

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Trustees
District Office Boardroom/Live Stream
October 18, 2021

Members Present: Mr. Gary Porth, Chairperson; Mr. Kevin Jenkins, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Debra Fredrick, Secretary; Mrs. Sandra Tucker, and Mr. Ned Nelson

1. **Call to Order/Moment of Silence:** Mr. Gary Porth, Chairperson, called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors and staff and asked everyone present to stand for a Moment of Silence and the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag".
2. **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; notices placed on the bulletin boards in all schools and the District Office.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Porth asked that agenda item, Superintendent's Departure & Replacement, under the Chairperson's Report be moved to Executive Session for discussion and brought back to the Regular Session for action. Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the agenda with the changes as requested by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the minutes of September 20, 2021 and October 12, 2021 as submitted. Passed unanimously.
5. **Public Participation:** None
6. **Chairperson's Report:** None
7. **Financial Report:** Mrs. Sky Strickland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the September 2021 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mrs. Strickland informed the Board that in September 2021, the District received 10% of General Fund Budgeted Revenue and expended 19% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures and encumbered 61% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures, with a total of 80% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures. Mrs. Strickland said with the current taxes, the report shows a negative collection for the month of September. She said this is due to the CSX transportation refund in July and the Norfolk Southern refund in September. She said the refunds are being given to the railroad companies through current taxes and then they are turning around and paying the new taxes through delinquent taxes and then issuing the refund back to the railroad companies. She added the current taxes collected for September 2021 was approximately \$84,000.00, which is 2% of the budget and delinquent taxes collected for September 2021 was approximately \$154,000.00, which totals approximately \$286,000.00.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for September 2021. Passed unanimously.
8. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. George Kiernan, Human Resources Director and Compliance Officer, shared with the Board the last six weeks of the COVID-19 Activity in Calhoun County. He said that Calhoun County's COVID-19 Activity for September 22, 29, and October 6, 2021 was reported as medium and October 13, 2021 was reported as low. Mr. Kiernan said DHEC has put out new COVID guidelines as to when a student or individual should be quarantined. He said the new guidelines are, if a student or individual is masked and within 4 to 6 feet from a positive person, they do not have to quarantine. Mr. Kiernan added that currently, there are two positive students, twenty-nine quarantined students, 1 positive staff member and 2 quarantined staff members.

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board the Facility Updates. He said he is in the process of looking at the feasibility of rubberizing all the remaining playgrounds at both the K-8 schools. He said the District has received a new shipment of hand wipes that should last through the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Kiernan presented Policy JKE – Expulsion of Students, AR JKE-R – Expulsion of Students and Policy JICI – Weapons in School for Information. Dr. Wilson said the Board has had a real interest with these policies and he would like for the board to have time to look over the policies and bring them back for 2nd reading in November. He added that the District’s Attorney has been assisting the District with the policies.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, talked to the Board and presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Cyber Security and Mitigating Hacks to District Networks. Mr. Parker said he has reached out to the S.C. Law Enforcement Division for assistance in preventing hacks to the District’s network. Mr. Parker shared the different ways the network can be hacked as well as ways to prevent the District from being hacked. He said that several local institutions recently have been hit with ransomware.

Dr. Wilson spoke to the Board regarding Calhoun County School District Mask Mandate. He said the Supreme Court recently ruled that school districts could mandate the use of masks. Dr. Wilson said due to the county and the District’s low positive Covid counts, he will not enforce the mandate of mask at this time. He added that the District reserves the right to come back to the Board and mandate the use of mask, if the positive rates go back up.

- 9. **Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel, Recommendation(s) and Resignation(s), Legal: MOU Calhoun County Recreation Department Athletics’ Proposal and Superintendent’s Departure & Replacement and then return to open session at the completion of discussions. Passed unanimously.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mr. Porth announced that the Board was back in open session.

- 10. **Board Action(s):** Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Tucker, to authorize Mr. Gary Porth, Board Chairman, to work with the District’s Legal Council, to execute an employment contract to Mr. Ferlondo Tullock as Superintendent for Calhoun County School District upon the retirement of Dr. Steve Wilson. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Gary Porth read a brief statement from the Board regarding the hiring of Mr. Tullock as Superintendent of Calhoun County Public Schools upon the departure of Dr. Steve Wilson.

- 11. **Adjournment:** Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Tucker, to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Debra Swain
Board of Trustees Secretary

11-15-2021
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent