

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
June 9, 2025
Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent

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

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mr. 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".

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. Nelson, to approve the minutes of May 19, 2025 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Student Recognition: Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, asked Dr. Tullock, along with Board Members and Principals to come forward and recognize students receiving the Fourth Quarter Highest GPA Awards for the 2024-2025 school year. Each student was given a Certificate of Award and a Calhoun County Public School's Honor Student Yard Sign to be placed at their residence.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked the recipients of the Superintendent's Award to come forward and receive a certificate of award as well as a monetary gift. Mrs. Murdaugh said the Superintendent's Award is given to the student that has maintained the Highest GPA for all four quarters in the school year.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked Coach Farmer and the Calhoun County High School Boys' Track Team to come forward and be recognized for being named the 2025 State Champions of the 1A Division.

Employee Recognition: Mrs. Murdaugh presented the 2024-2025 Fourth Quarter District's Shining Staff Awards to Carolyn Bull, Donnica Darby, Christina Floyd, and George Kiernan. Each employee received a certificate of award and a gift card sponsored by Tri-County Electric Co-op.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked Ms. Frances Keller, Director of Human Resources, to come forward and recognize the District Retirees: Mrs. Diane Pendergrass, Mrs. Annette Wannamaker, and Mrs. Geraldine Johnson. Each retiree was given a gift of thanks for the countless hours that they have put into Calhoun Public Schools.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked Ms. Regina Simon to come forward and be recognized for being named the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE) Support Staff of the Year.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked Dr. Ferlondo Tullock to come forward and be recognized for being named the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE) Superintendent of the Year for the State of South Carolina.

School Recognition: Mrs. Chelsea LeFebvre and Mrs. Kathy Booker, MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness, was asked to come forward to make a presentation to the district and schools. Mrs. LeFebvre said each of the three schools participated in a Wellness Checklist to earn points by doing various evidence-based wellness strategies. She said that out of the three schools, Sandy Run K-8 School won \$2,000.00 to use on anything wellness related. Mrs. LeFebvre said a total of \$3,000.00 was awarded to the District. Mrs. Murdaugh asked Nurse Mack and Mr. Dinkins to come forward and be recognized for all of their hard work.

Chairperson's Report: Mr. Porth expressed how proud he and the Board are of the students and parents of Calhoun County Public Schools.

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the April 2025 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that the District received 5.6% of the Projected Revenue and Year-to Date, 80% of the projected General Fund Budgeted Revenue, expended 7.7% for the month and 79% for the Year-to-Date. He said Year-to-Date Encumbrances was 37% for the twelve-month Fiscal Period.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for April 2025. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson presented the 2025-2026 School Budget for Second Reading and Board approval. Mr. Brunson said revenues from County Taxes will exceed the 2024-2025 budget by \$1,043,102 and this has been added to the projection for the 2025-2026 fiscal period. He said the Senate Finance Revenue projections for 2025-26 are \$7,956,735; an increase of \$374,595 over the previous fiscal period. Mr. Brunson said the total County, State and other projections for the 2025-2026 fiscal period is \$23,630,086; a \$2,057,690 increase over the 2024-2025 period. He said the Teacher Salary Schedule was increased by 5%. He said all classified salary schedules were increased by 5% as a cost of living and all employees will also receive a one-step increase if eligible. Mr. Brunson said total payroll, fringes, purchase services, and supplies are projected at \$23,630,777 and match the projected revenue to give the District a balanced budget. Mr. Brunson said the budget has been projected without using Fund Balance and no increase in millage for the people of Calhoun County.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the 2025-2026 Second Reading of the Budget. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson and Mrs. Karen Jackson, Director of School Nutrition, shared a PowerPoint Presentation of the Calhoun County High School Furniture Project with the Board. Mrs. Jackson said the benefits of the project will include:

- Welcoming dining space
- Increase seating capacity to 236
- Promote a dining experience by making it more inviting to eat nutritious meals in the cafeteria
- Provide ease of furniture cleanliness and upkeep for years to come.

Dr. Tullock said the September Board Meeting will be held at Calhoun County High School so the Board will have the opportunity to see the final project.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented the updated AR JICDA-R Code of Conduct for information. He said the changes will make the Code of Conduct easier to follow along with ensuring that each infraction aligns with State Codes for input into the behavior system. Mr. Kiernan said each principal has had the opportunity to review the changes and provide input.

Mr. Kiernan shared Facilities Updates with the Board. He said Nu-Idea has informed him that the new teachers' desks will arrive this week. He said summer cleaning has begun in the schools. Mr. Kiernan said the gym floor at St. Matthews K-8 School is still on schedule for the second week of July. He said the new HVAC systems for each of the major IDF rooms at each school are about four weeks away. Mr. Kiernan concluded by saying he is planning that summer cleaning will be complete by July 24th.

Mr. Mark Parker, Director of Technology, shared Technology Updates with the Board. Mr. Parker shared with the Board that the new Chromebooks will be issued to the K5 through tenth grade students. He said before a student will be issued a Chromebook, they are required to turn in the Acceptable Use Policy form and pay the insurance fee. Mr. Parker said the eleventh and twelfth grade students will be issued laptops.

Mr. Parker shared the Mobile Audio Unit upgrade at Calhoun County High School. He said the changes to this unit should make it last at least fifteen to twenty years.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. He said the District has established the registration dates for the 2025-2026 school year. He asked that everyone have an active email address on file with your child's school. Dr. Tullock said on or about the 14th of July, the registration link will be sent to the listed email address. He said parents and guardians are asked to use that link to complete all forms, particularly the Acceptable Use Policy form. Dr. Tullock said this form allows students use of any technology device. He said parents are asked to pay the \$25.00 technology usage fee. Dr. Tullock said that fee is an insurance that covers any incidental damages to the device. He said the fee can be paid online on the District's website. Dr. Tullock said once these items have been satisfied, parents may pick up devices beginning July 16th and 17th at Sandy Run K-8 School, July 22nd and 23rd at St. Matthews K-8 School, and July 23rd and 24th at Calhoun County High School. He said satisfying these requests will ensure that students have their devices and access to textbooks on day one of school, August 6, 2025.

Dr. Tullock said summer instructional programs are underway at each school. He said these programs will operate Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am until 2:30 pm through June 26th. Dr. Tullock said today was the first day of the annual basketball camp being held at Calhoun County High School. He said Coach Fredrick is meeting with students Monday through Thursday through June 26th from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm. Dr. Tullock said breakfast and lunch are being served to both groups of students.

Dr. Tullock invited everyone out to the annual Back-to-School Bash on July 12th. He said the bash will be held at Calhoun County High School from 9 am until 12 noon. Dr. Tullock said there will be supplies given away, vendors, and the annual back to school fashion show. He invited everyone to come out to support the students. Dr. Tullock said If there are vendors who would like to participate, please contact Dr. Treda Nelson or Ms. Jurnee Jenkins, both located here at the District Office.

Dr. Tullock said there is currently a phone blast and email being shared each evening with information about the registration process, summer programs and camp, the Back-to-School Bash and the summer feeding opportunities. He said information will continue to be shared throughout the summer via social media, phone contact, and email.

Dr. Tullock congratulated the Class of 2025. He said on May 31st the District celebrated the class at the commencement exercises on the football field. He said the weather was beautiful allowing for a very nice ceremony to recognize the academic achievement of the class. Dr. Tullock wished the very best to the graduates as they head off to the post-secondary educational pursuits, the world of work, or to military service. He thanked young people for their resilience and fine representation of the District and the community. Dr. Tullock added "Congratulations to the 100 members of the Class of 2025."

D. Tullock said he would like to take a moment of personal privilege to thank the staff members, Board members, and community members who supported the SCABSE awards brunch last Saturday. Dr. Tullock said although the recognition was handed to him, it is shared with the many employees, students, parents, and other stakeholders of the District. He said for that reason, he thanked everyone for their tireless work in making Calhoun County Public Schools the BEST District.

Dr. Tullock reminded everyone of the June 23rd meeting to hold the Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Budget and the third and final reading of the budget. He said the public hearing will begin at 6 pm and the final reading of the budget will take place at 6:30pm.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), ROTC Contract, and SCEA Legal Matter, 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.

Board Action(s): Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Personnel Recommendations and Resignations as presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the ROTC Field Trip Request as presented by the Superintendent.

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:55 p.m. Passed unanimously.


Board of Trustees Secretary


Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent