

**SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CALLED MEETING**

**MARCH 9, 2026**

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

The called meeting of the Sumter County Board of Education was called to order by Vice Chairman Carolyn Hamilton with the following other members present: Abbis Bivins, Edward Jackson, Rick Barnes, Vincent Kearse, and Dwight Harris.

Patricia Harris participated virtually.

A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Barnes motioned to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Harris; and the motion was carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made at 5:34 pm by Mr. Barnes; second by Ms. Bivins to enter into executive session for the following reasons as read by the chairman: To discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or to interview applicants for the position of superintendent; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)). To consult and meet with legal counsel pertaining to pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the school district or an officer or employee or in which the officer or employee may be directly involved; (O.C.G.A § 50-14-2(1)). The motion was carried unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson, second by Mr. Barnes at 6:30 p.m. to return to open session; the motion was carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Kearse and seconded by Mr. Harris to approve the transition plan for Mr. Walter Knighton from Superintendent of Schools to Superintendent Advisor until his retirement on May 30, 2026. The motion also included naming Mr. Jerry Sanders as Interim Superintendent pending the completion of a superintendent search. The motion was carried with five in favor (R. Barnes, C. Hamilton, E. Jackson, V. Kearse, D. Harris), one oppose (A. Bivins), and one abstention (P. Harris).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Barnes; second by Mr. Kearse. The motion was carried unanimously.

  
Chairman

  
Secretary