

**Joint
Oconee County Board of Commissioners Meeting
And
Oconee County Board of Education Meeting
Oconee County Schools Instructional Support Center
July 6, 2026 – 4:00 p.m.
Minutes**

Board of Commission Members Present:

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

Board of Education Members Present:

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

Board of Commissioners Staff Present:

Justin Kirouac, County Administrator
Holly Stephenson, County Clerk
Whitney Sperlik, Administrative Services Director
Lisa Davol, Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

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

Approval of Agenda – Board of Education:

ACTION:

Motion:	Brock Toole made a motion to approve the July 6, 2026 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.

Call to Order:

Chairman John 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 July 6, 2026 Agenda.
Second:	Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion:	Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden
Voted Against Motion:	None
Final Action:	Motion Passed.

Discuss and Consider a Proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between the Oconee County Board of Commissioners and the Oconee County Board of Education for ownership and operation of the Oconee County Civic Center and a land transfer of 42.7 acres on Highway 441 near Bishop:

Presented by: Dr. Ryan White, Chief Operations Officer of Oconee County Schools

Discussion: Dr. Ryan White presented the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement, stating it would exchange Board of Education property of 42.7 acres just north of Bishop for the Civic Center Property sitting on approximately 3.62 acres. He stated the Civic Center property is primarily used by the Oconee County School System currently. The proposed exchange would take effect September 1, 2026. He stated that the Superintendent's recommendation is to approve this IGA.

Ms. Jennifer Whitaker, Dr. Peter Adams and Dr. Ryan White answered frequently asked questions and explained when the school system will use the Civic Center, how the exchange would create more equity across all schools in the district, the process and new regulations for public rental, and how the transfer will benefit Oconee County taxpayers as ownership of the Civic Center by the schools will reduce costs and allow expenses to be funded through ESPLOST.

Chairman John Daniell stated school system policies would apply to Civic Center operation to include no alcohol and no firearms allowed in the building. The priority of usage will remain the same with the Board of Commissioners utilizing the space as in the past with no usage fee. Elections will also continue to use the Civic Center. He stated that there are currently no definite plans for the property in Bishop.

Ms. Callen Moore, Director of Communications for Oconee County Schools, introduced the one person who signed up to speak at the meeting.

The Public Comment Period was opened.

John Webb, Oconee County citizen since 1970, expressed concern over the potential name change of the Oconee County Civic Center. He spoke in favor of the Bishop property not being dedicated to another park at this time. He asked if each entity was receiving the true value of what each property is worth.

The Public Comment Period was closed.

Chairman Michael Ransom stated he feels the Board of Education is certainly receiving what they believe is fair.

Chairman John Daniell stated he believes the proposed exchange to be very fair to the county.

Commissioner Chuck Horton discussed the history of the Civic Center and its importance to the county. He believes the Civic Center will be a huge asset to the children of the Oconee County School System, and the property in Bishop will also be a huge benefit in the future to the children and taxpayers of the county.

Commissioner Amrey Harden asked the Board of Education if a price had been put on building a Fire Arts Facility for the school.

Superintendent Butler stated she would guess around \$15 million to build a facility.

Board Member Adam Hammond discussed the history and educational value of the Civic Center for the school system.

Board Member Ryan Hammock expressed his excitement over acquiring an auditorium at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Superintendent Melissa Butler made a recommendation to the Board of Education to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the transfer of the Civic Center in exchange for the 42.7 acres in Bishop.

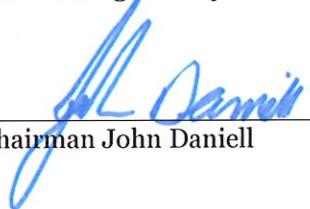
ACTION – Board of Education:

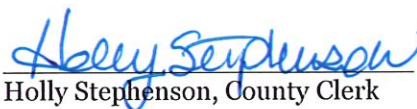
Motion: Brock Toole made a motion to approve the IGA with the Oconee County Board of Commissioners for transfer of the Civic Center and 42.7 acres near Bishop.
Second: Adam Hammond
Voted in Favor of Motion: Amy Parrish, Ryan Hammock, Adam Hammond, Brock Toole
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

ACTION – Board of Commissioners:

Motion: Chuck Horton made a motion to approve the IGA with the Oconee County Board of Education for transfer of the Civic Center and 42.7 acres near Bishop.
Second: Mark Thomas
Voted in Favor of Motion: Mark Thomas, Chuck Horton, Amrey Harden
Voted Against Motion: None
Final Action: **Motion Passed.**

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:26pm by Chairman Michael Ransom.


Chairman John Daniell


Holly Stephenson, County Clerk

8/4/26
Date