

Regular Meeting of the Trousdale County Board of Education

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Trousdale County Board of Education

103 Lock Six Road

Hartsville, TN 37074

Attendance Taken at 6:00 PM.

Robert Atwood: Present

Deanna Bode: Present

John Kerr: Present

Racheal Petty: Present

Chris Woodard: Present

1. AGENDA:

1.A. Call to Order Johnny Kerr, Chairperson

1.B. Invocation Robert Atwood, Board Member

1.C. Pledge of Allegiance Racheal Petty, Board Member

1.D. Time for Public Comment

Chris Gregory addressed the board regarding last month's Board meeting. He was concerned that in his opinion, a member of the community came to share her concerns with the School Board and was met with a mocking and condescending manner by a Board member. He stated that many parents have concerns about the lack of communication between the school district and parents over the reported online threat made by a student that turned out to be non-credible. He feels the district fell short of letting parents know that. Although the threat was posted on the district website and pushed to social media, it was not enough. It was made so late at night that many parents don't get on social media that late. He further stated that the district has mass text capabilities, and it wouldn't have taken long to send it out to parents. All elected officials should treat members of the public with respect, especially when they come to speak with you on matters of concern. Part of the chairman's role is to maintain decorum. Mr. Gregory feels that could have been handled better. The Board sets the standards that the Director of Schools should live up to. It is also the Board's responsibility to set policy, especially if it is unclear. If the community tells you there is a problem, you need to take it to heart and see how to make it better. While Mr. Gregory stated that he has the highest respect for all board members, he feels they fell short last month and that they need to do better going forward.

Mr. Atwood responded to Mr. Gregory's comments. He feels Mr. Gregory has never supported the school system since he has been an elected county commissioner. He stated, "Every time the school brings up a budget or anything else, Mr. Gregory votes against it. The school district has one of the largest budget's in the county. Mr. Gregory always votes against us." Mr. Atwood presented numbers for the maintenance of effort the county is required to maintain. He gave comparisons on other counties around us and what their maintenance of effort is.

1.E. Invitation for audience to address items on the Agenda

1.F. Approval of the Agenda for April 16, 2026

Approval of the April 16, 2026, Agenda passed with a motion by Racheal Petty and a second by Robert Atwood.

Chris Woodard: Yea

Deanna Bode: Yea

John Kerr: Yea

Racheal Petty: Yea

Robert Atwood: Yea

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the April 16, 2026, Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Deanna Bode and a second by Chris Woodard.

Chris Woodard: Yea

Deanna Bode: Yea

John Kerr: Yea

Racheal Petty: Yea

Robert Atwood: Yea

2.A. Approval of Consent Agenda for April 16, 2026

2.B. Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2026

2.C. TCES Field Trip Request - 3rd grade Attachment A

2.D. TCES Field Trip Request - 4th grade Attachment B

2.E. TCES Field Trip Request - 5th grade Attachment C

2.F. JSMS Field Trip Request Attachment D

2.G. TCHS Cheer Fundraiser Request - Sponsorships Attachment E

2.H. TCHS Cheer Fundraiser Request - Calendar Attachment F

2.I. TCHS Cheer Fundraiser Request - Princess Party Attachment G

2.J. Approval of Budget Amendment 76100 Regular Capital Outlay

Amend the 2025-26 141 General Purpose School Budget by debiting line item expenditures. Amendments are to include:				
DEBIT Expenditures	76100	Regular Capital Outlay		
	-707	Building Improvements		385,014.00
GRAND TOTALS				\$385,014.00
Amend the 2025-26 141 General Purpose School Budget by crediting line item Expenditures. Amendments are to include:				
CREDIT Expenditures	76100	Regular Capital Outlay		
	-706	Building Construction		385,014.00
GRAND TOTALS				\$385,014.00

3. SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS:

Mrs. Cothron introduced Landon Satterfield who will be the 2026-27 student school board representative.

Mrs. Cothron presented the Certificate of Occupancy for the new Athletic Complex.

4. PRINCIPALS' REPORTS: (As Needed)

4.A. Student School Board Representative

Zoey Vaughn, student representative, addressed the Board. She stated, "We are in the homestretch of the school year and have a lot of dates coming up. We have had a lot of milestones in the past month. We are currently testing EOC until May 1st. This week we have English, Math then US History followed by Biology. We had our 8th grade pathway tours on March 29th. Eighth grade registration happened on April 8th. On April 7th, Mr. Bowman's calculus class attended TN Tech for the TNTA math competition - Addison Stoves placed 10th and Kaleb Featherston placed 13th. The 2026 Beta Club induction was April 1st with 42 new students being inducted with a total now of 130 members. April 6-9, FBLA attended their State Leadership conference in Chattanooga. Twenty-three students competed and twenty-one attended in person. This is the largest group we have ever had to attend. Eleven students placed in the top 8 of their categories, and of those 8, 5 placed 1st-4th in their respective categories. These students are guaranteed a spot in the National Leadership conference to be held in Anaheim, Texas in June. Students that placed are: Zoey Vaughn, 1st in International Business, Wyatt Byrd, 1st in Business Management, Allison Knight, 2nd in Introduction to Supply Chain Management, Aubrey Dansby, 4th in Insurance Risk Management, and Melissa Mendoza, 4th in Security Investments. High School football lift-a-thon is Friday, April 17th at

the Middle School gym. FBLA will host their Super Saturday on April 18th at the High School. They will have vendors, a silent auction, car show and a lot more. Saturday, May 9th, free sports physicals will be given at the High School gym for rising 6th-12th graders. Dates for Seniors: May 12th at 6:00 is the Sr. play, May 14th is Senior walk at TCES, May 15th is Senior Day, May 20th is Senior trip to Holiday World, May 21st is graduation practice and May 22nd is graduation.”

5. DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

5.A. Employment Notifications

5.B. Academic and Goal Updates

- State testing has started. We are testing ELA in all grades this week. Testing ends May 6th for the Elementary and May 8th for Middle and High Schools. Difference in dates are due to having to ship back paper testing materials.
- Mid-Grade reports will be going home with students Friday.
- Note: all elementary grades have gone or will be going on a field trip this year.
- Note: We had HS beta initiation a couple of weeks ago and invited parents into the building. We had around 50 to attend, and everything went well!
- 5th grade will be having a recognition day May 18th where we will invite parents into the building as well.
- 5th grade Transition Day is May 8th
- HS has completed registration for next year with the new schedule. Everyone seemed excited about the change

5.C. Project Updates

- Next week, Volunteer Fencing should have the fence installed around the chiller
- Concrete barriers at the high school have been moved
- We have a letter of occupancy for the field house. Tomorrow we will do a final walkthrough and the project should be wrapped up early next week.
- The ice machine and washer and dryer will be installed next week at the field house.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS:

7.A. Approval of Bid for Chromebooks

Approval to accept Bytespeed as the Chromebook vendor passed with a motion by Robert Atwood and a second by Deanna Bode.

Chris Woodard: Yea

Deanna Bode: Yea

John Kerr: Yea

Racheal Petty: Yea

Robert Atwood: Yea

7.B. Approval of the 2026-27 141 General Purpose School Fund Budget

Approval to accept the 2026-27 141 General Purpose School Fund budget passed with a motion by Racheal Petty and a second by Deanna Bode.

Chris Woodard: Yea

Deanna Bode: Yea

John Kerr: Yea

Racheal Petty: Yea

Robert Atwood: Yea

7.C. Approval of the 2026-27 143 School Food Service Budget

Approval to accept the 2026-27 143 School Food Service Fund budget passed with a motion by Robert Atwood and a second by Chris Woodard.

Chris Woodard: Yea

Deanna Bode: Yea

John Kerr: Yea

Racheal Petty: Yea

Robert Atwood: Yea

7.D. Approval of Converting Part Time Positions into Full Time Positions:

- **Maintenance/Transportation - \$65,000.00**
- **Supervisor - \$92,971.60**
- **Speech Pathologist - \$70,000.00**

Approval to accept converting part time positions into full time positions passed with a motion by Racheal Petty and a second by Deanna Bode.

Chris Woodard: Yea

Deanna Bode: Yea

John Kerr: Yea

Racheal Petty: Yea

Robert Atwood: Yea

7.E. Keith McMorran - Discuss policy related to parent communication & Policy 1.2021 - Boardsmanship Code of Ethics

Mr. McMorran addressed the Board. He wanted to follow up on the last Board meeting when his wife presented her concerns about the recent communication of the school threat made by a student at Trousdale County High School. He stated, "Her concern was presented calmly and respectfully; she wasn't rude; she was polite. The response that followed was unprofessional, interrupted and confrontational and in his opinion completely unacceptable." Mr. McMorran is at the Board meeting to see what the Board's plan of action is to address that conduct from certain Board members. Board Chair, Johnny Kerr, reminded Mr. McMorran he was there to address the Board not question them. Mr. Kerr stated, "At certain times of the year, policies are reviewed. The policy will be reviewed when that time comes or if a Board

member wants to bring one up.” Mr. McMorran stated that he would appreciate the Board discussing the policy internally and that he post concerning the threat made at Trousdale County High School was not good enough. “A text should have been sent out,” he stated.

7.F. Michelle Dallmann - Discuss policy related to parent communication & Policy 1.2021 - Boardsmanship Code of Ethics

Ms. Dallmann addressed the Board concerning the recent communication of the school threat made by a student a Trousdale County High School. She stated that she was an educator and experienced an active shooter situation where she had to lock down her class and protect 23 5th graders and herself. She explained, “This is why clear communication is important.” She wants to address two concerns: the lack of parent communication during safety events and accountability of the boards code of conduct. In her opinion, there is no consistent, reliable way to communicate to the community when a safety threat occurs. Ms. Dallmann stated, “It creates fear and confusion.” She feels the Board’s actions did not reflect the conduct laid out in policy 1.2021, Boardsmanship Code of Ethics. She is asking for a defined communication policy, clear timelines for parent communication and transparency accountability for the code of conduct.

Mr. Kerr stated he spent an hour talking to the TSBA attorney who looks at our policies. They discussed the policies in question. He stated, “On the threat assessment policy, 3.204, under reporting, the Director of Schools shall develop a process for providing parents information on credible threats of violence, we did that. This policy is verbatim State law. The lawyer stated that we were one of the last counties to send text messages to all parents in the district. Most counties only send text messages to the school involved in the threat.” After much discussion on this topic, the Board adjourned.

8. ACCOUNT ANALYSIS:

9. VENDOR CHECKS:

10. EXPENDITURES & ENCUMBRANCES:

11. ADJOURN:

Motion to Adjourn passed with a motion by Deanna Bode and a second by Robert Atwood.

Chris Woodard: Yea

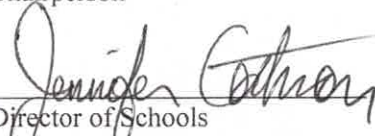
Deanna Bode: Yea

John Kerr: Yea

Racheal Petty: Yea

Robert Atwood: Yea


Chairperson


Director of Schools

Trousdale County Schools

Request for School Trip

(To be submitted to principal at least ten (10) days prior to the occurrence of trip)

School: **TCES**

Attachment A

Transportation Requested: **2 Buses**

Destination: **Ralphie's Fun Center**

Address: **702 Happy Valley Rd, Glasgow, KY 42141**

Date(s) of Event: **May 6, 2026**

Approximate Mileage: **114 miles (round trip)** Student Fee: **\$13**

Group Attending: **3rd Grade** Approximate #: **120 (teachers/chaperones included)**

Teacher(s) in Charge: **Alexandra Hayes, Ronna White, Stephanie Secler, Emily Hackett, Lyndsey Linville, Helena Buckingham**

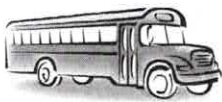
Departure Time: **8:00 am**

Return Time: **2:15 pm**

How will students benefit from this trip? **Students will benefit from this trip by getting to celebrate the end of third grade and all of their hard work throughout the school year in order to be successful on their end of year, high-stakes assessments.**

Lunch details: **2 slices of pizza and a drink will be provided to each student for lunch**
Parents or Chaperones: **Additional school staff beyond the third grade team will be chaperoning the trip. Private event closed to the public, so parents will not be able to attend.**

Non-participating students or classes will **stay at school and complete an activity that will benefit their reading and math skills.**



Trousdale County Schools Request for School Trip

Attachment B

(To be submitted to principal at least ten (10) days prior to the occurrence of trip)

School: ☒ TCES ☐ JSMS ☐ TCHS ☐ Other: _____
(Please specify)

Transportation Requested: ☒ Bus ☐ Van ☐ Car ☐ None
(Please indicate # of vehicles needed in boxes provided)

Destination: Lucky Ladd Farms

Address: 4306 Rocky Glade Rd. Eagleville, TN 37060

Date(s) of Event: Thursday May 7th

Approximate Mileage: 126 (round trip) Student Fee: \$ 14

Group Attending: 4th grade Approximate #: 138

Teacher(s) in Charge: Madison McLatchy, Cody Dale Claridy, Laura Holt, Jessica Ogles, Evan Arrington.

Departure Time: 8:30 Return Time: 1:30

How will students benefit from this trip? Students will be involved

in immersive experiences learning about agriculture and how it helps us grow.

Lunch details: Lunch will be provided by school & transported with.

Parents or Chaperones: Chaperones are filled by school personnel.

Non-participating students or classes will stay and work on materials to better their reading & math skills.

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Demetrius Badru

Principal's Signature

4-6-26

Date

J. Cothran

Director's Signature

4-20-26

Date

Transportation Director's Signature

Date

Assigned Bus Driver(s): _____

Trousdale County Schools

Request for School Trip

Attachment C

(To be submitted to principal at least ten (10) days prior to the occurrence of trip)

School: TCES

Transportation Requested: 2 Buses

Destination: Trey Park in Hartsville, TN 37074

Date(s) of Event: May 12, 2026

Approximate Mileage: 4 miles (round trip)

Student Fee: \$5 - This covered by remaining field trip money after receiving zoo scholarship.

Group Attending: 5th Grade Grade Approximate #: 110

Teacher(s) in Charge: Victoria Stanley, Becca Green, Katlyn Mayo, Kelsey Harris, Savannah Sweeney

Departure Time: 8:00 am Return Time: 11:00 am

How will students benefit from this trip? Students will benefit from getting to go outdoors after testing and use the money left over from the zoo field trip to celebrate the end of elementary school.

Lunch details: Students will return to school before their designated lunch times.

Parents or Chaperones: Chaperones will not be needed.

Non-participating students or classes will stay at school and complete an activity that would benefit their reading and math skills.

- The Nashville Zoo provided the 5th Grade students with a scholarship that covered their admission to the zoo. This means each student has a \$5 balance from the field trip to the zoo. We would like to use the remaining \$535 to take the students to Trey Park from 8am-11am. Students will return to school, eat lunch, and then be able to receive a snow cone from Hartsville Sno that will be set up at the school.

Trousdale County Schools
Request for School Trip

Attachment D

(To be submitted to principal at least ten (10) days prior to the occurrence of trip)

School: JSMS

Transportation Requested: 2 Buses

Destination: Vol-State

Address: 1480 Nashville Pike, Gallatin, TN 37066

Date(s) of Event: May 1

Approximate Mileage: 42 (round trip) Student Fee: \$ NA

Group Attending: JSMS 8th Grade

Approximate #: 95 Teacher(s) in Charge: Kailey Cline

Departure Time: 8:15 Return Time: 12:30-12:40

How will students benefit from this trip? Visit vol-state to learn about aspects of dual enrollment and requirements students must meet during high school to continue their education

Lunch details: Pizza provided by Vol-State administration office

Parents or Chaperones: Robert Davidson, Makenzee Elkins, Kayla Fleming, Bridget

Gregory, Mason Basford

Non-

participating students or classes will NA

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Principal's Signature [Signature]
Date 4-20-26

Director's Signature [Signature]
Date 4-20-26

Transportation Director's Signature _____
Date _____

Assigned Bus Driver(s): _____



Trousedale County Schools
Request for Fundraising Activity

Attachment E

Sponsorships

School: ☐ TCES

☐ JSMS

☒ TCHS

Student Group/Activity:

TCHS Cheer

Net Amount Expected/Goal:

\$200-\$600

Specific Purpose of the Fundraiser:

- raise money for cheer team
- build student's ability to talk to businesses and people in the community.

Specific Use of the Funds Acquired:

to buy new uniforms for new girls, and hopefully to build our account to buy things like bows, signs, new poms and other essentials.

Describe how students will be involved in the fundraising activity:

students will go to local businesses and sell sponsorships, to go on banner, flyers, or fans.

Mallory Miller

Sponsor's Signature

3/19/26

Date

J. Miller

Principal's Signature

7/7/21

Date

J. Leithman

Director's Signature

4-20-26

Date

Board Approved:

4-16-26



Trousdale County Schools Request for Fundraising Activity

Attachment F

School: ☐ TCES

☐ JSMS

☒ TCHS

Student Group/Activity:

TCHS Cheer

Net Amount Expected/Goal:

\$450 per girl

Specific Purpose of the Fundraiser:

to raise money to go to camp, lower
camp bill

Specific Use of the Funds Acquired:

money raised will go towards each
individuals bill for camp

Describe how students will be involved in the fundraising activity:

*calendar will
be posted in May.

Students will post a pic a day to buy
calendar on their social media. Each
day of the month equals that amount of
money. (Ex May 13 = \$13)

Nalorie McFee

Sponsor's Signature

3/19/26

Date

1/1/26

Principal's Signature

7/71/24

Date

K. Kothman

Director's Signature

4-20-26

Date

Board Approved:

4-16-26

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Trousedale County Schools
Request for Fundraising Activity

Attachment G

School: ☐ TCES

☐ JSMS

☒ TCHS

* Princess Party

Student Group/Activity:

TCHS Cheer

Net Amount Expected/Goal:

\$300-\$400

Specific Purpose of the Fundraiser:

- Raise money for cheer team
- Create fun experience for little girls in our community

Specific Use of the Funds Acquired:

raise money to buy new uniforms for the 2 extra girls that we added to the team this year. We only have 12 uniform with 14 girls.

Describe how students will be involved in the fundraising activity:

* date May 16th possible
Cheerleaders will dress up as princesses and have booths decorated in auditorium. They will interact with girls, give out trinkets, and have a dance party at the end.

Mallorie McGee

Sponsor's Signature

3/19/20

Date

J. H. M.

Principal's Signature

3/21/21

Date

J. Cotton

Director's Signature

4-20-20

Date

Board Approved:

4-16-20