

Talbot County Board of Education  
Board Meeting  
May 22, 2025– 6:00 p.m.  
Central Elementary/Middle/High School  
Board Room

The Talbot County Board of Education met in regular session on May 22, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mrs. Mildred Biggs, Chairperson (D5); Mrs. Sharleta Hall, Vice Chair, (D3); Mrs. Julia Leonard, (D1); and Mr. James Steverson, (D2). Ms. Nikki Waller (D4) was absent.

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Mildred Biggs at 6:00 p.m.
- Chair Mildred Biggs led the Moment of Silence.
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Mildred Biggs.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Sharleta Hall to approve the May 22, 2025 agenda, seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 4-0-0
- A motion was made by Mr. James Steverson to approve the April 1, 2025 and April 15, 2025 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 4-0-0
- **Request to Speak to the Board:** Rick Nappier – Math
- **Food Service Report for April 30, 2025**  
*Mr. Torrence Freeman presented on behalf of Ms. Mahone*
  - Budget- \$659,000.00
  - Expended- \$412,583.35
  - Obligated- (-0-)
  - Balance- \$246,416.65
  - Percentage Spent - 63%                      Percentage Remaining - 37%
- **Financial Report for April 30, 2025**  
*Mr. Torrence Freeman, CFO*
  - Budget- \$7,538,982.00
  - Expended- \$6,667,876.26
  - Encumbrances - \$119,046.94
  - Balance - \$1,669,763.83
  - Percentage Spent- 86.47%                      Percentage remaining- 13.53
  - 86.47%

- **Elementary/Middle/High School**  
*Mr. Jonathan Taylor, Assistant Superintendent*

- Mr. Taylor reviewed the internal accounts:

Beginning Balance	\$ 49,001.99
Total Deposits	\$ 5,502.83
Total Checks	\$ 18,240.23
Ending Balance	\$ 36,264.59

- **GAEL Georgia Association of Educational Leaders**

GAEL Vision Award was given to Talbot County Schools at the May RESA meeting. This award recognizes school districts in Georgia that demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting and encouraging the professional development of their teachers, principals and staff. Districts receiving this award actively engage with GAEL through professional learning, state-wide advocacy and networking. This award highlights districts that prioritize ongoing growth for their educators and contribute to the improvement of public education in Georgia.

- **Upcoming Events:**

- a. Commencement – May 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Teacher/Staff Retirement Celebration – May 27<sup>th</sup> at noon

- **Guidance Office**

*Dr. Jenie Carter, Guidance Counselor*

Our students have completed Milestones Assessments. The preliminary results of the assessments are beginning to be dropped from GADOE. Students receive two assessment scores on the Georgia Milestones. The first score is an overall cumulative score, and the second score is a Lexile Score. The Lexile score shows how much a student's reading ability has improved from the start of the year to the end of the school year. Typical growth for one school year is 50 points. The Georgia Milestones report shows that 53 of the 59 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students showed significant Lexile growth. Ninety percent of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students showed growth of 100 points to over 300 points of Lexile growth. Three students exceeded 300 points of Lexile growth.

At the start of high school, students choose a pathway course. In Georgia agriculture is a major industry. Many of our students choose agriculture. Upon completion of their last pathway course, students are evaluated on their knowledge of their chosen field. This year, two of our students scored higher than the national average in their evaluation of their knowledge of agriculture.

Two of our dual enrollment students have completed 24 college credits at Columbus Technical College. This qualifies them for a dual enrollment early college certificate. They will receive this certificate at the Columbus Technical College commencement ceremony on June 12, 2025.

Saturday 35 students will receive their high school diploma:  
19 will be going to college/university or technical school;  
6 will go into the military;  
3 will go into the military and then college;  
7 will go directly into the workforce.

At Baccalaureate Ceremony on Sunday, May 18, 2025 the following community agencies and/or families presented scholarships to many of our students:

Class of 1984 – Ms. Cannon  
Rosie Lee Thomas Biggs Family - T’Kandis Walker and Dr. Danessa Thomas  
Public Service Communications – Melissa Ramey  
Jordan Family – Betty Lippit

- **Action Items from Superintendent**

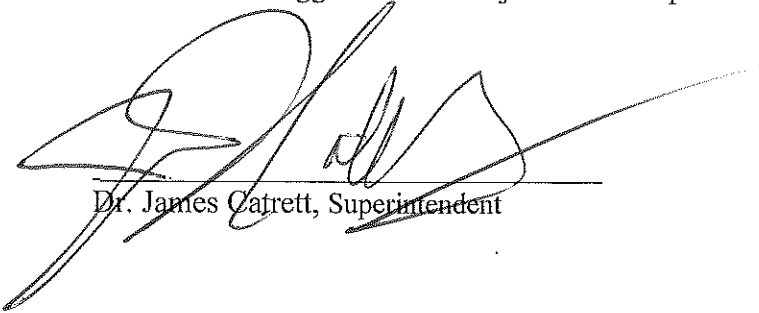
*Dr. James Catrett, Superintendent*

- **PBIS** – Ms. Daphne Daniels – The following students were recognized as Monthly Ambassadors for the month of April:
  - Dekoda Walker – Elementary School – 346 points
  - Sasha Mata – Middle School – 115 points
  - Ja’Mya Thomas – High School – 40 points

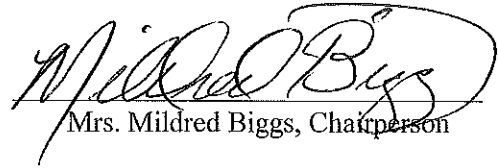
Each child was awarded a certificate and a gift card to Chick-Fil-A.

- **Budget Timeline** – Mr. Torrence Freeman presented the FY26 Budget Timeline to the Board. Two public meetings have been scheduled – June 10, 2025 and June 24, 2025.
- **Tentative Budget** – Mr. Torrence Freeman presented the tentative FY26 Budget to the Board for approval.
- Mrs. Sharleta Hall made a motion to accept the Tentative FY26 Budget, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 4-0-0
- **Final Audit Report FY 6/30/2022** – Mr. Torrence Freeman presented the follow-up and closed FY22 audit from Georgia Department of Education.
- **Final Audit Report FY 6/30/2023** – Mr. Torrence Freeman presented the follow-up and closed FY23 audit from Georgia Department of Education.
- Mrs. Julia Leonard made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:56 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 4-0-0
- Mr. James Steverson made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 4-0-0

- Mrs. Sharelta Hall made a motion to accept Mr. Jonathan Taylor's recommendation to employ William House as a History Teacher and Mr. James Short as a Special Education/Federal Programs Director, seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 4-0-0
- Chair Biggs moved to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.



Dr. James Catrett, Superintendent



Mrs. Mildred Biggs, Chairperson