

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION
CABOT SCHOOL BOARD

The Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence were led by Cabot Junior High North student Ainsley Whittaker.

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

RECOGNITION

Student Spotlight – Central Elementary Principal Julia Treadway recognized Yaison O’Braint for always doing what is right, even when no one is looking. He exemplifies the characteristics they hope all students will have at school and is respectful to everyone around him.

Ward Central Elementary Principal Tobie Sprawls recognized Aaliyah Satterfield as being a compassionate, respectful student who looks out for others. She has also shown great work academically, growing in all subjects.

Junior High North Principal Matt Sheets recognized Ainsley Whittaker for being a hard worker and growing a lot since she arrived at Junior High North. Ainsley has grown remarkably in every tested subject.

PLC Building Recognition – Addie Cummings was recognized by Central Elementary Principal Julia Treadway for being a vital part of their school and implementing systems for student behavior. Mrs. Cummings is always ready to take on various jobs in the school to offer support or help make improvements.

Ward Central Elementary Principal Tobie Sprawls recognized Karaline Friddle for being a go-getter and having exceptional classroom management. Mrs. Friddle always shows kindness and compassion and has a calm presence.

Allison Astin was recognized by Matt Sheets, principal of Junior High North, for being a great leader in the building and exemplifying leadership qualities to staff and students. Mrs. Astin is also a vital member of the Guiding Coalition.

School Board Recognition Month – Superintendent Michael Byrd recognized the hard work and dedication of our seven school board members. Cabot High School Teacher April Veazey brought students from her Food Safety and Nutrition class to present the board members with boxes filled with a variety of baked goods made by students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes from the regular December 16th meeting were approved as presented. December financials were approved as presented.

Motion by James Hertzog, second by Sally Beebe; passed 7-0.

CURRICULUM REPORT

GT Panther Post – Aaron Randolph provided a link to the GT Panther Post newsletter for the board members to review.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Student Attendance Report – Dr. Ben Darley presented first semester data of student attendance for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years. In the fall semester of 2024, the district had an attendance rate of 91.75%, and in the fall of 2025, that grew to 92.39%. At the end of fall semester in 2024, we had 266 students with perfect attendance, and at the end of first semester in 2025, we had 413 students with perfect attendance. Incentives and parent communication have led to these improvements.

School Board Training Report – Michael Byrd presented the state required chart showing the 2025 training hours for the school board members. All members are in compliance with the training requirements.

Legal Transfer Approvals – Michael Byrd reported that 4 outgoing legal transfer and 1 incoming legal transfer were approved.

Buildings and Grounds Report – Michael Byrd reported that the car rider drive at Middle School South is complete and working well to keep traffic off of Panther Trail. Press box renovations are underway, and they have been working on data lines and cables. The completion date for this project is August 1, 2026. If any events are held before that time, the press box will be run from the third floor of the fieldhouse.

Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage - For information.

Current Enrollment – For information.

Upcoming Events – For information.

SUPERINTENDENT PRE-ACTION REPORTS

Employee Disclosure – Michael Byrd presented a disclosure for Jason and Stacy Cates and Quinn Cates for the 2025-2026 school year.

Resolution to Sell District Property - Transportation – Michael Byrd presented a resolution to sell four district buses that are no longer needed and authorized the removal of these vehicles from district inventory.

ACTION

The board voted to approve the employee disclosure for Jason and Stacy Cates, athletic trainer and teacher, and Quinn Cates for the 2025-2026 school year.
Motion by Joe Trusty, second by Sally Beebe; passed 7-0.

The board voted to approve the resolution authorizing the sale of four district buses that are no longer useful to the district and removal of these buses from district inventory.
Motion by James Hertzog, second by Kevin Tipton; passed 7-0.

The board voted to approve personnel as presented.
Motion by Joe Trusty, second by James Hertzog; passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.



President



Secretary Vice President



CABOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

CABOT SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS 01/13/2026

CERTIFIED RETIREMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Amanda Curtright	Middle School North	Teacher	06/30/2026
Tami Reeves	Magness Creek	Speech/Language Pathologist	06/30/2026

CERTIFIED RESIGNATIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Justin Bigham	Freshman Academy/ High School	PE/Health/High School Asst Football Coach	01/13/2026
Lindsey Peerson	High School	Math Teacher	05/29/2026
William Scott Reed	High School	Head Football Coach	01/07/2026

CERTIFIED NEW HIRES

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Rebecca Warren	Westside	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 01/13/2026

CLASSIFIED RETIREMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Elizabeth Hamrick	Westside	Custodian	12/31/2025

CLASSIFIED RESIGNATIONS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION	DATE
Justin Bigam	Transportation	Bus Driver	1/13/2026
Stacy Fox	Magness Creek	Custodian	12/31/2025
Lisa Hughes	Jr. High North	Custodian	1/20/2026
Sara Leuhsler	Southside / Transportation	Registrar / Bus Driver	1/5/2026

CLASSIFIED TRANSFERS/ REASSIGNMENTS

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Alyssa Walters	Stagecoach	Food Service

CLASSIFIED NEW HIRES

NAME	LOCATION	POSITION
Lisa Boyer	Pre-K South	Food Service

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