

**Joint
Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
And
Oconee County Board of Education Meeting
Oconee County Administrative Building Commission Chambers
January 29, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Board of Commission Members Present:

Chairman John Daniell
Commissioner Mark Thomas
Commissioner Chuck Horton
Commissioner Amrey Harden
Commissioner Mark Saxon

Board of Education Members Present:

Chairman Michael Ransom
Board Member Amy Parrish
Board Member Ryan Hammock
Board Member Adam Hammond
Board Member Brock Toole

Constitutional Officers Present:

Sheriff James Hale

Board of Commissioners Staff Present:

Daniel Haygood, County Attorney
Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Diane Baggett, Communications Manager
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director
Amanda Shelton, Chief Property Appraiser
Amanda Mauldin, Chief Deputy Tax Commission
Donna Norton, Budget Officer
Pat Sebring, Parks Manager
Tristen Thomas, Management Analyst
Ethan Perry, Planner
Chief Deputy Jeremy Wasdin, OCSO
Captain Mark Smith, OCSO

Welcome: 6:00 p.m.

Chairman John Daniell of the Board of Commissioners welcomed everyone to the joint meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance:

County Commissioner Chuck Horton led the Pledge after a moment of silence.

Call to Order:

Chairman Daniell called the Board of Commissioners meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda – Board of Commissioners:

ACTION:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the January 29, 2025 Agenda.

Second: Mark Saxon
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Call to Order:

Chairman Michael Ramson of the Board of Education called the Board of Education meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda – Board of Education:

ACTION:

Motion: Brock Toole made a motion to approve the January 29, 2025 Agenda.
Second: Ryan Hammock
Voted in Favor of Motion: Amy Parrish, Ryan Hammock, Adam Hammond, Brock Toole
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

Discuss and Consider an Agreement for School Resource Officers between The Oconee County Sheriff, The Oconee County Board of Commissioners, and The Oconee County School District:

Presented by: Chairman John Daniell

Discussion: Chairman John Daniell explained the Agreement between the three entities to form a School Resource Officer Program. He thanked Sheriff Hale and Chairman Ransom for the hard work put into forming this Agreement. The SRO program will include 16 deputies to have a deputy at each of the twelve schools. He explained hiring these officers will not be an overnight process, but the authority will be in place tonight. Cost share will be 90% Board of Education and 10% Board of Commissioners, with reimbursement for costs occurring at least monthly. The Agreement will renew annually unless notice is given for termination.

Mr. Justin Cofer of the Board of Education summarized the Board of Education's timeline of preparing this MOU for law enforcement presence at the schools to prioritize the safety of students, faculty, and staff at the schools. The SRO's will be required to have qualifications and specialized training to work with young people and educators. The estimated cost of implementation of this program through June 2025 is up to \$1,391,282 with the Board of Education paying 90% of those costs. The estimated cost for FY26 is \$2,482,563.

Chairman Daniell clarified with both Boards that the initial Agreement will run through June 2026, with costs for FY26 being reported in May.

Sheriff Hale thanked both Boards for their hard work and support in developing this program to help him secure this county. His goal is to have a resource deputy at each school, each of who is trained in behavioral threat assessment in an effort to prevent any bad events from occurring.

Board of Education Board Member Adam Hammond spoke of his pride in these two Boards working together. He also asked Sheriff Hale to speak further on the need for 16 deputies.

Sheriff Hale explained the need for coverage when a deputy is sick or unable to be at work. There is also a Captain in charge of training, along with supervisors. The deputies will also assist with mentorship of students and identifying any risks in the school.

Chairman Daniell pointed out that Sheriff Hale was requesting implementation of an SRO program with sixteen deputies the day after the Apalachee shooting.

Commissioner Horton thanked the Sheriff for being so invested in student safety.

Board of Education Board Member Amy Parrish thanked the Sheriff and the Commissioners.

The Public Comment Period was opened.

Stephen Aleshire, Lake Wellbrook Drive, questioned familiarity and complacency of a deputy if assigned to the same school, then discussed rare events occurring rarely.

Angela Martin, 1820 Wild Azalea Lane, thanked the Boards for this program to promote the safety of our children.

Board of Education Member Adam Hammond commented on disliking the 90/10 financial split, and Chairman Daniell explained the details.

The Public Comment Period was closed.

ACTION – Board of Commissioners:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the Agreement for School Resource Officers between the Oconee County Sheriff, Oconee County Board of Commissioners, and Oconee County Board of Education, and to approve all necessary budget amendments for The School Resource Officer Program.

Second: Mark Saxon

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

ACTION – Board of Education:

Motion: Brock Toole made a motion to approve the Agreement for School Resource Officers between the Oconee County Sheriff, Oconee County Board of Commissioners, and Oconee County Board of Education.

Second: Ryan Hammock

Voted in Favor of Motion: Amy Parrish, Ryan Hammock, Adam Hammond, Brock Toole

Voted Against Motion: None

Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

The Agreement was signed by Chairman Ransom, Chairman Daniell, and Sheriff Hale.

Adjourned – Board of Commissioners:

Motion: Mark Saxon made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Chuck Horton

Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden, Mark Saxon

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Meeting Adjourned: 6:31 p.m.

Adjourned – Board of Education:

Motion: Brock Toole made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Ryan Hammock

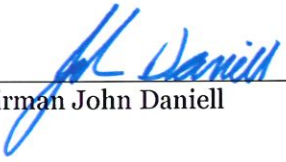
Voted in Favor of Motion: Amy Parrish, Ryan Hammock, Adam Hammond, Brock Toole

Voted Against Motion: None

Action/Motion: **Motion Passed.**

Meeting Adjourned:

6:31 p.m.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

2-4-25
Date