

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting  
January 12, 2026

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on January 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Service Center Boardroom. Board members present were Mrs. Ayana F. Lewis, Chair, Mrs. Linda S. Cobb, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Dorothy W. Gooche, 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, Mrs. Aarika Sandlin, Chief Officer of Communication and Innovative Support, Ms. Chelsa Jennings, Chief Human Resources Officer, Mr. Rey Horner, Executive Director for Student Services, Mr. John Suther, Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson, Executive Director of Federal Programs & Elementary Education, Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation, Mr. Kevin Perdue, Chief Operations, Dr. Stephanie Ayscue, Executive Director of Secondary Education and Mrs. Marsha Abbott, Chief Technology Officer.

Mrs. Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was observed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the December 15, 2025 minutes was motioned by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Approval of the meeting agenda and the following additions were motioned by Mrs. Cobb, and seconded by Mrs. Gooche, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the agenda with additions.

- Personnel Addendum
- Transfers/Releases Revised

**Recognitions/Announcements**

**School Board Appreciation Month**

January as National School Board Appreciation Month. Mr. Horner expressed appreciation to the Board members for their dedication and service to the students and staff of Vance County Schools. Principals presented the Board with gratitude gifts.

**2024-2025 Outstanding Academic Performance Educators**

Mrs. Jennings and Mr. Suther shared that the following teachers were recognized for academic performance by providing high quality education to students. The PRC 048 Teacher Performance Bonuses are for fourth & fifth grade reading and fourth to eighth grade math. PRC 048 is also used for principal, AP/IB and CTE bonuses. Using the correct purpose code is critical for audit and reporting purposes. The funds are restricted for the teachers designated in the top 25% and shall not be used for any other purpose. Bonuses ranged from \$2,500 - \$7,000.

**READING:**

**Third Grade**

Hadassah Dixon  
Hailey Ford  
Alfreda Murphy

**Fourth Grade**

Nastassia Gordon  
Kiangi Hill  
Ty-Mhaj Hart

**Fifth Grade**

Stephanie Brown  
Natassia Gordon  
Chrystal Primiano

**MATH:**

**Fourth Grade**

Fe McCoy  
Justin Wrenn  
Janesha Marrow  
Raegan Ross

**Fifth Grade**

Raegan Ross  
Orlinda Terry  
Francie McKenzie  
Ricardo White

**Sixth Grade**

Kenneisha Mitchell  
Ruth Onger  
Sudian Hylton

**Seventh Grade**

Garnet Brooks  
Charlie Carroll  
Doron Anderson

**Eighth Grade**

Nedralee Bartley  
Ruth Onger

**CTE:**

Jerry Best, Francis Brown, Lloyd Watkins, Alison Yarborough

## National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Award

Dr. Tim Hall received the 2025-2026 Religious Literacy Award sponsored by the Kaur Foundation. As the recipient of this award, Dr. Hall receive a sum of \$1,500, a commemorative award and was formally recognized at the NCSS Opening Ceremony on December 5, 2025, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

Comments from the Public - None

## Superintendent's Report

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report was shared for information only. Staff are working on year-end closing to issue W-2s and 1099s in January. Teacher bonuses for the 2024-2025 school year will be paid this month to those who qualify.

## 2026 Board of Education Standing Committees

Dr. Bennett shared the Board of Education Standing Committees and dates for 2026.

- Policy: Chair Linda Cobb, Randy Oxendine, Omega Perry
  - Finance: Chair Gloria J. White, Linda Cobb, Omega Perry
  - Curriculum: Chair Ayana Lewis, Dorothy Gooche, Gloria J. White
  - Personnel: Chair Randy Oxendine, Ruth Hartness, Gloria J. White
  - Building and Grounds: Chair Ruth Hartness, Dorothy Gooche, Ayana Lewis
  - Community and Business Relations: Chair Dorothy Gooche, Randy Oxendine, Linda Cobb
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- Appeals #1: Chair Ayana Lewis, Omega Perry, Ruth Hartness, Randy Oxendine
  - Appeals #2: Chair Ayana Lewis, Linda Cobb, Gloria J. White, Dorothy Gooche

Approval of the 2026 Board of Education Standing Committees was motioned by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

## **Board of Education Standing Committees**

### **Personnel**

Mr. Oxendine shared information from the January 6, 2026 meeting.

### **I. RESIGNATION(S)**

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Pinkston	Keyonna Williams	B/F	Instructional Support Assistant	12/31/25
Zeb Vance	Erica Reid	B/F	Teacher Assistant	01/02/26
New Hope	Ariel Blackwell	B/F	PE Teacher	01/17/26

### **II. LEAVE(S) – For Information Only**

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	LEAVE TYPE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Clarke	Courtney Somerville	B/F	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	09/15/25-06/30/26
Dabney	Desmon Richards	B/M	FMLA	Cafeteria Assistant	12/01/25-01/12/26
EO Young	Haylee Hargrove	B/F	FMLA	Media Assistant	12/08/25-01/05/26
ASC	Yulanda Henderson	B/F	FMLA	Human Resources Specialist	11/09/25-12/05/25
EM Rollins	Sandra Hargrove	B/F	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	12/08/25-12/19/25
EO Young	Latessa Wilkerson	B/F	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	12/15/25-02/27/26

**\*Note:** Extended Medical Leave does not qualify as FMLA.

### **III. RETIREMENT(S)**

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
ASC	Dianne Hicks	B/F	Administrative Assistant	03/01/26
ASC	Michael Davis	W/M	Accounting Specialist	02/27/26
ASC	Dianna McCann	W/F	NCSIS Coordinator	03/01/26

The district has 29.5 projected vacancies.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the personnel summary and addendum.

Finance

Mr. Suther shared the M&M Educational Group contract requesting \$45,000 from Federal PRC 105 CSI/TSI Funding. M&M demonstrated a strong instructional impact across two academic years in VCS by supporting VCMS and Clarke. Their small-group, relationship driven model outcomes show 46% of students who were not projected to be proficient according to EVAAS ultimately met proficiency on Math EOG under their support. This contract will support VCMS and VCHS with supplemental math instruction to 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during the Spring 2026 semester.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Dr. Perry, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the M&M Educational Group contract for \$45,000.

Building and Grounds – No Meeting

Policy – No Meeting

Curriculum – No Meeting

Community & Business Relations – No Meeting

**New Business** - None

**Field Trip Request** – None

**Transfer Requests**

Dr. Bennett presented ten requests to transfer into the district.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the ten transfer requests.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and second by Mr. Oxendine, the Board unanimously (7-0) voted to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2025 executive session.

Being no further business, upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

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BOARD CHAIR, AYANA F. LEWIS

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SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT