

MCMINN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Session Meeting
February 12, 2026

The McMinn County Board of Education met in Regular Session on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the McMinn County Center for Educational Excellence.

Chairman Pierce called the meeting to order, and Tony Campbell led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Pierce welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for a roll call. Attendance was as follows:

Dustin Prichard- present
Bill Irvin- present
Kevin Goins- present (late arrival)
Taylor Cook- present
Tony Allman- present
Mike Cochran- present
Tony Campbell- present
Donna Casteel- present
Joe Malone- present
Jonathan Pierce- present

There were no requests to address the board. Chairman Pierce asked for a motion to accept the agenda. Mike Cochran made the motion, Taylor Cook seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

AGENDA

1. GUESTS

a. Guests

MCS Educator Excellence Award Overall Winners
Dr. Jackie Newman's TWU Education Class

b. Public Comment

2. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes- Regular Session 1-15-26 & Called Mtg 2-3-26
- b. Budget Amendments
- c. Salary Supplements

- d. Fundraiser Requests
- e. Literacy Implementation Support Grant
- f. CTE Amazon Donations

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. OpenGate Systems Proposal
- b. RCES Restroom Remodel Proposal
- c. Englewood Church of Christ Property
- d. CHS & MCHS Storage Buildings Bid

4. PERSONNEL

- a. Personnel Actions
- b. Tenure Recommendation

5. COMMUNICATION

6. REPORTS

- a. Review Policy Section 5.1-5.4

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

8. PRAISES AND COMPLIMENTS

9. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- a. Next Regular Session Board Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026

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1. GUESTS

a. Guests

MCS Educator Excellence Award Overall Winners were in attendance and recognized.
Dr. Jackie Newman's TWU Education Class students were in attendance and recognized.

Taylor Cook made the motion to approve the Regular Consent Agenda, Tony Campbell seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. REGULAR CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes- Regular Session 1-15-26 & Called Mtg 2-3-26

b. Budget Amendments

GENERAL PURPOSE #141

To enter the budget for TN Tutoring Grant for FY 25-26.

GENERAL PURPOSE #141, Innovated School Models (ISM) #955

To amend the Innovative School Models (ISM) Grant for FY 25-26.

GENERAL PURPOSE #141

To move funds from unassigned fund balance and budget for one school that achieved a designation of "A" for FY 25-26. Board approved on 1/15/2026.

GENERAL PURPOSE #141

To budget a portion of the Special Education TN Care Funds from reserves to purchase a vehicle due to 2 vans being totaled and 3 being auctioned off on GovDeals in FY 25-26.

GENERAL PURPOSE #141

To move funds from unassigned fund balance and purchase Samsung Interactive Displays/Classroom Touch Panels for FY 25-26.

c. Salary Supplements

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	DATE	SUPP AMOUNT
Cobble, Kathy	Bus Driver	EK Baker	12/18/25	\$90.00
Carter, Charles	Mechanic	McMinn	12/16/25	\$150.00
Carter, Charles	Mechanic	McMinn	1/6/26	\$150.00
Carter, Charles	Mechanic	McMinn	1/13/26	\$150.00
Fuller, Robin	Bus Driver	Niota	12/16/25	\$90.00
Fuller, Robin	Bus Driver	Niota	12/18/25	\$60.00
Givens, Kathie	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/6 - 1/9	\$400.00
Givens, Kathie	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/12-1/16	\$0.00
Givens, Kathie	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/20/26	\$0.00
Gordon, Denia	Bus Driver	EK Baker	12/18/25	\$90.00
Kmecik, David	Bus Driver	EK Baker	12/18/25	\$90.00
Mashburn, Lesa	Custodian	McMinn	12/12, 12/13	\$555.00
Mason, Sam	Mechanic	McMinn	1/17/26	\$150.00
Mason, Sam	Mechanic	McMinn	1/19/26	\$175.00
Mechigian, Greg	Bus Driver	EK Baker	12/12/25	\$90.00

Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	McMinn	1/15/26	\$150.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	12/16-12/18	\$200.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/7 - 1/9	\$0.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/12-1/15	\$0.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	12/16,12/18	\$140.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/6,1/8	\$0.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/12-1/13,1/15	\$0.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/9,1/12	\$50.00
Murray, Mary	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/16(1/2day)	\$0.00
Pursell, Catherine	Bus Driver	Special ED	12/17/25	\$20.00
Pursell, Catherine	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/7-1/9	\$160.00
Pursell, Catherine	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/12-1/16	\$0.00
Pursell, Catherine	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/20-1/23	\$80.00
Pursell, Catherine	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/16(half)	\$20.00
Pursell, Catherine	Bus Driver	Special ED	1/23(half)	\$0.00
Williams, Frankie	Bus Driver	Central	12/19/25	\$150.00
Williams, Frankie	Bus Driver	Central	12/29/25	\$150.00

d. Fundraiser Requests

SCHOOL	DEPARTMENT	FUNDRAISER	MONIES RAISED ALLOCATION
Niota	BETA Club	Popcorn	To serve the community in creative ways such as cards & gifts and to buy Beta Club T-shirts.
McMinn High	11 th Grade	Online Auction	Incentive field trip to students that achieve a 21+ or show improvement on their ACT score.
McMinn High	Girls Flag Football	Team Clothing & Fan Gear Food Sales-Nothing Bundt Cakes, candy grams, popcorn Tidal Wave wash vouchers	Funds will be used for needed team gear, bus, fees, game day expenses.

e. Literacy Materials Implementation Support Grant

f. CTE Amazon Donations

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. OpenGate Systems Proposal

Justin Wallace, Safety Supervisor, requested to purchase three additional OpenGate Weapons Detection Systems from A3 Communications for a total of \$71,159.95. Two would go to McMinn County High School, and one would go to Central High School. Bill Irvin made the motion to approve the OpenGate Purchase, Taylor Cook seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Dustin Prichard- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Taylor Cook- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Mike Cochran- YES

Tony Campbell- YES

Donna Casteel- YES

Joe Malone- YES

Jonathan Pierce- YES

Motion passed.

b. RCES Restroom Remodel Proposal

Heath Frazier explained the proposal to remodel restrooms at Rogers Creek Elementary. The contract would be through Tim Payne Painting and local contractors would be used, which will save money. The price on the proposal from Tim Payne Painting is \$52,650.00. Tony Allman made the motion to approve the proposal, Donna Casteel seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Dustin Prichard- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Taylor Cook- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Mike Cochran- YES

Tony Campbell- YES

Donna Casteel- YES
Joe Malone- YES
Jonathan Pierce- YES

Motion passed.

c. Englewood Church of Christ Property

The board was presented a contract to purchase the Englewood Church of Christ property for \$125,000. The church property is located directly across from Englewood Elementary School, and the school currently uses the church parking lot every day.

Mike Cochran made the motion to approve the purchase of the Englewood Church of Christ Property for \$125,000 and to allow them to still use the church until they can work something out that is better for themselves, Donna Casteel seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Dustin Prichard- YES
Bill Irvin- YES
Kevin Goins- YES
Taylor Cook- YES
Tony Allman- YES
Mike Cochran- YES
Tony Campbell- YES
Donna Casteel- YES
Joe Malone- YES
Jonathan Pierce- YES

Motion passed.

d. CHS & MCHS Storage Buildings Bid

The bid for the Central High School and McMinn County High School storage buildings opened on the afternoon of February 12, 2026, at 2:00pm. The storage buildings will be funded through the ISM grant. The low bidder for the project was TennesSEED Erosion Control.

Central High School Storage: \$122,000
McMinn County High School Storage: \$120,000
Total: \$242,000

Kevin Goins made the motion to approve the bid, Taylor Cook seconded. Chairman Pierce called for a roll call vote:

Dustin Prichard- YES

Bill Irvin- YES

Kevin Goins- YES

Taylor Cook- YES

Tony Allman- YES

Mike Cochran- YES

Tony Campbell- YES

Donna Casteel- YES

Joe Malone- YES

Jonathan Pierce- YES

Motion passed.

