

**CHOCTAW COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING – 4:00 P.M.
CHOCTAW COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025**

MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Board President Tommy Campbell and a quorum was established with (5) members present:

Mr. Tommy Campbell
Mr. Isaac Johnson
Mrs. Marilyn Richard
Mr. Randy Gibson
Mrs. Beverly Skinner

Superintendent James and Board Attorney Alex Braswell were also present for the meeting.

INVOCATION:

Chris Holcombe

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the agenda for Tuesday, August 12, 2025, Board meeting.

Board President Campbell – I would like to add back to the agenda Board comments.

Superintendent James – Jayne Williams with AASB said to get Board concerns off the agenda. In our whole Board training, she said do not put Board concerns on your agenda.

Board President Campbell – Board members have the right as an elected official to discuss things and ask questions. I would like the opportunity to have open discussions. I cover three other school Boards, and on every agenda is Board comments/concerns.

Board member Johnson – Are you saying Board comments or Board concerns. Every conference I have went to in the past few years suggest do not add Board concerns to your agenda, and do not have parent concern. Sometimes this may create an issue. This goes back to the Superintendent and Board President making the agenda.

Board President Campbell – I suggest that every three months we have an open meeting

Board member Johnson – No, twice a year

Board Attorney Braswell – This is why other districts have on their agenda new business, old business. That is normally areas for discussions.

Board President Campbell – I wanted this on the agenda so we can ask questions. We are professional enough to know what we can discuss in public.

Superintendent James – to go off topic.

Board Attorney Braswell – Under a new business tab, these would all be under those tabs. Ex. “I need to know about this.” A report will be sent next week/month. Then you are creating an agenda for the next meeting. This tab can be for the maintenance of the schools, etc. So we can be better informed.

Board member Gibson – Also, outstanding things happen, we would like to congratulate them.

Superintendent James – So you are going to bring them to the Board

Board member Gibson – A lot of good stuff going on here, but people only see the bad

Board president Campbell – People who have gone above and beyond, we would like to recognize them. It is done in other districts

Board member Skinner – It was done here too.

Board President Campbell – That was my intention. In the past, I think Ms. Banks started recognizing individuals, such as student achievements etc. Across the Board. This exposes more knowledge, and more confidence in our system. We can obtain this information through our principals. I do not want to drag this out. Do you want to add back?

Board member Gibson – The more information we can get to the public, the better our system will look. It is little achievements, but they do not know about it.

Superintendent James – We will come back to it.

Board member Skinner – I am all for it, as long as it is controlled.

Board President Campbell – People may not know what is coming down the line. We need a little more open input at these meetings.

Motion- Johnson

Seconded- Skinner

Motion- Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Superintendent James recommended the approval of the July 22, 2025, Board meeting minutes.

Motion- Gibson

Seconded- Richard

Motion- Carried

FINANCIAL STATEMENT & CASH REPORT/BANK RECONCILIATIONS

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the financial statement & cash report/bank reconciliations as included in your Board packet, for the month of June 2025, with all accounts being reconciled.

Motion- Richard

Seconded- Johnson

Motion-Carried

ACCESS Distant Learning Virtual Platform Grades 9-12

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve request for ACCESS Distant Learning to be used as our virtual program for ninth through twelfth grade students who request online virtual classes at home.

Motion – Gibson

Seconded – Skinner

Motion – Carried

APPROVAL OF SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACTS

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the following special education contracts. The funding source is special education.

- Shayna Wheeler to provide clinical review/supervision and quarterly speech and language evaluations for 3-21 year olds, 5-10 hours per month, at a rate of \$85.00 per hour, beginning August 13, 2025, and ending May 22, 2026.
- Mallary Boykin-Hicks to provide clinical review/supervision and quarterly speech and language evaluations for 3-21 year olds, 5-10 hours per month, at a rate of \$85.00 per hour, beginning August 13, 2025, and ending May 22, 2026.

Motion – Richard

Seconded – Johnson

Motion-Carried

Board member Skinner asked if these two would be working with Emily Knowles. Superintendent James answered yes.

OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIPS

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the following out-of-state field trips:

- Southern Choctaw High School to travel to Southern Mississippi University in Hattiesburg, MS, on September 3, 2025, and Choctaw County High School on September 10, 2025. The purpose of the trip is to continuously encourage our students to attend college, trade school, or choose career paths that would greatly benefit their future. **(Please note that the field trip documents were not submitted observing the 30 days in advance Board approval)**
- Choctaw County High School to travel to Southeast Lauderdale High School on August 28, 2025, and to Meridian High School on September 23, 2025. The purpose of the trip is to compete in a competitive volleyball game. **(Please note that this field trip as well was not submitted observing the 30 days in advance Board approval.)**
- Choctaw County High School and Southern Choctaw High School to travel to Alcorn State University in Lorman, MS, on October 4, 2025. The purpose of the trip is to attend their Fall High School and Transfer Day.

Motion – Skinner

Seconded – Richard

Motion – Carried

Board member Johnson – with school just starting, would that be in consideration of the late submittal of the field trip documents?

Superintendent James – No, most of them have these schedules right after school gets out.

CCHS AND SCHS ATHLETIC HANDBOOK – (FIRST READ)

Superintendent James recommended the first read of both of these athletic handbooks.

Board member Johnson – These two should be as one, or the same. They should mimic one another.

Board Attorney Braswell – They should mirror each other, or you could have one handbook for both schools.

APPROVAL OF THE SCHS PERFORMING ARTS CONTRACT

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the Southern Choctaw High School performing arts contract that was included in your Board packet.

Motion – Skinner

Seconded – Gibson

Motion – Carried

PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the resignation of the following:

- Linda Alford – CCHS, teacher, retroactive to July 25, 2025
- Cynthia Abston – CCTD, bus driver, retroactive to July 31, 2025
- Samantha Sims – Assistant volleyball coach, retroactive to July 22, 2025

Motion – Richard

Seconded – Johnson

Motion – Carried

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve Laurel Brunner, teacher at Choctaw County Elementary School, for family medical leave, effective August 11, 2025.

Motion – Johnson

Seconded – Gibson

Motion – Carried

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the following individuals to be employed with the 21st Century program for FY 25-26, contingent upon meeting all requirements for employment:

Jody Smith – SCES, Site Coordinator, retroactive to August 1, 2025
Quita Traylor – CCES, Site Coordinator, retroactive to August 1, 2025
Gloria Horne – CCES, Substitute Site Coordinator
Chetrenda Ruffin – CCES, Substitute Site Coordinator

Motion – Richard

Seconded – Johnson

Motion – Carried

Superintendent James recommended the Board approve the following individuals be employed with Choctaw County Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school term, contingent upon meeting all requirements for employment:

Angela Moffett – CCTD, Bus Driver, effective August 13, 2025
Dana Boman – CCTD, Bus Fueler
Tenitcha Williams – CCHS, Mid-Day Bus Driver
Jacob Mars – CCHS, English Language Arts Teacher, effective August 18, 2025
Matthew Etheredge – CCHS, Physical Education Teacher, effective August 18, 2025
Tyneisha Reeds – CCHS, Head Girls' Basketball Coach
Jamal Smith – CCHS, Head Boys' Basketball Coach
Dana Boman – SCHS, Assistant Volleyball Coach
Quindarius Pringle – CCHS, Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach
Matthew Etheredge – CCHS, Assistant Football Coach and Head Baseball Coach
Dianne Chaney – Substitute
Dianne Lewis – Substitute
Tabitha Logan – Substitute

Motion – Johnson

Seconded – Richard

Motion - Carried

NEXT MEETING

Superintendent James recommended the next Board Meeting be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at the Choctaw County Board of Education.

Motion – Johnson

Seconded – Richard

Motion – Carried

ADJOURN

Board President Tommy Campbell adjourned the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board members, Superintendent, and Board Attorney Alex Braswell will convene into Executive Session concerning legal matters.

Superintendent of Education

President, Choctaw County Board of Education