

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 17, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION
CABOT SCHOOL BOARD

The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence were led by Cabot Junior High South student Hudson Smith.

Board President Sarah Owen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Those in attendance were school board members Sally Beebe, James Hertzog, Joe Trusty, Marvin Jones and Kevin Tipton. Also, in attendance were Michael Byrd, Aaron Randolph, Dr. Ben Darley, directors, and community members. School board member Pam Clem was absent.

RECOGNITION

Student Spotlight – Mountain Springs Elementary Principal Connie Reed recognized Noah Gaffney for consistently making thoughtful choices, having good character, and setting a good example for other students. Noah also has strong leadership qualities and was selected for K-Kids, where he was elected as vice president.

Junior High South Principal Charlotte Sandage recognized Hudson Smith his politeness and willingness to look out for the underdog. She said Hudson has the 'it' factor and is an overall good student. He is quiet but speaks with importance and is willing to take ownership if he is wrong.

PLC Building Recognition – Jennifer Bradley was recognized by Mountain Springs Elementary Principal Connie Reed for being a leader in PLCs and a hard worker. She is a hard worker and smiles through all tasks. Mrs. Bradley is also great with data and an asset to the building.

Colleen Guenzel was recognized by Charlotte Sandage, principal of Junior High South, for always being there for the students. She has created great relationships and is missed by students and staff if she is not there. Mrs. Guenzel is willing to move wherever she is needed in the building and serves with joy.

SRO and Security Guard Recognition – The following staff members were recognized for providing security services to the district:

Dewayne Roper – Chief of Cabot Public Schools Police Department
Charles Hughes – Lieutenant

SROs:

Larry Thomas
Johnny Foster

Michael Smith
Ryan Cordona

Brennan Pelts
Jack Stark

Keith Whitley
Sierra Hoffman

High School Security:

Scott Madding
Darrell Duran

John Thompson
Mario Jones

Board Member Marvin Jones Recognition – Mr. Byrd recognized Marvin Jones for his nine years of dedicated service to the Cabot School Board. Mr. Jones contributed a lot of time and effort into making the best decisions for our students and staff, and his service is greatly appreciated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from the regular January 13th and special called January 21st meeting were approved as presented. January financials were approved as presented. Motion by James Hertzog, second by Sally Beebe; passed 6-0.

CURRICULUM REPORT

Career and Tech Program Update – Dr. Nicole Gatewood reported that we have 13 CTE programs and 20 pathways. There were 1571 certificates earned in these programs last year with 485 completers. Rin Ali and Brooklyn Carmical spoke about the criminal justice program and the connections they have made through the program. Cayden Schales spoke about the broadcasting program and its strengths in teamwork and teaching public speaking skills. Elle Purchase and Baliegh Bouwknegt spoke about the Medical Academy and the professional mentorship opportunities through the program.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Calendar Update – Michael Byrd explained that students have missed six days of school and had two late starts due to inclement weather. Five of the six days were already covered in the student calendar, so the sixth day will be made up on March 9, which was previously a teacher work day. Cabot High School and Freshman Academy will have to add a few minutes to their day to make up some time due to their class transitions and schedule.

Buildings and Grounds Report – Michael Byrd reported that they are working on the slab at the press box, and they are pouring the foundations for the elevator. The maintenance department is working on repairs to several awnings and gutter damage around the district due to the winter weather. Our staff did a wonderful job preparing our buildings for the winter storm to minimize damage.

Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage - For information.

Current Enrollment – For information.

Upcoming Events – For information.

SUPERINTENDENT PRE-ACTION REPORTS

Educators Legal Liability/Employment Practices Liability and General Liability – Michael Byrd presented a proposal for general liability insurance that is renewed each year.

2026-2027 Pre-K Tuition – Michael Byrd presented a proposal to raise pre-k tuition by \$20, from \$160 to \$180 per week.

2026-2027 Child Development Tuition – Mr. Byrd presented a proposal to increase the Child Development Center tuition by \$20, from \$180 to \$200 per week. The proposal also included an additional supply fee of \$75 per child if the tuition increase was approved or a \$125 per child fee if the tuition increase was not approved.

Resolution for Sale of Property – Winter Guard – Mr. Byrd presented a resolution to sell district property from the winter guard show “Riches” to the Greene County Tech High School.

Employee Disclosure – Mr. Byrd presented a revised employee disclosure for Andrea Mendoza and Got'em Sportswear.

ACTION

The board voted to approve the Educators Legal Liability/Employment Practices Liability and General Liability program renewal as presented for the 2026-2027 school year.
Motion by Joe Trusty, second by Sally Beebe; passed 6-0.

The board voted to approve the 2026-2027 pre-k tuition rate of \$180 per week.
Motion by James Hertzog, second by Sally Beebe; passed 6-0.

The board voted to approve the 2026-2027 Child Development Center tuition rate of \$200 per week plus a \$75 supply fee for each child.
Motion by Marvin Jones; second by Joe Trusty; passed 6-0.

The board voted to approve the resolution to sell the “Riches” winter guard tarp to Green County Tech High School for \$1,500 and remove this item from district inventory.
Motion by Joe Trusty, second by Sally Beebe; passed 6-0.

The board voted to approve the revised employee disclosure for Andrea Mendoza and Got'em Sportswear for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

Motion by Sally Beebe, second by James Hertzog; passed 6-0.

The board voted to approve personnel as presented, which includes the superintendent's contract from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029.

Motion by Sally Beebe, second by Joe Trusty; passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.



President



Vice President



CABOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS 02/17/2026

CERTIFIED RETIREMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Kim Usery	High School	Science Teacher	06/30/2026

CERTIFIED RESIGNATIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
John Bailey Jr	High School	History Teacher	02/17/2026
Kasey Hill	Junior High South	Assistant Principal	05/29/2026
Anna Kay	Middle School North	Special Education Teacher	05/29/2026
Andrea Patterson	High School	Computer Science Teacher	05/29/2026
Madison Waters	Special Programs	School Psychology Specialist	02/05/2026
April Weeks	Southside	Learning Specialist	02/13/2026

CERTIFIED TRANSFERS/ REASSIGNMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Melissa Pay	Junior High South	Library/Media Specialist (2026/2027)
Maitland Webb	District	Teacher

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 02/17/2026

CLASSIFIED RETIREMENTS

Melody Bodiford	Central Administration Office	District Receptionist / Registrar	3/31/26
Barbara Fendley	Central / Transportation	Food Service / Bus Aide	6/30/26
Jenny O'Bannon	Jr. High South	Registered Nurse	6/30/26

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Darrell Duran	High School	Security Guard	5/29/26
Tiffany Giambalvo	Pre-K North	Pre-K Paraprofessional	5/29/26
Aida Honeycutt	Jr. High North	Food Service	5/28/26
Julie Logue	Child Development Center	Lead Daycare Worker	1/30/26
Brennan Pelts	District	Certified Law Enforcement Officer	3/3/26
Silvia Ramirez	Jr. High North	Food Service	5/28/26
Faith Reaves	Southside	Special Education Paraprofessional	2/27/26
Alexis Reeves	Jr. High North	Food Service	5/28/26
Teresa Willhite	Central Administration Office	Secretary	3/20/26

CLASSIFIED TRANSFERS/ REASSIGNMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Ashley Belden-Jones	Central Administration Office	District Receptionist / Registrar
Donna Cathey	Ward Central	Custodian
Beth Durkiewicz	Middle School North	Food Service
Kayla Moore	Southside	Registrar
Tina Ognoskie	Magness Creek	Food Service

CLASSIFIED NEW HIRES

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Alissa Bouslough	High School	Academic Acceleration Paraprofessional
Chassity Carrier	Child Development Center	Daycare Worker - Lead
Brandi Cruise	Westside	Custodian
Stephanie Daffern	Jr. High South	Academic Acceleration Paraprofessional
Robert Davidson	Transportation	Bus Driver
Marissa Gidcomb	Child Development Center	Daycare Worker - Support
Tricia Little	High School	Food Service
Andrea Patterson	Transportation	Bus Driver
Rebecca Rogers	Transportation	Bus Aide

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