

FORT PAYNE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD BRIEFS

May 19, 2025, Regular Meeting 6:00 PM in the Conference Room of the Central Office

- I Called the meeting to order and welcome the guests.
- II Established a quorum.
- III Approved the minutes of the April 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, as submitted.
- IV Approved the minutes of the May 9, 2025, Called Board Meeting, as submitted.
- V Presentations
  - A. Recognition of Retirees
- VI Personnel
  - A. Retirements
    1. Accepted the resignation of the following personnel, due to retirement, as submitted:
      - Jennifer Goggans, Math Teacher at Fort Payne High School, effective June 1, 2025.
      - Cynthia Anderson, Custodian at Wills Valley Elementary School, effective July 1, 2025.
  - B. Resignations
    1. Accepted the resignation of the following personnel, as submitted:
      - Alexis Porter, System-wide Speech Pathologist, effective May 23, 2025.
      - Tom Shanklin, Boys Varsity Head Soccer Coach, (any and all coaching duties as assigned) effective May 23, 2025.
      - Steve Cornelius, Boys Varsity Assistant Coach, (any and all coaching duties as assigned) effective May 31, 2025.
      - Reed Jones, History Teacher at Fort Payne High School, effective May 23, 2025.
      - Emily Williams, Kindergarten Teacher at Wills Valley Elementary, effective May 23, 2025.
  - C. Leaves
    1. Approved a request from Lauren Haymon, Reading Coach at Little Ridge Intermediate School, to serve as an ARI Regional Staff Employee. This is a one-year leave, effective July 1, 2025
    2. Approved a request from Chrissie Vinson, Science Teacher at Fort Payne Middle School, for a Leave of Absence, effective April 28<sup>th</sup>, through May 23, 2025, as submitted.

## VI Personnel (Continued)

### D. Transfers

1. Approved the transfer of the following personnel, as submitted:
  - John David Willoughby, System Wide SPE Aide to System Wide Computer Technician Assistant, effective June 1, 2025
  - Ben Phillips, History Teacher at Fort Payne Middle School to History Teacher at Fort Payne High School, effective 2025-2026 School Year
  - Jennifer Whitton, First Grade Teacher at Wills Valley Elementary to Guidance Counselor at Wills Valley Elementary, effective July 1, 2025
  - Heather Cyrus, Williams Avenue Pre-K Teacher to First Grade Teacher at Wills Valley Elementary, effective 2025-2026 School Year

### E. Contracts

1. Approved the contract non-renewal for the following Fort Payne City School Personnel for the 2025-2026 school year, as submitted.
  - Support
2. Approved the contract renewal for the following Fort Payne City School Personnel for the 2025-2026 school year, as submitted.
  - One-year contract of Support Personnel
  - One-year contract of Certified Personnel

### F. Recommendations

- ❖ *Each recommendation is made pending a background review, which meets suitability criteria, clear employment drug screening and valid appropriate Alabama Certification in the area being taught.*
1. Approved the following personnel recommendations, as submitted:
    - Caleb Wigley, Reading School Improvement Team, effective December 1, 2024 Through May 2026.
    - FPCS Summer Reading Program-Bus Drivers effective June 2, 2025
      - Erin Oliva
      - Miranda Simmons
      - Eric Rogers
      - Jeff Tate
    - FPCS Summer Reading Program – Substitute Bus Drivers, effective June 2, 2025
      - Jeremy Dupree
      - Hank Cobble
      - Jon Randal Ham
    - FPCS Summer Technology Workers – effective June 2, 2025
      - Lance Hardinger
      - Hunter Goza
      - Rowan Shugart
      - Yvette Tambunan
      - Trent Guice
      - Klæ Theakston

F. Recommendations (Continued)

- Amy Church, Substitute SPE Bus Aide, effective May 20, 2025
- Hannah Patterson, System-Wide Speech Pathologist, effective 2025-2026 School Year
- Jose Tomas Matias, Custodian at Williams Avenue Elementary, effective 2025-2026 School Year
- Kyler Rogers, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Elementary Teacher at Little Ridge Intermediate School, effective 2025-2026 School Year

G. Other

1. Approved the additions to the following substitute personnel list, effective May 20, 2025, as submitted:
  - CNP

VII Approved the following requests for out of state travel, as submitted:

- Jessica Hayes, EL Coordinator/Migrant Director
  - FPCS - Migrant Students
    - May 27, 2025 – Chattanooga, TN 37402
- Scott Timmons, FPHS Principal/Athletic Director
  - FPHS-Skills USA Drone Competition
    - June 23-27, 2025 – Atlanta, GA 30313

VIII Approved the additional work days for the following positions, during the 2024-2025 summer, as submitted:

- Regina Boatwright – Fort Payne High School Counselor – 15 Days
- Jennifer Whitton – Wills Valley Elementary Counselor – 8 Days

IX Approved the recommendation of final approval to establish and operate the Fort Payne Career Academy, effective 2025-2026 School Year, as submitted.

