

**Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
October 22, 2024
Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent**

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

Dr. Tullock asked that the Board remember Josiah Michael and Ty'Sheanna Matthews, seniors at Calhoun County High School that were recently lost in an automobile accident.

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mr. Porth 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 Mrs. Tucker, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the minutes of September 16, 2024 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: None

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the August/September 2024 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson said that in the two-month period, the District received 6.8% of the projected revenue and year to date, the District has received 10% of the general fund revenue. He said the District has expended 16.3% of the expenses for the month and 21% year to date for general fund expenditures. He said encumbrances are 57% for the twelve months of the fiscal period.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for August/September 2024. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson said the auditors have been here this past week performing their field work. He said so far, there have been no issues or problems. Mr. Brunson said hopefully, in the next several weeks, he will have a draft of the financial statements to review.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented Policy GDQB – Resignation of Support Staff for Second Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve Policy GDQB – Resignation of Support Staff for Second Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan presented Policy JICJ – Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day for First Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve Policy JICJ – Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices during the School Day for First Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan presented the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar options to the Board for information. He said the drafts of the three calendars were shared with the Community Communicators, the Student Advisory Council, and Faculty Advisory Council. He said the top two calendars will be posted online tomorrow for stakeholders to have the opportunity to vote. He added the calendar with the most votes will be presented to the Board for approval in November.

Mr. Kiernan presented Facility Updates to the Board. Mr. Kiernan said regarding water damage with the gymnasium floor at Sandy Run K-8 School, he was able to contact Mr. Josh Edwards with EDCON. He said Mr. Edwards provided him with the contact number of Mr. Chris Waites, a water expert. He said Mr. Waites agreed with the plans that were provided by Palmetto Green, on the course of action that needs to be done. Mr. Kiernan provided a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating the repairs that will be done. He said the floors should be completed before the Thanksgiving Holidays.

Mr. Kiernan said the tornado floor cleaning machines are in and training should begin this week. Mr. Kiernan added that in conjunction with The Great Southeast Shakeout, each school conducted an earthquake drill on October 16, 2026.

Dr. Treda Nelson, Chief Accountability Officer, presented an Accountability Update and PowerPoint Presentation on the School Report Card Data to the Board. She said for the 2023-2024 School year, the Overall passing percentage for the District was 80%. She said St. Matthews K-8 School received an Average, both K8 Middle Schools received a Good, Calhoun County High School received an Average. Dr. Nelson shared several notables:

- Calhoun County High School graduation rate is above the State's Average. (Good)
- Calhoun County High School Career Readiness (Good)
- Over 90% of the 7th graders in the honors academy who took the EOC for Algebra I, earned an A or B.
- Met and Exceed achievement at the K8 School averaged between .4 and 20 percentage points.
- The I-READY data correlates with the achievement scores in ELA and Math.

Dr. Tullock said that the State Superintendent of Education made a special comment about Calhoun County Public Schools and Calhoun County High School. She said that in English II, the students scored the highest percentage growth of any high school in the State with 19%.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. He said the camera client stations upgrades have been completed at all of the schools.

Mr. Parker said the District will be moving to a new communications system. He said this is the system that is used when Dr. Tullock sends out phone messages to the parents in the District. He said the new system will be Power School Messenger.

Mr. Parker said servers that were damaged in the storm are now being replaced. He said he is hoping to move all of the data from the old servers to the new servers this coming Saturday.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. He said he would like to thank the community, students, staff, and stakeholders for their patience as we had to once again deal with the effects of another hurricane. He said this time, Hurricane Helene forced everyone to take emergency shelter on Thursday, September 26th, as tornadoes plagued the Midlands. He said then again, on Friday, September 27th, the District was forced to use an eLearning day due to high winds and rains associated with the storm. He said he was thankful to the staff in insuring that the buildings were ready for students' return on Monday, September 30th. Dr. Tullock said the District welcomed students and staff, some of which had no power at their homes. He said he was grateful to the staff for making sure all students had cool classrooms and hot meals upon their return.

Dr. Tullock recognized the Calhoun County Thunder and Lightning Band for its first-place finishes in the Woodland and Dillion Invitational Band Competitions. He said these young people, under the direction of Mr. Travis Lawton, put in countless hours of practice and performances at football games the night before the all-important competitions. Dr. Tullock thanked the Director, the volunteers, parents, and many fans who supported these young people.

Dr. Tullock said Saturday with the Superintendent sessions will take place on Saturday, October 26th and November 2nd from 9:00-10:00 a.m. He said these sessions will be devoted to answering questions pertaining to the 2025-2026 Academic Calendars.

Dr. Tullock reminded the community that there will be no school on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 because of the elections. He said students and staff will return to the classroom on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

Dr. Tullock presented Staff Appreciation Incentive for Board Approval. He said each of the District's 260 employees employed on November 1, 2024 would receive \$1,000.00 prior to individual deductions. He said this payment to employees would be made to employees on November 21, 2024, just prior to leaving for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Staff Appreciation Incentive as presented by Dr. Tullock. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Tullock asked that because of the elections scheduled and the certifying of the votes from the elections on November 5, 2024, that the Board Meeting be re-scheduled on November 14, 2024, to include the swearing in of the newly elected Board Members at 6:30 P.M. followed by the Board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Tullock recognized Mrs. Sandra Tucker, Board Member. He said this meeting will be the last meeting for Mrs. Sandra Tucker, who has served the County as the representative of District #3. He thanked Mrs. Tucker for her tireless service to the students and citizens of Calhoun County. Mrs. Tucker was presented with an engraved crystal vase and a bouquet of flowers. Her family was also in attendance.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s) and Resignation[s], Student Expulsion Appeal, and the Superintendent's Evaluation, 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. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Personnel Recommendations and Resignations as presented by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Jenkins abstaining.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to uphold the Hearing Committee's recommendation for expulsion as presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Pamela Kennedy
Board of Trustees Secretary

11-14-24
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy