

DURANT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

Durant School District, I-72, Bryan County, Oklahoma

Central Administration Office Conference Room

Monday, July 13, 2026, 12:00 PM

I. Call to Order

President

II. Roll Call

Clerk of the Board

Attendance Taken at 12:00 PM.

Jason Manous: Present

Joyce Northcutt: Present

Chaz Polk: Present

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Present

III. Approval of the Consent Calendar**

Motion to approve items III.A through III.H. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

III.A. Agenda

III.B. Minutes:

III.B.1. June 1, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board of Education

III.B.2. June 1, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

III.C. Treasurer's Report

III.D. Activity Accounts Report

III.E. Financial Reports

III.F. Encumbrances

III.F.1. Fiscal '26 General Fund Numbers 261174-261198 in the Amount of \$58,765.73

III.F.2. Fiscal '26 Building Fund Numbers 261182-261194 in the Amount of \$14,000.00

III.F.3. Fiscal '26 Bond Fund Numbers 261189 in the Amount of \$55,482.00

III.F.4. Fiscal '27 General Fund Numbers 270006-270375 in the Amount of \$4,446,983.22

III.F.5. Fiscal '27 Building Fund Numbers 270001-270376 in the Amount of \$1,372,032.26

III.F.6. Fiscal '27 Child Nutrition Fund Numbers 270016-270299 in the Amount of
\$2,910,749.68

III.F.7. Fiscal '27 Bond Fund Numbers 270000-270369 in the Amount of \$2,997,566.91

III.F.8. Fiscal '27 Sinking Fund Numbers 270179 in the Amount of \$4,354,035.00

III.G. Child Nutrition Claim for Reimbursement

III.H. Transfer Capacity

IV. Reports:

IV.A. Connie Arneson - Gear-Up Report

Connie Arneson with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shared an update on the GEAR UP program and the many ways it continues to support Durant students and families. Connie spoke passionately about the program, explaining that as a first-generation college student herself, she understands how overwhelming planning for life after high school can be. She said that personal experience is what drives her commitment to helping students find the path that's right for them.

GEAR UP serves all students in grades 7-12, preparing them for both college and careers. Connie emphasized that the program isn't just for students planning to attend a four-year university, it also helps students interested in CareerTech, the military, entrepreneurship, or entering the workforce by connecting them with the resources and guidance they need.

One of the biggest highlights of the presentation was the program's investment in concurrent enrollment. This year, more than \$100,000 has been budgeted to cover college course fees for eligible Durant juniors and seniors, allowing them to earn college credit at little to no cost. Connie noted that, over the past seven years, GEAR UP has invested more than \$1 million in Durant Public Schools and will continue serving the district for another year through renewed federal funding.

Connie also discussed YouScience, a career aptitude program used with middle school students. Through a series of interactive activities, students discover their strengths and career interests, helping them make informed decisions about high school courses and future career pathways. She shared that parents have been very engaged with the results and appreciate the opportunity to better understand their children's interests and abilities.

Another important focus of the program is helping seniors complete the FAFSA. Durant increased its FAFSA completion rate to 74.3% this year, opening more opportunities for

financial aid and scholarships. Connie also encouraged families to take advantage of Oklahoma's Promise, reminding them that students can begin applying as early as eighth grade.

In closing, Connie thanked the board and district for allowing her to serve Durant students. Although she is originally from Kingston, she shared that she works just as hard for Durant students as she would for her own community and is proud to be part of helping students prepare for successful futures, no matter which path they choose.

V. Comments from the Public (Pursuant to District Policy 2240, a copy of which is available upon request, comments can be made only by District Patrons concerning items listed on the Agenda)

V.A. Mrs. Melanie Knight, Regarding Parent and Public Participation at Board Meetings as well as Safe and Effective Communication Opportunities with Board Members and Administration Staff.

Mrs. Knight addressed the board by sharing that her advocacy comes from a genuine desire to improve communication between parents and the district, not to be a nuisance. She explained that she had previously brought concerns to the board along with proposed solutions, but felt those ideas were dismissed. This time, she simply asked the board to consider creating a safe and effective way for parents to ask questions and communicate concerns outside of the current public comment process.

To provide context, Mrs. Knight shared her background in child development, psychology, and education, along with her work advocating for children through organizations that support students with disabilities. She emphasized that her advocacy extends far beyond school board meetings and is driven by a commitment to speaking up for families who may not feel comfortable doing so themselves.

Mrs. Knight expressed frustration with the current public comment process, explaining that parents are limited to making comments before the board discusses agenda items and are not allowed to ask questions. She believes this prevents meaningful dialogue and makes it difficult for parents to fully participate. She also noted that while parents are restricted to three minutes, others presenting to the board are not subject to the same limitation, which she said does not feel welcoming.

She shared that she has struggled to receive answers to questions outside of board meetings, mentioning unanswered emails to Superintendent Moring and previous attempts to seek clarification from board members. While she thanked Katie for always being responsive and helpful, Mrs. Knight said parents still lack a dependable avenue for receiving information and having their concerns addressed.

Speaking candidly, Mrs. Knight also raised concerns about what she believes is retaliation against parents who advocate for students. She shared that despite holding a teaching

certification and applying to become a substitute teacher, she was informed that Superintendent Moring chose not to move forward with her application because of his personal opinion of her advocacy. Mrs. Knight said this was especially disappointing given the district's need for substitute teachers and expressed that no parent should fear negative consequences for speaking on behalf of students.

Mrs. Knight concluded by encouraging the board to create an environment where parents feel welcomed, respected, and comfortable bringing forward questions and concerns without fear of being labeled or facing retaliation. She emphasized that stronger communication between families and district leadership ultimately benefits the students the board serves.

VI. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Resolutions for the 2026-2027 School Year

Approval is recommended for the following resolutions. Motion to approve item VI.A through VI.C. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea
Joyce Northcutt: Yea
Chaz Polk: Yea
Casey Powers: Absent
Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VI.A. Adopt a Resolution that designates an Official Depository for District Funds, GF, BF, CN, Bond, Activity and Sinking Funds at First United Bank for the 2026-2027 School Year.

VI.B. Adopt a Resolution Permitting the Deposit of Interest Earnings from the General Fund and Bond Fund into the Building Fund and/or the Sinking Fund. All others are to be placed into their Respective Funds for the 2026–2027 School Year.

VI.C. Adopt a Resolution designating American Fidelity Assurance Company as the Administrator of the Section 125 Plan, which will be administered at no cost to the district.

VII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Mr. Moring, Superintendent of Schools as the Authorized Official Approved to Sign Claims for Reimbursement through the Grants Management System.

Approval is recommended for Mr. Moring, Superintendent of Schools as the authorized official approved to sign claims for the reimbursement through the Grants Management System.

Motion to approve. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea
Joyce Northcutt: Yea
Chaz Polk: Yea
Casey Powers: Absent
Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

VIII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Updates to the Previously Approved Durant High School Course Planning Guides for the Classes of 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030.

Approval is recommended of the updates to the Durant High School Course Planning Guides for the classes of 2027, 2028, 2029, and 2030. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

IX. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Declaring as Surplus Property, Various Miscellaneous Items from Child Nutrition and Indian Education to be Disposed of at the Superintendent's Discretion.

Approval is recommended for the declaration of surplus property, various miscellaneous items from Child Nutrition and Indian Education to be disposed of at the Superintendent's discretion. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Jason Manous, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Handbooks for Durant High School, Durant Middle School, Durant Intermediate School and Pre-K through Fourth Grade Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Approval is recommended for the Handbooks for Durant High School, Durant Middle School, Durant Intermediate School and Pre-K through Fourth Grade Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year. Motion to approve item X.A. through X.D. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

X.A. Durant High School Handbook

X.B. Durant Middle School Handbook

X.C. Durant Intermediate School Handbook

X.D. Pre-K through Fourth Grade Handbook

XI. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year

Approval is recommended of the contracts listed below. Motion to approve item XI.A. through XI.B. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XI.A. Big Five Community Services/ Four-Year-Old Program Services

XI.B. Southeastern Oklahoma State University / Use of Paul Laird Field

XII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve a Memorandum of Understanding of an Interagency Agreement Between the Chickasaw Nation Early Childhood Program and Durant Public Schools

Approval is recommended of a Memorandum of Understanding of an Interagency Agreement between The Chickasaw Nation Early Childhood Program and Durant Public Schools. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Note Approve the Adoption of the 1086 Hours as the Durant ISD Standard for the 2026-2027 School Year with No Change in the Number of Days

Approval is recommended of the Adoption of the 1086 hours as the Durant ISD Standard for the 2026-2027 School Year with no change in the number of days. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIV. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve an Overnight Out-of-State Trip for Durant FFA Eight Students and Two Sponsors to Travel to Branson, Missouri July 20-23, 2026 to Attend the Officer Retreat for the Upcoming 2026-2027 School Year

