



Board of Education

October 12, 2026 Meeting Notes

Superintendent's Announcements and Comments



Superintendent Dr. Kelly Batten highlighted the district's continued commitment to moving **One Chatham: Forward Together**, recognizing the remarkable 26,726 service hours contributed through the PTA Thrift Shop. He also reinforced the district's 2026–2027 academic priorities, including increasing student proficiency, achieving a 95% four-year graduation rate, and sustaining or improving school performance and academic growth. Additionally, Dr. Batten reviewed the district's inclement weather procedures, emphasizing student and staff safety, coordination with emergency officials, and timely communication with families through multiple channels.

Consent Agenda



MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

The BOE unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the September 14, 2026 board meeting, as presented.



PROPOSED ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2027–2028

CCS presented the 2027–2028 draft academic calendars for traditional schools and Chatham Early College, incorporating feedback from staff, families, and community stakeholders. The proposed calendars meet applicable state requirements and support the district's practice of providing two years of calendars for advance planning.



2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT #6

The Chatham County Board of Education approved 2025–2026 Budget Amendment 6, maintaining the district's total amended budget of approximately \$151.7 million. The amendment reconciles the Capital Outlay Fund by reallocating \$420,000 from capital improvement projects to school bus purchases, without increasing the fund's overall \$12.45 million budget. All other district funds remain unchanged. The amendment ensures accurate financial reporting and compliance with North Carolina's balanced budget requirements.

Excellence in Education



CCS proudly recognized Jennifer Stickney, Extended Content Teacher at Chatham Middle School, as the district's **Fall 2026 Exceptional Children Educator of Excellence** for her outstanding dedication to students with significant disabilities. Throughout her career, Jennifer has demonstrated exceptional leadership, compassion, and high expectations, helping students make meaningful progress while serving as a trusted mentor and resource for fellow educators, administrators, and families. Her commitment to student success extends beyond the classroom through districtwide leadership and advocacy, strengthening Exceptional Children services across CCS. As the district's honoree, Jennifer will represent Chatham County Schools at the statewide Exceptional Children Conference in Greensboro, where outstanding educators from across North Carolina will be celebrated.

The Power of One



CCS proudly recognized Mrs. Stacie Sullivan-Cox of Virginia Cross Elementary School as the September Power of One Award recipient for her outstanding dedication to supporting students and fellow educators. Through her instructional coaching, thoughtful feedback, and innovative strategies, Mrs. Sullivan-Cox helps teachers strengthen their practices while providing students with the encouragement and support they need to grow as readers, writers, and learners. Her passion for education, commitment to student success, and positive influence throughout Virginia Cross Elementary exemplify the Power of One and the lasting difference one educator can make in a school community.

Information Items



STUDENT ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Chatham County Schools presented an update on 2026–2027 student enrollment trends, reporting a current enrollment of 8,459 students, a net decrease of 159 students from the previous school year. The presentation highlighted the addition of 590 kindergarten students and 496 students new to Chatham County Schools, while examining enrollment changes, student transfers, and withdrawal patterns across the district. Data also showed that students are entering and leaving CCS for a variety of educational settings, including other public school districts, charter schools, private schools, and homeschooling. District leaders emphasized the importance of monitoring these trends as they impact enrollment projections, school planning, and funding. The district will finalize its Average Daily Membership (ADM) calculations for the November Board meeting and continue reviewing charter school enrollment trends.

FINANCIAL UPDATES



EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS EXPENSE PROJECTION

Chatham County Schools presented a 2026–2027 financial update outlining employee compensation increases, including average step increases of 8% for teachers, instructional support personnel, and assistant principals, a 3% increase for other employee groups, and October bonuses ranging from \$500 to \$1,750 for eligible staff. These adjustments will require approximately \$2.75 million in locally funded salary increases and an additional \$280,000 in unbudgeted bonus expenses, alongside rising retirement and health insurance costs. To address these financial pressures, CCS will continue reducing nonessential spending, monitoring charter school enrollment, and exploring alternative funding sources while prioritizing student programs and services.



MAINTENANCE AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSE PROJECTION

Chatham County Schools presented a 2026–2027 Maintenance and Transportation Expense Projection, identifying potential year-end budget shortfalls of \$895,000 for Maintenance and \$61,000 for Transportation based on current spending trends. Maintenance expenditures are currently running approximately 20% above budget, while Transportation faces rising operating costs, including a 118% increase in diesel fuel prices compared to October 2025. District leaders emphasized the need to reduce expenditures or identify additional funding to address these projected shortfalls while maintaining essential facility operations, regulatory compliance, and student transportation services.

Action Items



PROPOSED 2028-2034 CIP PROJECTS

Chatham County Schools presented its proposed 2028–2034 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), outlining anticipated facility, equipment, and infrastructure needs over the next seven years. The plan identifies major capital projects generally exceeding \$100,000 and will be submitted to the Chatham County Manager's Office for consideration as part of the county's long-term capital planning process. **The BOE unanimously approved the proposed 2028-2034 CIP projects as presented.**



2026 NCSBA VOTING DELEGATES FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Chatham County Board of Education considered the appointment of voting delegates for the 2026 North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) Annual Conference in November. Under NCSBA bylaws, member boards may appoint up to four voting delegates to participate in the annual Delegate Assembly, helping shape the association's future direction. **The BOE unanimously approved the NCSBA voting delegates for the Chatham County Board of Education.**

Next Board Meeting

Special Called Session
Chatham County Board of Education
Thursday, October 29, 2026
4:00 PM

Regular Session of the
Chatham County Board of Education
Monday, November 16, 2026
5:30 PM

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THIS MEETING HERE.**

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