

Schools and County Education Committee
March 10, 2026 | 4 pm
Auditorium, Stone Memorial High School

Members Present:

Sue York
Nancy Hyder (A)
Darrell Threet
Charles Seiber (A)
Jack Davis (A)
Joe Sherrill
Jerry Cooper
Greg Maxwell
Colleen Mall

Others Present:

Gary Nelson, *Crossville Chronicle*
Torey LaMontagne, Mayor's Office, Minutes
Rebecca Farley, Director of Schools
Nathan Brown, Assistant Principal, SMHS
Scott Vanwinkle, Board of Education
Tom Isham, County Commission
Karen Shanks, County Commission, and spouse
Terry Lowe, County Commission
Wendell Wilson, County Commission, and spouse
Deborah Holbrook, County Commission
Craig and Linda Clark
A few citizens

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Darrell called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 in the auditorium of Stone Memorial High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joe made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Greg, none were opposed, and the motion carried. The minutes from the September 22, 2025 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

The floor was opened for public comment(s) regarding the agenda and there were none.

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS, DR. REBECCA FARLEY

DOS Dr. Rebecca Farley was present with updates on the school district: current data, a revised strategic plan, and a budget update.

Regarding English Language Arts (ELA) progress from the '23 – '24 school year to the '24 – '25 school year, grades 3, 5, 7, and 8 decreased in overall achievement while grades 3, 7, English II and the district increased in overall growth.

Regarding Math progress from the '23 – '24 school year to the '24 – '25 school year, grades 3 and 8 decreased in overall achievement while grades 7, Algebra 1, Algebra II, Geometry, and the district increased in overall growth.

Dr. Farley noted the differences in the way that schools are held accountable by the state of Tennessee and by the federal Department of Education. The DOE scores K-8 schools and high schools each on a number scale, while the state of Tennessee scores K-8 schools and high schools each with a letter grade. Some of the components include growth, achievement, an ELA assessment, and the number of kids out of school.

Dr. Farley showed differences in data for the last 3 school years regarding the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System, ACT scores, state/federal grad rates, chronic absenteeism, and ESL scores.

Cumberland County Schools' strategic 5-year plan from 2023-2028 has 3 goals: academics, human resources, and safety/security.

The preliminary budget for 2026-2027 has been shared with the BOE. Pay scales, insurance, and other benefits were presented at the February BOE regular meeting. The selection and approval of these elements will be discussed at the March BOE regular meeting. A middle school discussion, the McKinstry facility study, and salary increases will be considered in the budget process in the future.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS, IF ANY

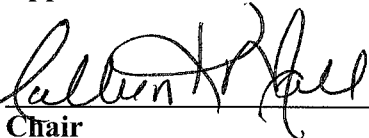
Tom asked if any anti-drug programs existed in the schools. Dr. Farley mentioned that the Cumberland Prevention Coalition does outreach and programs across the school district.

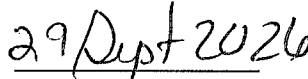
ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Greg. The motion was seconded by Colleen, none were opposed, and the motion to adjourn carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 in the auditorium of Stone Memorial.

Recorded and submitted by Torey LaMontagne

Approval:


Chair


Date