4. PERSONNEL

a. Personnel Actions- for information only

Last Name	First Name	Action	Title	Effective Date	School
Alexander	Christopher	Hire	AIM School Teacher	2/2/2026	AIM School
Gossett	Madison	Hire	Special Ed Aide	1/20/2026	EK Baker Elementary School
Hunt	Joshua	Hire	10 Mos Custodian	2/2/2026	McMinn County High School
Key	Shelby	Hire/Resign	Special Ed Aide	1/29/2026	EK Baker Elementary School
Leonard	Krystal	Hire	Special Ed Aide	1/22/2026	EK Baker Elementary School
Martin	Tamra	Retire	Cook	1/9/2026	McMinn County High School
Perez	Yolanda	Hire	Cook	1/12/2026	McMinn County High School
			Culinary Arts		McMinn County Career & Technical Center
Rush	H. Clyde	Hire	Teacher	1/20/2026	
Smith	Cynthia	Hire	Part Time Cook	1/22/2026	Riceville Elementary School

b. Tenure Recommendation

Director Knight recommended the following list of teachers that have met the qualifications for Tenure for the 2024-2025 school year. Dustin Prichard made the motion for tenure to be granted to the recommended list of teachers, Joe Malone seconded. All were in favor by unanimous voice vote.

School	Last Name	First Name	Position/Title
Niota Elementary School	Arnett	Bridget	SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER
Calhoun Elementary School	Barlok	Kaitlynn	Grade 2 Teacher
McMinn County Career & Technical Center	Cardin	Jason	Drafting Teacher
Mountain View Elementary School	Carter	Jordan	Grade 4 Sci/SS Teacher
McMinn County High School	Cox	Kelly	9-12 Science Teacher
Riceville Elementary School	Crane Brooks	Andrea	Grade 3 Teacher
Mountain View Elementary School	Curtis	Nicki	Librarian
Central High School	Gallardo	Haley	ESL TEACHER
Riceville Elementary School	Gambill	Rachel	Grade 8 ELA Teacher
McMinn County High School	Gaskins	Linda	9-12 ELA Teacher
EK Baker Elementary School	Gossett	Briana	Grade 3 ELA Teacher
Central High School	Harrill	Cristal	9-12 ELA Teacher
McMinn County High School	Jacob	Jordan	9-12 Math Teacher
Riceville Elementary School	Kerns	Lainey	Pre-K Special Education Teacher
Mountain View Elementary School	Leamon	Emerald	Grade 3 ELA Teacher
Riceville Elementary School	Lee	Kayla	School Counselor
Calhoun Elementary School	Million	Chelsie	Pre-K Teacher
Central High School	Moates	C. Austin	9-12 Math Teacher
AIM School	Moore	Joshua	A.I.M. School Principal
McMinn County High School	Moseley	Edward	9-12 SS Teacher
EK Baker Elementary School	Stewart	Ezra	P.E. TEACHER
EK Baker Elementary School	Swanson	Ashlee	Roving Assistant Principal
Niota Elementary School	Tilley	Audreanna	Grade 5 ELA Teacher
McMinn County High School	Varlack	Terri	9-12 ENGLISH TEACHER
Mountain View Elementary School	Walker	Reginald	Grade 7-8 Science Teacher
Mountain View Elementary School	Watt	Andrea	Grade 6 ELA Teacher

5. COMMUNICATION

6. REPORTS

a. Review Policy Section 5.1-5.4

The Policy Committee met prior to the Regular Session Meeting to review policy 6.319- Alternative Education.

6.319- Alternative Education was recommended on first and final reading by the Policy Committee. All were in favor by unanimous voice vote.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Knight explained that there was a late Out of State and Overnight Trip submitted that needed approval from the board. The trip is for the DECA International Conference in Atlanta to be held in April. If the students were to qualify for this conference, the registrations would need to be booked before the March school board meeting.

Tony Campbell made the motion to approve the trip, Bill Irvin seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

8. PRAISES AND COMPLIMENTS

Tony Campbell congratulated the Englewood girls and Riceville boys basketball teams for both finishing top 8 in the state. Dustin Prichard thanked MCS staff members for giving board members information to make well informed decisions. Mike Cochran thanked everyone for the gifts and cards for school board appreciation week. Joe Malone thanked Mandy Falls for the lunch at Rogers Creek. Bill Irvin thanked the MCS staff for doing a great job.

9. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

a. Next Regular Session Board Meeting: Thursday, March 12, 2026

Dustin Prichard made the motion to adjourn, Mike Cochran seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Chairman's Signature

Director of Schools Signature