

Talbot County Board of Education
Board Meeting
September 16, 2025– 6:00 p.m.
Central Elementary/Middle/High School
Board Room

The Talbot County Board of Education met in regular session on September 16, 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).

- 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 Mr. James Steverson to approve the September 16, 2025 agenda, seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 5-0-0
- A motion was made by Ms. Nikki Waller to approve the August 5, 2025, August 19, 2025 and August 21, 2025 minutes, seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0
- **Food Service Report for August 31, 2025**
Ms. Mahone, Director - Food Services
 - Budget- \$597,000.00
 - Expended- \$56,609.09
 - Obligated- (662.57)
 - Balance- \$580,817.30
 - Percentage Spent - 12% Percentage Remaining - 88%
- **Grandparents' Day Breakfast** – “Grits with Grands” – September 17, 2025
- **Financial Report for August 31, 2025**
Mr. Torrence Freeman, CFO
 - Budget- \$7,924,692.00
 - Expended- \$ 1,319,718.95
 - Encumbrances - \$50,284.66
 - Balance - \$
 - Percentage Spent- 16.65% Percentage remaining- 83.35%

- **Elementary/Middle/High School**

Mr. Jonathan Taylor, Assistant Superintendent

- Mr. Taylor reviewed the internal accounts:

Beginning Balance	\$ 34,798.73
Total Deposits	\$ 4,508.50
Total Checks	\$ 6,012.73
Ending Balance	\$ 33,294.50

- **Upcoming Events**

Today –Visit from Deputy Superintendent Dr. Johnson

Today – Noon - Parent & Family Engagement Title One Meeting.

Today – 5:00 - Volleyball @ home vs. Lamar

September 17th Middle School Football @ Taylor

September 18th – 3:30 Leadership Meeting

September 18th – 5:30 Parent & Family Engagement Title One Meeting

September 19th 7:30 – Football @ Adkins

September 22nd – 26th Homecoming Week

September 30th – 10:00 School Advisory Committee meeting

- **Homecoming**

Ms. Keniece Adams, Media Specialist

Theme is HAWKS SMASH! Committee Chairs: Keniece Adams, Walter Emory and Major England

Parade Details:

Friday, September 26th Line-up 4:00 – Start 4:45

Game Kick-off – 6:30 p.m.

Homecoming Royalty Court: Eligibility – 80+ GPA, no discipline referrals

Homecoming Shirts – Sale ends September 16th

- **Guidance Office Update**

Dr. Jenie Carter, Guidance Counselor

After School Program – Permission letters were sent home two weeks ago. After School is for students in K-12 grades. Today is the first day and there were 29 students in the program. Letters will continue to be sent out to parents of students that need additional academic support.

School Day Testing – We will offer the SAT and PSAT on campus. Seniors are registered to take the SAT on October 8th. This year, 11th and 10th graders will take the PSAT on October 15th.

Campus Visits – Ga State University came to speak with our students recently; Lunch Period Campus Visits – Educational Talent Search – Ft. Valley; Morehouse Upward Bounds – Financial Aid Workshop – FASFA; and Columbus Technical College.

Chattahoochee RESA Student Advisory Board – One senior and Junior will participate in this program again this year. Their first meeting will take place at the Capital on September 25th.

Flint Energies Youth Empowerment

Five Juniors have been chosen to be a part of this empowerment program. Their opening meeting was September 8, 2025. They are learning leadership traits.

Chamber of Commerce

Mary Stevens along with the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce has offered to partially fund field trips for our students. The first one is to take kindergarten – 2nd grade students to the President's Theatre in Manchester. They would tour the facility as well as see a movie. Different trips are being discussed for upper grades.

Dual Enrollment

We are partnering with Andrew College and Columbus Technical College. We have 5 - 11th graders and 6 - 12th graders enrolled in dual enrollment. With the welding class there is an additional 6 students enrolled in dual enrollment. **EMTech Specialty Vehicles** – this company is in Woodland, GA. Their specialty is making ambulances which are sold nationwide. They are interested in our welding students when they graduate – they will offer them a job. They are even interested in taking some students in as apprentices.

- **Dean of Students**

Ms. Daphne Daniels, Dean of Students

Attendance Protocol – Attendance across Georgia is a problem.

Committee members: Omenicia Marshall, Attendance Clerk; Cpt. Williams, SRO; Vicki Rush, SRO; Daphne Daniels, Dean of Students; Keniece Adams, Media/Instructional Tech.; Dr. Carter, Counselor and Students' Classroom Teacher(s). When students are missing three or more days, teachers are to contact parents and notify Ms. Marshall. With five absences a certified letter is sent to the parent with a follow-up phone call by Ms. Marshall; 7 and above absences a meeting is scheduled with the parent, Capt. Williams will deliver a certified letter to the home and conduct an initial home visit. Over ten absences Capt. Williams will visit the home again with a final letter stating that it has been turned over to the court system.

Elementary – As of September 10th – 19 letters have been sent to parents; 12 parents have been contacted; One parent meeting has been held discussing two students; One home visit has been conducted for two students.

Middle School – Two letters have been sent out; Two parents have been contacted.

High School – Six letters have been sent to parents.

Tardies – An accumulation of three tardies makes one absence. Parents are notified through Power School of tardies.

Check-in – Check-Out – Ms. Jackson from GaDoe is assisting us with this process. Attendance from last year was pulled with students that missed 20 days or more. There

are 25 students that fall into this category. They are placed on a Check-in/Check-Out with assigned mentors. Mentors monitor their assigned student's attendance. Students are rewarded for good attendance. This process of mentoring is reported on in our leadership meetings.

Student Attendance – A comparison from 2024/2025 to 2025/2026 is being made and is being reported to the State. There was a total of 14 students that missed 10% of August last school term. (That equates to two days.) This year it increased to 22 students in elementary that missed 2 or more days. Middle School last school term had 22 students, this year 16 missed two or more days. Grades 9th – 12th there was a total of 17 students last year, this year there was a total of 30 students missing two or more days.

- **Special Education**

Mr. James Short, Director

65 students are currently being served in Special Education. There are three self-contained classrooms: 2 elementary and 1 middle/high school. These students are under the Georgia Alternative Assessment

Recently Purchased Devices: Four *AAC devices (Augmentative and Alternative Communication device)* assist people who have difficulty using spoken speech to express themselves; Four *Translation Dictionary Pens* – scans passages and provides definitions, translations and pronunciations. This will assist language learners, students with dyslexia or reading difficulties. 25 *headphones, number lines, multiplication/division flash cards, counting blocks and mini white boards.*

Academic Boot Camp – A six week intensive program in school designed to prepare students for EOG and GA Milestone Assessments. This will involve rigorous small group instruction, hands-on projects and peer-to-peer collaboration to build academic skills. The goal is substantial academic growth 20% (10 students) growing one proficiency level.

Upcoming Events – *Trunk or Treat* – we are partnering with the Talbot County Sheriff's Dept. to host a P-5 Trunk or Treat October 31st 2:35 – 3:05 p.m.

- **Action Items from Superintendent**

Mr. Jonathan Taylor, Interim Superintendent

- **2025 Property Tax Digest and 5 Year History of Levy**

Mr. Torrence Freeman

Gross Digest of Talbot Co. - \$401,195,993.00 less exemptions of \$73,456,883.00 this gives a total value of \$327,739,110.00. At a rate of 12.6870 the school district will collect \$4,158,026.00. The millage rate for 2025-2026 will be set for 12.6870 mills at \$327,739 per mill to return \$4,158,026.00. The FLIPA reimbursement in the amount of \$118,763.07 makes a total of \$4,276,789.07 for Maintenance and Operation of Schools.

Initially the state recommended 12.70 millage, Talbot County Schools has lowered the millage as reflected on the 5 Year Levy for five consecutive years.

- A motion was made by Mrs. Sharleta Hall to approve the 2025-2026 Millage Rate, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 4-1-0 Ms. Nikki Waller voted no.

- **Salary Scales FY2026**
Mr. Torrence Freeman

Salary Scales for *Cafeteria Staff for 188 days and 190 days* were reviewed with the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Nikki Waller to approve the Salary Scales for FY2026 - Cafeteria Staff, seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 5-0-0

Salary Scales for *Behavior Aide Non-certified, Para-Pros, Para Pro H.S. Diploma, and Para Pros with 2 or more years of college* were reviewed with the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Nikki Waller to approve the Salary Scales for FY2026 - Behavior Aide Non-certified, Para-Pros, Para Pro H.S. Diploma, and Para Pros with 2 or more years of college seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0

Salary Scales for the *Transportation Department* were reviewed with the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Nikki Waller to approve the Salary Scales for FY2026 - Transportation Department, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 5-0-0

Salary Scales for *Classified Staff* were reviewed with the Board. No action was taken at this time.

