

**Calhoun County Public Schools  
Minutes of the Board of Trustees  
December 15, 2025  
District Office  
Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent**

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

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

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

**Election of Officers:** Mr. Porth turned the meeting over to Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, who opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairperson. Ms. Fredrick moved to nominate Mr. Porth as Board Chairperson. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Porth opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Nelson moved to nominate Mr. Kevin Jenkins as Board Vice Chairperson. Ms. Fredrick moved to close the nominations and elect Mr. Jenkins by acclamation. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Porth opened the floor for nominations for Board Secretary. Mr. Nelson moved to nominate Ms. Debra Fredrick as Board Secretary. Mr. Jenkins moved to close the nominations and elect Ms. Fredrick by acclamation. Passed unanimously.

**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 November 17, 2025, and December 8, 2025, as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Student Recognition:** Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, asked Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, along with Board Members and Principals, to come forward and recognize the students who won the 2025 Calhoun County Public Schools Christmas Card Designers. Winners were: Sarahly Navarrete, Calhoun County High School; Mariei Marquez, Sandy Run K-8 School; and Payten Charles, St. Matthews K-8 School.

Mrs. Murdaugh recognized the 2026-2027 South Carolina Junior Scholars. Honorees were: Natalie Belteton and Aaliyah Tarafa.

Mrs. Murdaugh recognized the students who won the Calhoun County Emergency Management Agency's Weather Art Contest. Winners were: Landon Traver, Madison Carr, Alayla Davis, Arianna Porter, and Thaanyasri Panjakadi.

**Chairperson's Report:** No Report.

**Finance:** No Report

**Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Frances Keller, Director of Human Resources, presented the following Policies for Second Reading, amendment, and approval:

- Policy JC School Attendance Area
- Policy JIB Student Involvement in Decision Making
- Policy JIC Student Conduct
- Policy JIC Weapons in School
- Policy JIE/JIF/JIG Pregnant Students/Students with Children/Married Students
- Policy KBE Relations with Parent Organizations
- Policy KC Community Involvement in Education
- Policy KCA School-Community Relations Goals/Priority Objectives
- Policy KCB Community Involvement in Decision Making
- AR KCB-R Community Involvement in Decision Making
- Policy KCD Public Gifts/Donations to Schools
- Policy KD Public Information and Communication
- AR KD-R Public Information and Communication
- Policy KDD Media Relations
- Policy KDDA Press Releases, Conferences and Interviews
- Policy KE Public Concerns and Complaints
- Policy KG Business and Industry Involvement in Education
- Policy KHC Distribution/Posting of Promotional Materials
- Policy KHE Political Solicitations in Schools
- Policy KI Visitors
- Policy KLG Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities
- AR KLG-R Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities
- File KLG-E Police Interrogations and Investigations - (Student Release)

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Second Reading of 19 Policies, and 3 Administrative Rules as presented by Ms. Keller. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Treda Nelson, Chief Accountability Officer, shared the key findings of the Cognia Mid-Cycle Progress Report with the Board. She said the Board would find the complete report in their board packets. She said areas for improvement include:

- **Evaluating Programs and Practices for Student Learning** received a score of Sufficient Progress – no further action required.
- **Monitoring Instruction with High Expectation** received a score of Sufficient Progress, no further action required.
- **Using Data Analysis for Student Achievement** received a score of Sufficient Progress, no further action required.

Dr. Nelson reported that Dr. Holly Wingard, Regional Accreditation Evaluator, said that the highest possible rating on the Cognia Mid-Cycle Progress Report is Sufficient Progress, and she wished there was a higher possible rating. Dr. Wingard also said that before the report and evidence were turned in, she was confident that Calhoun County Public Schools was engaged in continuous improvement due to her awareness of the students' growth and achievement data. She said the District was firm in the areas of sustainability and embedded levels. Dr. Nelson said looking ahead, the District's next full

Accreditation review will be held in January 2029. She concluded by thanking Mrs. Janet Gilchrist and Dr. Wanda Green-Adams for their continued leadership and dedication to the District's Cognia Team.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented to the Board the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar A for Second Reading.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar A as presented by Mr. Kiernan for second reading. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Tullock presented the 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar for approval.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the 2026 School Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar as presented by Dr. Tullock. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. He asked Mr. Sawvell, Calhoun County High School, Art Instructor, to come forward and present the Board with art projects from the students.

Dr. Tullock stated that as part of the JUUL e-cigarette lawsuit, the District will receive checks totaling \$373.83. He said the Bonus amount is \$346.25 and the Altria interest amount is \$27.58.

Dr. Tullock recognized Chairman Porth for his completion of the South Carolina School Boards Association Boardman Institute Level 6. He said this is the highest level of recognition in the Boardmanship Institute. Dr. Tullock said Mr. Porth will be formally recognized at the SCSBA at the Annual Convention on February 22, 2026.

Dr. Tullock congratulated the Calhoun County High School Chorus for its invitation to participate in the 2027 National Memorial Day Choral Festival on May 29-31, 2027 at the John F. Kennedy Center for performing Arts in Washington, D.C. He said the choir will take part in the official opening ceremonies of the National Memorial Day Parade the following day. Dr. Tullock said the parade, held along Constitution Avenue in front of the National Archives is the official Memorial Day Parade of the United States. He congratulated Mrs. Scott, the Choir Director, and the Chorus members.

Dr. Tullock wished safe travels for the band members who will be traveling to New Orleans for the festivities associated with the Sugar Bowl. He said the attendees will leave on December 29, 2025 and return on January 1, 2026.

Dr. Tullock extended warm holiday greetings to all students, staff, and community stakeholders. He said students and staff will observe the Winter Holiday break beginning Friday, December 19, 2024. Dr. Tullock said staff will return on Monday, January 5, 2026 and students will return to the classroom on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. He said students will dismiss early on Friday, December 19, 2025. Dr. Tullock said K-8 Students will dismiss at 12:15 and the high school will dismiss at 12:30.

Dr. Tullock asked everyone to continue to support the basketball teams and cheerleaders as they continue to play over the holiday break. He said the high school teams will play at home on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, vs. Horse Creek, and on Friday, December 19, 2025, vs. Branchville. Dr. Tullock said the boys will then travel to Sumter to play in a holiday tournament on December 26-29, 2025, and the Middle School team will play at home on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, vs. Blackville-Hilda. He said

the high school teams will then be in action on Saturday, January 3, 2026, vs. Allendale-Fairfax and Tuesday, January 6, 2026, vs. HKT.

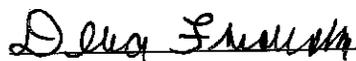
**Public Participation:** None

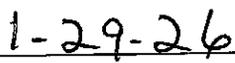
**Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s) and Resignation, the Superintendent's Evaluation, and then return to open session after discussions. Passed unanimously.

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

**Board Action(s):** No Action Taken

**Adjournment:** Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:48 P.M. Passed unanimously.

  
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Board of Trustees Secretary

  
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Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Kennedy  
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent