 would be moved into Administrative Procedure J-190, but to be transparent, she had requested that a proposed statement be added to the procedure giving the Board five (5) days notice in the event any changes to the procedure were made. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services Dr. Andrew Brown confirmed that he agreed with Ms. Templeton's request and that it created no issue to add the statement. Ms. Templeton thanked Dr. Brown and said that her goal was just to make sure changes to the procedure were communicated to the Board since the information was referenced often by families. Mr. Triplett stated that he liked the change and that there may be other procedures where he would like the statement to be added. He asked if the statement had to be in Board policy to be enforced. Assistant Superintendent of Impact and Policy Kori Lautner stated that had been considered, but the recommendation would be to add it to the procedure to ensure that the communication occurred, since if it was not done it would make the administration out of compliance with its own procedure.

Ms. Bike asked how the statement would be followed in the future. Ms. Lautner noted that it would be added to the specific procedure if the policy revisions were approved on second reading. Ms. Bike asked how often procedures changed. Ms. Lautner noted that it varied and that there may be slightly more changes in the fall and winter when state law changes occurred. She confirmed the change to this procedure would be permanent.

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- B Approve first reading to rescind Knox County Board of Education Policy J-191 "Misbehaviors and Disciplinary Options" - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- C Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-193 "Student Suspension" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- D Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-195 "Student Disciplinary Hearing Authority" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- E Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-196 "Admission of Suspended or Expelled Students" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- F Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-211 "Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying or Cyber-Bullying" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- G Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-212 "Student Conduct and Safe Relocation of Students" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- H Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-250 "Bus Conduct" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- I Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-280 "Alternative School Programs" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- J Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-281 "Alternative School Services" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- K Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-320 "Independent Evaluation of Students" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- L Approve first reading of Knox County Board of Education Policy J-330 "Student Counseling Program" as amended - Discussed at Policy Review

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

7 Grants

- A Approve Tennessee Department of Education Occupational Educator Scholarships in the amount of \$24,600.00 for Eligible Candidates in the Knox County Schools Educator Preparation Program (EPP) - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- B Approve Memorandum of Agreements with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, SHADES of Development, Shora Foundation, and Wesley House Community Center in support of their Lottery for Education Afterschool Programs (LEAPs) Grant Applications - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- C Approve Tennessee Hospitality & Tourism Beef Bucks Grants in the total amount of \$1,000.00 for Austin-East Magnet High School and Karns High School - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Betsy Henderson

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- D Approve Grant Agreements with the National Environmental Education Foundation and receipt of Grant Funding in the total amount of \$35,000.00 for Belle Morris Elementary School, Green Magnet Academy, South-Doyle Middle School, and Spring Hill Elementary School - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Patricia Fontenot-Ridley, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- E Approve National Park Trust Kids to Parks Day School Grants in the total amount of \$1,500.00 for Belle Morris Elementary School and South-Doyle High School - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Anne Templeton, seconded by Patricia Fontenot-Ridley

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- F Approve Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers Knoxville Chapter GEARS Program Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Holston Middle School - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Travis Wright, seconded by Patricia Fontenot-Ridley

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- G Approve Guitar Center Music Foundation Instrument Program Grant in the amount of \$1,500.00 for Karns Middle School - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Patricia Fontenot-Ridley

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- H Approve Regranting Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with Edward Charles Foundation related to a Johnny Knoxville Charity Fundraiser for South-Doyle High School Athletics and Academics - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Patricia Fontenot-Ridley, seconded by Lauren Morgan

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

8 Contracts

- A Approve Contract with Professional Environmental Consulting, Incorporated for provision of Asbestos Monitoring Services up to \$200,000.00 annually for the term of May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027, which may be extended for four (4) additional years - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Steve Triplett

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- B Approve Contract with Skilled Services Quality Construction, LLC in the amount of \$262,100.00 for Innovative School Model Phase 4 Projects at Austin-East Magnet High School, Fulton High School, and West Valley Middle School - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Lauren Morgan

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

9 Regular Agenda Items

- A Approve Budget Line-Item Transfer with the School Construction Fund in the amount of \$8,410,406.00 to reallocate savings from various projects to support the Mechanicsville-Lonsdale-Beaumont Project - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by John Butler, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- B Approve School Turnaround Program School Improvement Plan for Northwest Middle School - Recommended by Superintendent

On motion made by Betsy Henderson, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

- C Accept Petition from Prep Public Schools to terminate the Knoxville Preparatory School Charter School Agreement

On motion made by Katherine Bike, seconded by Anne Templeton

Vote: 9 - 0 Passed

10

Public Forum

- Gavin Gambuzza of Knox County, Tennessee addressed the Board regarding his request for a public apology for the family of a Bearden High School student who went missing while on a field trip in 1976.
- Buck Fleming of Knox County, Tennessee addressed the Board regarding teachers publicly shaming students in classrooms.
- Candace Bannister of Knox County, Tennessee addressed the Board regarding bullying.
- Sherri Garrett of Knox County, Tennessee addressed the Board regarding possible changes to Board policy related to artificial intelligence.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Date Approved:

Chair:

Secretary:
