



MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER 21, 2025

JOINT MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Chairman Young called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. All Board Members, County Manager Warren Cabe, Deputy Clerk Tammy Keezer, Finance Director Lori Carpenter, and County Attorney Eric Ridenour were present, as were a number of county employees, media, and citizens.

At 9:01 a.m., Board of Education Chair Jim Breedlove called the Board of Education meeting to order and made some opening remarks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- (A) Ms. Keezer reminded board members that the November Board meeting will be on November 13, 2025, instead of November 11, 2025.

DISCUSSION AND UPDATES REGARDING ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST:

UPDATE ON HIGHLANDS RENOVATION PROJECT – Project Manager Caitlin Jones with Vannoy Construction provided an update on the Highlands School project.

UPDATE ON FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT – Dave Gotwalt and Josh Cochran with Carroll Daniel Construction provided an update and shared drone footage of the project.

MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS FINANCE UPDATE – Superintendent Josh Lynch and CFO, Alayna Ledford, shared a PowerPoint presentation giving an update on the local current expense deficit, county revenues & contribution percentage, funding scenarios, and capital outlay deficit, and indicated that the State budget has not been passed yet. Commissioner Shearl stated that since 2022, the Board of County Commissioners has increased funding to the school system by two million dollars, mentioned the school's fund balance, and said that what is shown on the presentation slides as the county percentage is not accurate. He indicated that the county is paying for a lot more, and gave an example of the School Resource Officers that are employed by the county. Finance Officer Lori Carpenter said in the current fiscal year, the county is paying \$1,997,302 above and beyond the required debt service funding requirement. Commissioner Breeden said he would like to see the two boards reach an agreement in the future on a specific percentage of the budget that goes to the school budget. He mentioned the quarter-cent sales tax as being a way to assist in this process. Commissioner Antoine made some comments about how the quarter-cent sales tax could be allocated. Commissioner Shields said the quarter-cent sales tax would bring in about 2.2 million dollars.

EAST FRANKLIN SCHOOL – Board of Education Chair Jim Breedlove shared some of the problems with East Franklin School and said they are in desperate need of a new elementary school. Superintendent Lynch said they are willing to apply for the needs-based grant for the school, which is the same grant that was received for Franklin High School.

VIRTUAL TOUR OF FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL (FHS) – Mr. Breedlove invited board members to the October 29, 2025, Board of Education meeting, where LS3P would be providing a virtual walk-through of the inside of the new FHS.

HIGHLAND SOCCER FIELD – Board of Education member Hilary Wilkes inquired about the status of the Highlands soccer field and said she thought it was in the budget. Mr. Cabe and Ms. Carpenter clarified that there is no money currently designated for that project in the budget, but the project continues to be listed on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

At 11:09 a.m., the Board of Education adjourned the meeting, and the members left.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE BOND OF THE COUNTY FINANCE OFFICER IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS - Mr. Cabe read the bond that was needed for Lindsay Leopard, who will be taking the role of Finance Officer on November 3, 2025, due to the retirement of current Finance Officer Lori Carpenter. Commissioner Shields made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Breeden to approve the bond as requested. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURN: With no other business, at 11:10 a.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Breeden, seconded by Commissioner Antoine, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.



Warren Cabe
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board



Josh Young
Board Chair