



Blount County Government

359 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804-5906

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Education Committee

Commissioner Mike Akard
Commissioner Robbie Bennett
Commissioner Brad Bowers
Commissioner Misty Davis
Commissioner John Giles
Commissioner Jessica Hannah
Commissioner Earl McMahan
Commissioner Steve Mikels
Commissioner Dawn Reagan

Ex Officio School Members: John Lowe and Randi Howard

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

12:30 PM

William Blount High School
219 County Farm Rd, Maryville 37801

ROLL CALL

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Blount County Education Committee met at William Blount High School in Maryville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. Blount County Education Committee Chair Dawn Reagan called the meeting to order. There were 9 members present, with the late arrival of Jessica Hannah, and 2 absent. The Chair declared that a quorum did exist. In addition to the Education Committee members, others present were: BCS Chief of Staff and Operations Dr. Courtney Whitehead; WBHS Principal Derrick Crabtree; WBHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) Principal Lisa Collins; BCS Chief Finance Officer Brittany Spence; Citizen Sharon Hannum; and The Daily Times Reporter Marcus Fitzsimmons. The following proceedings were held, to wit:

- Present** 9 - Commissioner Mike Akard, Commissioner Robbie Bennett, Commissioner Misty Davis, Commissioner John Giles, Commissioner Jessica Hannah, Commissioner Earl McMahan, Commissioner Dawn Reagan, School Representative John Lowe, and School Representative Randi Howard
- Absent** 2 - Commissioner Brad Bowers, and Commissioner Steve Mikels

A. SETTING OF AGENDA.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner Giles, that the agenda be set. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none were opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

1. [Education Committee Meeting Minutes for November 4, 2025.](#)

Attachments: [2102_M_Education_Committee_25-11-04_Meeting_Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Bennett, seconded by Commissioner McMahan, that the minutes be approved. A voice vote was taken with all voting aye, and none were opposed. The Chair declared the motion to have passed.

C. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS.

No one spoke.

D. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**E. NEW BUSINESS.****1. Report from Principal.**

The Chair recognized WBHS Principal Derrick Crabtree and WBHS CTE Principal Lisa Collins. Mr. Crabtree reported that the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) facilities are now fully operational, with students and programs actively utilizing the space following a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Mr. Crabtree invited commissioners to participate in a walkthrough of the facility during the meeting. He also announced an extended tour scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. as part of a Career and Technical (CT) Showcase. During the event, students will demonstrate various programs, including welding and ROTC, and community and business partners will be present. Invitations to the showcase will be provided.

There was no action taken.

2. School District Reports.

The district update was presented by Ms. Brittany Spence in the absence of Mr. Ridge, who was attending training. Ms. Spence expressed appreciation for the renovated facility and noted its positive impact on both students and the community. She announced that the Board of Education will have a called meeting on March 24, 2026. This date coincides with the County Commission meeting that was rescheduled due to spring break. District leadership will attend the Budget Committee and Commission Workshop meetings but will not be able to attend the Commission meeting due to this conflict. Ms. Spence introduced two Fund 177 budget items for consideration by the County Commission. The first item involves the replacement of food service equipment across multiple schools. The request includes 13 bid items representing five pieces of equipment, such as dishwashers with hose reels. Several of the existing units are up to 29 years old and are beyond repair due to a lack of available parts. The second Fund 177 item involves the purchase of 21 network routers to support the district's transition from ENA services, which expire July 30, 2026, to a county-managed network service aligned with the Sheriff's Office and E-911 operations. This transition will consolidate information technology services, reduce costs, and enhance cybersecurity through the use of CrowdStrike. The routers must be purchased by June 30, 2026, to avoid potential disruption to internet services. Ms. Spence stated that additional documentation and attachments related to these items will be emailed to commissioners following the Board of Education meeting.

Dr. Whitehead mentioned an upcoming "Teacher Depot" supply-closet initiative intended to provide classroom resources for educators.

There was no action taken.

3. Blount County School Board.

The Chair clarified that the School Board would meet in its regular session in April. Their called meeting scheduled for March 24, 2026, is specifically for the purpose of addressing budget items.

There was no action taken.

4. Next Meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. at Friendsville Elementary School.

The Chair announced that the next Education Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. at Friendsville Elementary School. Vice Chair Earl McMahan will preside over the meeting in the Chair's absence due to her having a work conflict.

There was no action taken.

F. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.

There was none.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned. The Education Committee adjourned on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 12:47 p.m.

WALKABOUT

Committee members participated in a tour of the WBHS CTE building.