

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Special Called Meeting
November 18, 2025

The Vance County Board of Education met in a special called session on November 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Administrative Service Center Superintendent’s Conference Room. Board members present were Mrs. Dorothy W. Gooche, Chair, Mrs. Ayana F. Lewis, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Linda S. Cobb, Mrs. Gloria J. White, Dr. Omega T. Perry, Mr. Randy M. Oxendine, Mrs. Ruth M. Hartness and Mr. Jerry Stainback, School Board Attorney. Senior staff present were Dr. Cindy Bennett, Superintendent, Ms. Chelsa Jennings, Chief Human Resources Officer, Mr. Kevin Perdue, Chief Operations, Mr. Rey Horner, Executive Director for Student Services, Mr. John Suther, Chief Finance Officer, and Dr. Destinye Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction.

Mrs. Gooche called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and turned over to Dr. Bennett. Dr. Bennett shared that the goal of the meeting is to discuss the potential funding issues for the district.

DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGET/BALANCE	YEAR-TO-DATE TRANSACTIONS	DIFFERENCE	OVER/UNDER
STATE	\$52,531,376.00	\$17,967,859.60	\$53,903,57.80	(\$1,372,202.80)
LOCAL	\$10,455,999.00	\$3,839,977.40	\$11,519,932.20	(\$1,063,933.20)
FEDERAL	\$7,819,297.00	\$2,023,137.47	\$6,069,412.41	\$1,749,884.59

The district this fiscal year is \$8 million less in funding and an additional \$5 million decrease is coming. Possible solutions were shared with the board regarding facilities and usages. Enrollment has decreased over several years and Charter Schools are expanding in the surrounding area with \$3 million going to opportunity scholarships. The district is using 65% capacity at each school currently and there are transportation variables to consider if a school is closed. A presentation was shared on four schools on how to save funds by eliminating duplicate positions and transportation. If a school has to close the students can be transported to a neighboring school and not have any issues or any additional expenses.

The current principal at Dabney has resigned and Mrs. Fields will transition to Dabney from New Hope. The district is not hiring at all unless it is mission critical. The Board needs to decide in January for potential furloughs and/or a reduction in force. A decision in January will allow the district to offer the correct number of contracts for staff in the 2026-2027 school year and the decision will be posted on the district website for public comment.

Mr. Oxendine motion for the Board to call for a Special Called Meeting on January 12, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. to continue the discussion and decision. Mrs. Lewis second the motion and a unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m. with a motion from Mr. Oxendine and second from Mrs. Lewis and a unanimous vote.