



Steve Barnette  
Superintendent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Jeff Fuller Elected Chair of Paulding BOE, Adam Clayton Vice Chair, for 2026

In a unanimous vote at its regular meeting Jan. 13, 2026, the Paulding County Board of Education elected Jeff Fuller as chair, and Adam Clayton as vice chair, for 2026.

Mr. Fuller is the at-large representative and is serving his 10<sup>th</sup> year on the school board after first being elected in 2016. He will be serving his fourth term as chair after previously serving as chair from 2019-2021. He has also served as vice chair for two terms. He is a long-time Paulding County resident, businessman, and parent of Paulding County students. During his first term as chair, the school district first applied for Exemplary Board status with the Georgia School Boards Association and has attained that honor every year since. He also helped lead the superintendent search that resulted in the hiring of Steve Barnette.



**Jeff Fuller** - Chair

Mr. Clayton is a Paulding County native who graduated from Hiram High School and is also a PCSD parent. He represents District 3 and is serving his sixth year on the school board after first being elected in 2020. This will be his first term as vice chair.

During their tenure, the Board of Education implemented a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan focused on student success, community engagement, workforce excellence, operational effectiveness, and innovation, while leading the district to its highest graduation rate in history at 91.6 percent—well above the state average. The Board has addressed rapid growth and aging facilities through major renovations, construction of two new schools, and the addition of more than 150 classrooms, while also strengthening student and staff safety through expanded security personnel, enhanced building security, and increased attention to student mental health. Additionally, voters renewed the five-year E-SPLOST one-cent sales tax for a sixth consecutive time with 76 percent approval, and the Board earned its sixth consecutive Exemplary Board designation from the Georgia School Boards Association in 2025.



**Adam Clayton** –  
Vice Chair

As board chair, Mr. Fuller will lead a school board that governs the 11<sup>th</sup> largest school district in Georgia with 34 schools and approximately 32,000 students. The diverse district employs more than 4,000 staff and has an annual budget of approximately \$436 million.

“I am very proud of the team we have built, from our school board to our district leadership, to our amazing teachers and support staff” said Mr. Fuller. “Every decision we make is to ensure the best possible future for our students. We have accomplished a lot in the past few years, but there is more to be done. I am fortunate to have committed colleagues on our school board who share our vision, and I look forward to the challenges and successes ahead.”