

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
District Office
April 20, 2026
7:30 P.M.

Members Present: Mr. Kevin Jenkins, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Debra Fredrick, Secretary; Mr. Ned Nelson, and Mr. Michael Diaz. Absent: Mr. Gary Porth, Board Chairperson

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mr. Jenkins called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors and staff, and asked everyone present to stand for a Moment of Silence and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Notice to the Media: In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80-(E), as amended, the following have been notified of this meeting: *The Calhoun Times*; *The Times and Democrat*; The District Website and notices placed on the bulletin boards in all schools and the District Office.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Diaz, to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026 and April 15, 2026 minutes, as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Student Recognition: Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Deputy Superintendent, recognized the 3rd Quarter GPA Award recipients.

Sandy Run K-8 (Mr. Dinkins and Mrs. Zeigler)

- Brittany Yeargin
- Ashanti Thompson
- Carolina Middlemiss
- Rosemari Gomez-Mendez
- Taylor Padgett

St. Matthews K-8 (Dr. Peebles and Dr. Myrick)

- Sofia Almaraz
- Grace Kinley
- E'Myne Thomas
- Payten Charles

Calhoun County High School (Mr. Howard and Ms. Brown)

- Ra'Shon Cunningham
- Vanessa Aguilar
- St. Julian Johnson
- Kierra-Michelle Wright

Color of Concepts Award-Ms. Jasmine Sill competed with 250 art entries and was one of the 16 winning artists. On May 1st, she will attend the 37th Annual Economics and Financial Literacy Awards Luncheon, where she will be honored with a plaque. Her artwork will be featured in the calendar and be published.

Shining Star Staff Awardees

Dr. Kaysian Brown- Sandy Run K-8 School
Ms. Marilyn Curry- St. Matthews K-8 School
Mrs. LaNishia Berry- Calhoun County High School
Ms. Mary Currie- District Office

Dr. Treda Keith-Nelson recognized:

- Calhoun County High School as the recipient of the Capturing Kids' Heart Award for the 3rd Quarter.
- Calhoun County High School for having the Highest Attendance for the 3rd Quarter.
- Calhoun County High School, along with St. Matthews K-8, for being this quarter's Star Campus as a Rising Shining Star for Capturing Kids' Hearts.

Chairperson's Report: No Report

Finance: Mr. Stanley Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the first reading 2026-2027 budget.

Budget Presentation Summary Chart — First Reading FY 2026–2027

Category	FY 2026–2027 Projection	Increase Over FY 2025–2026	Notes
County Tax Revenue	\$16,995,679	+\$1,622,629	Added into 26–27 projections
State Revenue Projection (House Finance)	\$8,367,987	+\$110,262	Senate projections still pending
Total Projected Revenue	\$25,363,666	+\$1,732,889	County, state, and other funds combined
Teacher Salary Increase	Average 5%	—	4% schedule increase + 1% step increase
Beginning Teacher Salary	\$53,135	—	Above Governor's recommended increase
Classified Employee Increase	Cost of living increase	—	CPI increased 3.3%
Retirement Rate	24.66%	—	Current employer contribution rate
Projected Retirement Cost	\$3,297,524	+\$131,725	Based on projected positions
Projected PEBA Retirement Credit	\$114,000	—	Included pending confirmation
Health Insurance Cost	\$1,820,240	+\$126,287	Based on current employee plans
Total Fringe Benefits	\$6,098,598	+\$238,615	Compared to 25–26
Total Payroll & Fringe Costs	\$20,545,914	+\$1,018,986	Represents 81% of total budget
Supplies & Purchased Services	\$4,871,752	—	Projected operational costs
Total Expenditures	\$25,363,666	—	Balanced with projected revenue
Fund Balance Usage	\$0	—	No fund balance used
Millage Increase	None	—	No tax increase proposed

Mr. Brunson stated:

- Budget remains **balanced** without using fund balance reserves.
- No proposed **millage increase** for county taxpayers.
- Teacher salaries remain competitive with neighboring districts.
- Inflation and rising costs continue to create budgeting uncertainty.
- Final budget figures remain subject to:
 - South Carolina Department of Education updates
 - South Carolina House and Senate final appropriations

- Health insurance and retirement adjustments

Mr. Brunson emphasized that this is only the **first reading** of the budget and that additional state-level financial projections are still pending before a final budget can be adopted. He predicts final projections should be in by the end of May or the beginning of June.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Fredrick, to accept the first reading of the 2026-2027 budget. Passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report:

Board Policies: Ms. Frances Keller, Director of Human Resources, presented the following Board Policies to the Board for Second Reading, amendment, and approval:

- Policy DK Payment Procedures
- Policy IJ Instructional Resources and Materials
- Policy IJJ Textbook Selection and Adoption
- Policy IJK Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption
- Policy IJL Library Materials Selection and Adoption
- AR IJL-R Library Materials Selection and Adoption
- File IJL-E(1) Library Bill of Rights
- File IJL-E(2) Request for Re-Evaluation of Library Materials
- Policy IJNC School Media Centers
- File IJNC-E Library Bill of Rights
- Policy IJNDAA Distance, Online and Virtual Education
- Policy IJNDB Use of Technology Resources in Instruction
- AR IJNDB-R Use of Technology Resources in Instruction
- File IJNDB-E(2) Internet Network Access Agreement
- Policy IJOA Field Trips
- AR IJOA-R Field Trips
- Policy IJOB Community Resource Persons/Speakers
- Policy IKA Grading/Assessment Systems
- AR IKA-R Grading Assessment Systems
- Policy IKAA Tests and Examinations
- Policy IKACA Parent Conferences

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve 13 Policies, 4 Administrative Rules and 4 File as presented by Ms. Keller for Second reading and amendment. Passed unanimously.

Facilities Update: Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations, presented 2 overnight field trip requests. The first request was submitted by Coach Farmer for the track team in anticipation of student-athletes qualifying for the State Championship at Spring Valley High School. The proposed trip would take place May 15–17, with athletes departing on the evening of May 15 and returning on May 17. Students would stay at the Comfort Inn in Blythewood to ensure they are rested and able to arrive at the championship events on time. The exact number of participating students is not yet known, as the request depends on state qualification results for both boys' and girls' track athletes.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Diaz, to approve the track team trip. Passed unanimously.

The second overnight field trip request for the ROTC program's annual Junior Cadet Leadership Camp at Fort Jackson. The trip is scheduled for June 5–11 and will include 21 students accompanied by two adult chaperones.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the ROTC trip. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Tullock gave a reminder of the upcoming District Events:

Dates to Remember

- **Apr. 24** – Unity Day Games, High School Athletic Fields, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
- **Apr. 25** – Saturday with the Superintendent, Sandy Run K-8, 9 a.m.
- **Apr. 29** – Statehouse Visit with the Band
- **May 2** – Saturday with the Superintendent, District Office, 9 a.m.
- **May 2** – FIC Community Day, High School Athletic Fields, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
- **May 7** – Completers Night, High School, 6 p.m.
- **May 8** – College Decision Day, High School, 10 a.m.
- **May 11** – St. Matthews K-8 Bridging Ceremony
- **May 12** – St. Matthews K-8 5K Promotion Program & High School Senior Night, 6 p.m.
- **May 13** – Sandy Run K-8 5K Promotion Program, 6 p.m.
- **May 14** – Sandy Run Montessori Bridging Ceremony & St. Matthews Cardinal Showcase, 6 p.m.; Senior Sunset, 6:30 p.m.
- **May 18** – Regular May Board Meeting, High School, 7:30 p.m.
- **May 19** – St. Matthews K-8 8th Grade Promotion & Sandy Run Family Engagement Math Night, 6 p.m.
- **May 20** – Sandy Run K-8 8th Grade Promotion Program, 6 p.m.
- **May 22** – Last Day of School for Students
- **May 23** – High School Graduation, Football Field, 9 a.m.

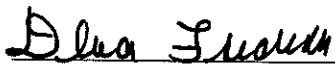
Mr. Parker, Mr. Kiernan, and Dr. Tullock, recently visited Mid Carolina Middle School to observe a demonstration of a PA system supported by Wasegah. They also planned a visit to A.C. Moore Elementary School in Columbia to review a demonstration of the Audio Enhancer.

The demonstrations are part of the district's evaluation process for upgrading school safety notification systems using a \$500,000 grant received through the South Carolina Department of Education. The upgrades will be fully funded through the grant.

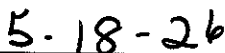
Executive Session: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to enter Executive Session to consider Personnel: Recommendations and Resignations, and Superintendent's Evaluation. Passed unanimously.

Board Actions: Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to increase the travel allowance for the superintendent. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Mr. Diaz moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:16 p.m. Passed unanimously.



Board of Trustees Secretary



Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Jenkins
Executive Administrative Assistant