X Approved the creation, job description for the following positions, effective May 19, 2025 as submitted:

- Cosmetology
- Welding

XI Approved the following request of Fort Payne High School 10 Month Guidance Counseling position to be moved to a 12 Month Guidance Counseling position, as submitted.

XII Approved the following request of Half-time Custodian position at Williams Avenue Elementary School to be moved to Full-time Custodian position, as submitted.

XIII Approved the following request of Half-time Custodian position at Fort Payne High School to be moved to Full-time Custodian position, as submitted.

XIV Approved the FY2025 Budget Amendment I, as submitted.

XV Approved the April 2025, financial statements and bank reconciliation report, as submitted.

XVI Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jett thanked each of the retirees for their service to the Fort Payne City School System.

Congratulations to three Fort Payne Middle School students for placing in the *AURORA* Writing Contest sponsored by Sigma Kappa Delta English Honor Society at Northeast Alabama Community College. Their writing will be published in *AURORA* magazine this fall. Essays 7-9 Grades -

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ethan Al-Halaseh, “Mathematics: An Equation for Life”

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Mercy Cin, “A Journey of Hope: The Untold Story of My Dad’s Fight for Freedom”

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Adrian Garcia – “Home”

Mr. Jett congratulated the following Fort Payne High School students for placing at Skills USA. Riley Houle placed 1<sup>st</sup> in our district and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State in Photography. Nate Blevins and Nikolai Fowler placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the State in Commercial Drone Operations and will advance to Nationals in Atlanta the last week of June.

Congratulations to the Wills Valley robotics team, the STEAM’d Shrimps, who competed at Hampton Cove over the weekend and won a trophy for their poster design. Team members are: Lilly Hairston, Zaylie Zaragoza, Elizabeth Reed, Jassiel Hilerio, Jude Potts and Alex Bell.

Congratulations to Fort Payne Track and Field at the State Track Meet in Gulf Shores – Results:

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Cooper Garrett – Javelin – Alabama Overall State Record

Cooper Garrett – Discus – Fort Payne School Record

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Lydie Varnadore – 100 Hurdles

Lydie Varnadore – 300 Hurdles

4<sup>th</sup> Place - Hadlee Powell – Shot Put

5<sup>th</sup> Place - Audrey Pacini – Pole Vault

Pablo Rodriguez - 800

6<sup>th</sup> Place - Ruthie Jones – 800

Boys 4x800 – Pablo Rodriguez / Emerson Cartes / Logan Bryant / Daniel DeLeon

Barron Sanderson – Pole Vault

Girls 4x400 – Lydie Varnadore / Sara Boatwright / Gabby Vega / Ruthie Jones

7<sup>th</sup> - Kingston Orr – 110H

8<sup>th</sup> - Cooper Garrett – Shot Put

Daniel DeLeon - 800

Daniel DeLeon – Broke the school record in the 1600, finished 11<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Jett announced and congratulated the Class of 2025. They surpassed the challenge set before them of applying to colleges, applying for multiple scholarships, attending job and hiring fairs, and planning for their successful futures. There have been some impressive totals in years past at FPHS, but this year’s class deserves to be recognized and honored for their accomplishments. Northeast Alabama Community College had a FAFSA completion competition and FPHS were awarded the large school FAFSA completion winner.

XVI Superintendent's Report (Continued)

This class has 25 percent (68 Students) attending a four-year University. 52 Percent (140 Students) attending a two-year college or technical college to earn a degree or certificate and possibly then transfer to a four-year university. That's a total of 77 percent of the class who will be attending college! 54 Percent (143 Students) who have been offered one or more scholarships and 117 students accepting these offers. 18 Percent (47 Students) heading straight to the workforce. And 13 Students who have enlisted or are in the process of enlisting in the military. It's a NEW FORT PAYNE HIGH SCHOOL RECORD BREAKING grand total of scholarship offers of \$16,759,333!!! Congratulations to the class of 2025!

XVII Approved Carolyn Martin, as Board President of the Fort Payne City Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year.

XVIII Approved Neal Baine, as Vice-President of the Fort Payne City Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year.

XIX Approved the motion that the Board Member Compensation for FPCS Board of Education members be increased from \$300.00 to \$600.00 per month, as allowed by Alabama Code 16-1-26, effective June 2025.

XX Completed Certification of Affirmation for FPCS Board of Education Members

XXI The date, time and location of the next regular Board Meeting will be Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the conference room of the Central Office

XXII Adjourned