Salary Scales for *Maintenance and Grounds Keepers* were reviewed with the Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Nikki Waller to approve the Salary Scales for FY2026 - Maintenance and Grounds Keepers, seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0

Salary Scales for *Administrators* were reviewed with the Board. No action was taken at this time.

- **Centegix Safety Platform**
Mr. Torrence Freeman

This Program is used for intruder alert, visitor management and provides safety blueprint digital mapping for the school. Employees will wear a badge to alert administrators and SRO's in the event of an intruder. This is a state mandate to have in place by summer 2026. The state has given us \$25,000 in order to implement this program. Full term contract will be \$62,240.00 of which the state is paying \$25,000. Year one \$10,720 is due at execution of the purchase order; 120 days after that \$10,720 will be due. Years two – five on the anniversary date a payment of \$10,720 will be due.

- Ms. Nikki Waller made a motion to approve the purchase of Centegix, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 5-0-0

- **Branding of the Athletic Complex**
Mr. Jonathon Taylor, Interim Superintendent

This item was tabled at this time.

- **September District Calendar**
Mr. Jonathon Taylor, Interim Superintendent

Mr. Taylor provided the Board Members with a calendar of events for the month of September 2025.

- **Fieldtrip Request**
Ms. Daphne Daniels, Dean of Students

Name of Group	Date of Trip	Destination	Leave Time - Return	Number of Students	Purpose of Trip
FBLA/Business Classes	10/09/25	Georgia National Fair, Perry GA	Leave: 7:45 a.m. Return: 3:00 p.m.	10	FBLA Motivational Rally
Kindergarten Ms. McPhee/ Ms. Kitchens	10/14/25	Rocky Top Pumpkin Patch	Leave: 8:30 p.m. Return: 2:30 p.m.	20	Hands on learning experience
Counselor Dept.	TBA	Manchester, GA	Leave: 9:00 a.m. Return: 12:00 p.m.	60	President's Theatre Tour and Movie
Counselor Dept.	11/18/25	Upson Lee High School Thomaston, GA	Leave: 8:30 a.m. Return: 1:00 p.m.	25	GA Probe College Fair Upson Lee High School
Counselor Dept.	TBA	Columbus, GA	Leave: 8:15 a.m. Return: 2:00 p.m.	TBA	Tour Infantry Museum and/or Coca Cola Space Center

- Mrs. Julia Leonard made a motion to approve FBLA's Field Trip Request, seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 5-0-0
- Ms. Nikki Waller made a motion to approve the Kindergarten Field Trip Request, seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 5-0-0
- Ms. Nikki Waller made a motion to approve the Counselor Department's Field Trip Requests, seconded by Mr. James Steverson. 5-0-0

- **Facility Request**
Ms. Daphne Daniels, Dean of Students

Name of Group	Date	Facility Used For	Location for Use	Hours
Frances Willard Chapter #400 OES	10/25/25	Thelma Blount Scholarship Breakfast	Cafeteria	5 hrs.

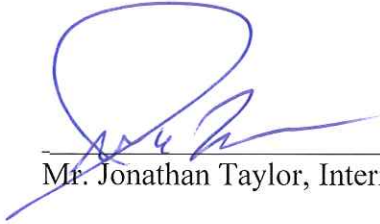
- Mrs. Sharleta Hall made a motion to approve the Facility Requests, seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0

- **Project Request**

Ms. Daphne Daniels, Dean of Students

Name of Group	Date of Project	Project	Description	Money Used For
Junior/Senior Classes	10/1/25	Donation Calendar	Students will ask community to pick a date and donate the amount of their date choice	Junior/Senior Prom

- Mr. James Steverson made a motion to approve the Project Requests, seconded by Ms. Nikki Waller. 5-0-0
- Mr. James Steverson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0
- Ms. Nikki Waller made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:04 p.m., seconded by Mrs. Julia Leonard. 5-0-0
- Ms. Nikki Waller made a motion to hire Antarius Harvey as a custodian, seconded by Mrs. Sharleta Hall. 5-0-0
- Chair Biggs moved to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.



Mr. Jonathan Taylor, Interim Superintendent



Mrs. Mildred Biggs, Chairperson