Approval is recommended for eight students and two sponsors to travel to Branson, Missouri July 20-23, 2026 to attend the officer retreat for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XV. Consideration and Vote on Personnel Recommendations

Other recommendations and resignations are pending, and if available, may be brought to the meeting

Motion to approve item XV.A through XV.I. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XV.A. Resignations Received Since the Last Meeting of the Board of Education

Certified – Beth Bean, Durant Public Schools

Certified – Eva (Kady) Fryrear, Durant High School

Certified – LouAnn Lively, (Cheer only) Durant High School

Certified – Maegan Morgan, Durant Public Schools

Certified – Maci Bookout, Washington Irving Elementary

Certified – Amberlyn Walsworth, Washington Irving Elementary

Support – Jaci Hatton, Durant Middle School

Support – Frederick Booth, Durant Middle School

Support – Rebekah Ervin, Washington Irving Elementary

XV.B. Employment of Certified Personnel for Students with Individualized Education Plans, Temporary Positions for 2026 Summer Services – Haleigh House

XV.C. Employment of a Career and Technology Education Director for the Durant School District, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Lynette Bourne

XV.D. Employment of Certified Personnel for the 2026-2027 School Year

XV.D.1. Special Education / English Instructor at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Keely Daniel

XV.D.2. Special Education Instructor at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Danny David

XV.D.3. Science Instructor at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Susan Hall

XV.D.4. Health Science Instructor at Durant High School and Director of Nursing for Durant Public Schools, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Ashley Eggenberg

XV.D.5. Aviation I (one section) Instructor at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Jordan Nichols

XV.D.6. Math Instructor at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Jarrett Pratt

XV.D.7. Head Cheerleading Coach at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Haley Hollenbeck

XV.D.8. Athletic Coordinator at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Kevin Matthews

XV.D.9. Social Studies Teacher at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Gena Smith

XV.D.10. Sixth Grade Math Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Valerie Smither

XV.D.11. Fifth Grade Special Education Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Shayla Love

XV.D.12. Elementary School Counselor at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Elizabeth Dunn

XV.D.13. First Grade Teacher at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Leslie Henderson

XV.D.14. Fourth Grade Teacher at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Caitlyn Anderson

XV.D.15. Special Education Teacher at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Cassandra Brawdy

XV.D.16. Fourth Grade Teacher at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Terecia Webb

XV.D.17. Fourth Grade Special Education Teacher at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Lisa Jackson

XV.D.18. Fourth Grade Teacher at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Janna Jonas

XV.E. Employment of Support Personnel for Students with Individualized Education Plans, Temporary Positions for 2026 Summer Services – Mattie Tonubbee

XV.F. Employment of Support Personnel for the 2026-2027 School Year

XV.F.1. Special Education Teacher Assistant and Assistant Girl's Basketball Coach at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Tara Stelzig

XV.F.2. Assistant Football Coach at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Trevor Golden

XV.F.3. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Tessa Claborn

XV.F.4. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Corina Boston

XV.F.5. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Grace Krueger

XV.F.6. Teacher Assistant / Recess Aide at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Mark Lawrenson

XV.F.7. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Rebekah LeRoy

XV.F.8. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) Rebecca Reeve

XV.F.9. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Hanna Ham

XV.F.10. Special Education Teacher Assistant at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Hannah Percell

XV.F.11. Special Education Teacher Assistant at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Elizabeth SanMillan

XV.F.12. Secretary at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Donna Ramsey

XV.F.13. Receptionist at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Lora Gwinn

XV.F.14. Computer Lab Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Brandy Gould

XV.F.15. ISS Aide / Teacher Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Melanie Hearon

XV.F.16. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Maddison Davis

XV.F.17. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Rachel Ables

XV.F.18. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Catherine Pfaff

XV.F.19. First Grade Teacher Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Makayla Sexton

XV.G. Renewal of Contracts for Grant Funded Personnel Contingent Upon Grant Funding Availability for the 2026-2027 School Year –

Delinda Knox – Safe Schools

Abbey Rowley – LPC

Debbie Crites – LPC

Hannah Manous – LPC

Garrett Scott – Prevention Specialist

Yubelis Williams-Diaz – Prevention Specialist

Leah Nabors – Social Service Provider

XV.H. Renewal of Contracts for Support Personnel Currently Employed on Temporary Contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year – See attached list

XV.I. Additions to the Lists of Substitutes for the 2026-2027 School Year - None

XVI. Discussion, Consideration and Vote on Items of New Business

None.

XVII. Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Moring shared a brief update on staffing, summer projects, enrollment, and district preparations for the upcoming school year.

The district has just four certified positions left to fill, a significant improvement from previous years. Open positions include the curriculum director, a third-grade teacher at Washington Irving, the classroom vacancy created by Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Kasey Bennett's statewide travel, and one special education teacher at Durant Intermediate School. While

staffing is in a much better position than in recent years, filling the remaining special education position remains a priority.

Summer maintenance projects are nearly complete across the district. At the high school, painting has been completed in the gyms, commons, auditorium, and band hall, along with repairs to the front steps. New handrails are still being manufactured and will be installed once delivered. Durant Middle School continues HVAC upgrades, while other campuses have focused on routine maintenance such as power washing and touch-up painting.

Several campus-specific improvements were highlighted:

- **Northwest Heights:** Two dead trees along University Blvd. were removed, and the Green Team will help select and plant replacement trees.
- **Washington Irving:** Extensive interior paint touch-ups were completed, with exterior work planned ahead of the school's 100th anniversary celebration.
- **Robert E. Lee:** Swing gates and parking bollards were repainted, power washing was completed, and shade canopies for the playground are still awaiting delivery.

The superintendent also shared an early enrollment update. The district currently has 692 transfer students entering the district, with a more detailed transfer report—including transfers in, transfers out, and district-by-district data—to be presented after enrollment stabilizes, likely in September.

Finally, the superintendent emphasized that pre-kindergarten enrollment remains the district's biggest enrollment priority. About 96 students are currently enrolled, with many in-district families still needing to complete registration. The district will continue weekly social media campaigns encouraging families to enroll so staffing and classroom assignments can be finalized before the school year begins.

XVIII. Comments from the Board

Board member Janie Umsted discussed the upcoming 100th anniversary of Washington Irving Elementary, sharing that their mother attended the school during its first year. The conversation then shifted to planned traffic improvements near the school, including a new traffic signal and a proposed Casey's convenience store at First Street and Gerlach Drive. Superintendent Moring explained that the road project has been delayed approximately six months due to easement issues and is now expected to begin after Christmas break. Once construction starts, the intersection will likely be closed for a period, requiring the district to adjust bus routes and traffic patterns. District leaders are already coordinating with the transportation department, city officials, and local law enforcement to develop a plan that minimizes disruptions and maintains student safety.

Board members also discussed the anticipated increase in traffic from the new convenience store and nearby housing development, expressing concerns about student pedestrians and congestion. While the district has no control over the timing of the project, Superintendent

Moring noted he has advocated for additional traffic improvements, such as a dedicated turn lane, though those are not currently included in the project.

The board also received an update on a recent statewide agricultural education conference hosted at the high school. Approximately 350 agricultural education teachers attended the event, bringing visitors to the community and highlighting the district's ability to host large conferences successfully.

Finally, board members recommended sharing information from the GEAR UP presentation with families through ParentSquare, noting that high school students do not always relay important information home. They also complimented the presentation and emphasized the value of improving parent communication.

XIX. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Adjourn

Recommend adjournment of the meeting; motion to adjourn at 1:03 PM. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

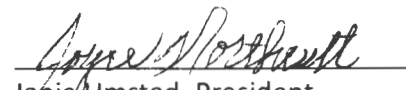
Joyce Northcutt: Yea

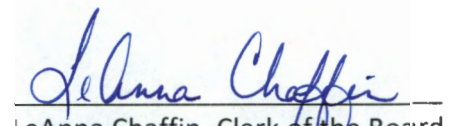
Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Absent

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1


Janie Umsted, President


LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board

REGULAR MEETING

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)

COUNTY OF BRYAN)

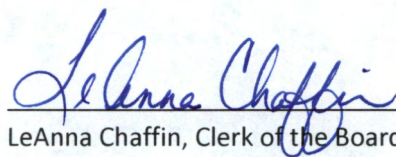
I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Education of Durant School District No. I-72 of Bryan County, Oklahoma, do hereby certify that prior to December 15th of the last calendar year the date, time and place of this regular meeting was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Bryan County, Oklahoma.

I also certify that at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, notice of the date, time, place, and agenda of this meeting was posted in prominent public view at the location of the meeting.

Witness my hand and seal of this school district this 13th day of July 2026.

School Seal:




LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board