

**Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
July 15, 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.

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.

Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s) and Resignation[s] 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 Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Personnel Recommendations and Resignations as presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the minutes of June 10, 2024 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: None

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the May 2024 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that in the May report, the District received 15 % for the year to date and 82% of the General Fund Budgeted Revenue. He said for the month, 7.8% was expended and year to date was 75% of the General Fund Expenditures. Mr. Brunson said Year to Date Encumbered is 20% for the eleven months of the fiscal year.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for May 2024. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson presented the SCAGO GO Bond Resolution for approval. He said the Bond will be used for refunding the Bond the District currently has as well as funding capital projects. He added the Bond is not to exceed three million dollars.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins to approve the SCAGO GO Bond Resolution not to exceed three million dollars. Passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Tullock introduced the new District staff to the Board.

- Mr. Russell Redford, Assistant Principal at Sandy Run K-8 School
- Ms. Charlene Jenkins, Executive Administrative Assistant and Receptionist at the District Office
- Mr. Fred Mack, Coordinator of Federal Programs
- Mrs. Karen Jackson, Director of Nutrition Services
- Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board that the abolishment of SCDHEC has changed some of the contacts. He said immunization is now handled by the Department of Health. Dr. Tullock said Food Services Operations falls under the Department of Agriculture and Septic tank inspections will be covered by the Department of Environmental Services. He added that DHEC is now three separate agencies.

Dr. Tullock shared road closures in the County due to the I-26 project. Valley Ridge Road will reopen August 17, 2025 and Beaver Creek Bridges will reopen on October 8, 2025. Both are pending any weather or construction delays.

Dr. Tullock said the District had Summer Camp this past summer. He said the District had thirteen students between the two K-8 Schools who participated in the STEM and Robotics Camp. Dr. Tullock said this is the second year for the Camps.

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board that there is now legislation that removes cell phones from SC schools. He said all Districts must have a policy in place that is aligned to this legislation. Policy JICJ- Possession/Use of Electronic Communication Devices in School, gives guidance for the possession and use of cell phones by students. He said Districts are awaiting the final language from the State Board of Education for all that needs to be included in the local policy. Dr. Tullock said the District should receive this information by January 2025. He said the District will follow the current Policy JICJ until he receives additional guidance. He added there are a number of provisos that are being reviewed to make certain the District is in compliance at the start of the school year.

Dr. Tullock said the Back-to-School Bash will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2024 at Calhoun County High School from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. He said there will be giveaways such as shoes, clothes, and school supplies. Dr. Tullock said there will be a fashion show that will take place at 12:00 noon that will include students and staff. He said the event will take place on the football field, but if there is inclement weather or unbearable temperature, the event will be moved to the gymnasium.

Dr. Tullock thanked the Band, Mr. Lawton, Band Director, Mr. Howard, Principal, and volunteers for their participation at the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Tullock said that school will open back for students on August 5, 2024. He said the staff will return on July 29, 2024.

Ms. Francis Keller, Human Resources Director, presented Policy EF Food Services for First Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve Policy EF Nutrition Services for First Reading and Amendment.

Ms. Keller presented AR EF-R Food Services for information. She said this AR will be deleted.

Ms. Keller presented Policy CCA – Organizational Chart for First Reading and Amendment.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve Policy CCA – Organizational Chart for First Reading and Amendment.

Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Deputy Superintendent, presented curriculum updates to the Board. She shared that the State Board of Education passed unanimously, Regulation 43-170 – Uniform Procedures for Selection Reconsideration of Instructional Materials. Mrs. Murdaugh said this regulation aligns with the Supreme Court precedent and State law, focusing on the removal of inappropriate sexual material from public school classrooms and libraries. Mrs. Murdaugh said under the SC Administrative Act, parents have 120 days to challenge material within a district beginning August 1, 2024. She said prior to August 1, 2024 the District must:

- Maintain a current list or catalog of all books and other materials available to students.
- Review existing District instructional material and challenge policies that the District wishes to maintain.
- Identify a designee or process to ensure that all locally approved materials comply with the “Age and Developmentally Appropriate Definition” before being made available to students.
- Consider to what extent a preemptive review of existing instructional materials is prudent.
- Develop a District-wide uniform process for a parent or legal guardian to review a complete list of instructional materials in any given class, course, or program, upon reasonable request.

Mrs. Murdaugh shared the new College and Career Ready ELA Standards to the Board. She said all fourth through twelfth grade teachers have been trained on the new ELA standards. Mrs. Murdaugh said K-3rd grade teachers will receive their final training on Monday, July 29, 2024. She added new teachers will also receive training throughout the school year. Mrs. Murdaugh said this year, the District will begin working on the new College and Career Ready Math Standards. She said training on the newly adopted Math standards will start with the South Carolina Department of Education face training. Mrs. Murdaugh said a consultant will be available to work with all math teachers. She said the new Wonders by McGraw Hill textbook training will take place on July 22, 2024 at the

District Office for K-5th grades. Mrs. Murdaugh reminded the Board that ESSER III Funding will end on September 30, 2024. Mrs. Murdaugh said that this year, the District will begin work to create Standard Based Report Cards for K- 2nd grade students.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented Facility Updates to the Board for the month of July. He said the custodians and maintenance crews have been working hard to get the schools ready for teachers and students. He said everything is on track for the teachers to start coming in next week and begin setting up their rooms. Mr. Kiernan gave a list of the following facility updates in the District.

- Three HVAC units have been installed at Calhoun County High School.
- New flooring was installed in the DECCA room at Calhoun County High School.
- All Carpet in the Pre-K, Kindergarten classrooms, and the medial centers at both K-8 Schools have been professionally cleaned.
- Holes are being repaired and painted in the weight room at Calhoun County High School.
- New sinks have been installed in the group restrooms at Calhoun County High School. The hardware will be installed this week.
- A leak in a wall at Sandy Run K-8 School has been repaired along with the damaged tile floors.
- Next week, all schools will be power washed outside.

Mr. Mark Parker shared Technology Updates with the Board. He said network upgrades are being done at each location. Mr. Parker said when the network updates are complete, the wireless overlay update will begin that will help when the phone system when the District loses power. Mr. Parker said new updated Smart Boards are being installed in the District. Mr. Parker said after the Boards are installed, the configuration stage will begin. He added there will be training on the new Boards. Mr. Parker said online registration will begin on Thursday, July 18, 2024. Mr. Parker said if all device fees are paid, and the State-Wide Acceptable Device Form is signed, students will be issued their laptops before the first day of school.

Public Participation: None

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Debra Fushik
Board of Trustees Secretary

8-19-24
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent