

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
August 19, 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 Ms. Fredrick, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the minutes of July 15, 2024 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: None

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the June 2024 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson said that the District received 12.5 % of the monthly projection for the month of June and Year to Date 98% of the yearly projected General Fund Budgeted Revenue. He said additional June Revenue received in the month of July after completion of this report was 102% of Budgeted Revenue. Mr. Brunson said for the month, the District expended 12.3% and Year to Date, 95% of the General Fund Expenditures. He said Year to Date Encumbrances are 0% for the twelve months of the fiscal period.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for June 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 asked Mr. Porth to come forward and be recognized for reaching Level Five of the South Carolina School Boards Association Boardmanship Institute Training. Mr. Porth received a certificate of award and a Level Five lapel pin.

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

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve Policy EF Nutrition Services for Second Reading and Amendment.

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

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve Policy CCA – Organizational Chart for Second Reading and Amendment.

Dr. Treda Nelson, Chief Accountability Officer, shared Student Services Updates with the Board. She said the Back-to-School Bash was held on Saturday, July 29, 2024. Dr. Nelson said the students were provided with clothing, school supplies, physical and mental health services and she said there was also a fashion show this year. Dr. Nelson thanked the twenty-two sponsors that helped make the Bash a success. She said that the sponsors were thanked with a handwritten card from Dr. Tullock as well as placed on the District Facebook page.

Dr. Nelson shared the 2024-2025 District Enrollment totals for the first three Mondays of the new school year. She said as of today, Calhoun County High School has 402 students, St. Matthews K8 School has 513 students, and Sandy Run K8 School has 490 for a total of 1,586 students.

Dr. Nelson shared the Stronger Connections Grant. She said this Grant is to help address the need to decrease students' absences through effective family engagement that builds trusting relationships, increases student learning, and promotes students' and family well-being between home, school and community. Dr. Nelson said the District was awarded this grant and will put it to use this school year.

Dr. Nelson shared that the South Carolina State Department of Education has given the District a Well Being Survey. She said the Well Being Survey focuses on students' wellness and mental health. She said every nine weeks, the students will be given the survey to see where they are socially and emotionally.

Dr. Nelson presented a Homeschool Application to the Board for approval. Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the Homeschool Application request as submitted by Dr. Nelson.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented Facility Updates to the Board for the month of August. Mr. Kiernan thanked the custodians and maintenance personnel for getting the schools ready for the students to return back to school. Mr. Kiernan shared the following:

- Both K8 School Gymnasium floors are in the beginning process of being replaced/repaired.
- Both K-8 Schools have new student desks for grades 6-8.
- In the process of planning new HVAC upgrades for next summer.
- The District received three new buses from the State.
- The weight room at Calhoun County High School has been painted with the school colors.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. He said all of the Smartboards have been installed and training started on July 29th. He said there will be several training sessions throughout the year. Mr. Parker said online registration has been going very well. He explained the online registration process to the Board. Mr. Parker shared a reel of the new eSports Lab at Calhoun County High School. He said the reel will be publicized nationally.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. He thanked everyone for a great opening of school on August 5, 2024. He said on July 29, 2024, staff returned to the District and all convened at Calhoun County High School on August 30, 2024 for the District's Annual Convocation. Dr. Tullock said the Faculty and Staff were inspired by the powerful words of Mr. Chris Singleton, motivational speaker and son of the late Mrs. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton who perished in the shooting at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC in June of 2015. Dr. Tullock thanked Ms. Francis Keller and Mrs. Amy Williams for their hard work in making that day a special time for all. He thanked the Board members who were able attend.

Dr. Tullock said on August 30, 2024, the eSports Lab at Calhoun County High School was unveiled to the community for everyone to experience what the students will have at their disposal for classes and after-school programs. He thanked Mr. Milton Howard and Mr. Parker for making the opening a success.

Dr. Tullock shared that on Saturday, July 27, 2024, the District held the Annual Back-to-School Bash. He said it was truly a magical day as the many partners from the community came out to shower the students and families with school supplies and clothing and shoes. He said he hopes the event helped the students get off to a great start to the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Tullock thanked Dr. Nelson and Ms. Walker for organizing the event for the District families.

Dr. Tullock asked everyone in the community to support the various teams who are now in season. He said Volleyball will have a home match on Thursday and Football has a home game Friday. Dr. Tullock shared with the Board that he included a copy of the schedules for the in-season sports; Football and Cross Country.

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board the Life2 Summit Schedule. He said Life2 is a grant partner who works with the District with staff development opportunities, as well as, financial incentives for new employees and assessment performance. Dr. Tullock said he and several staff members will be presenting at the summit to detail the impact of Life2's partnership, as well as, to showcase the District's offerings. He said the summit will be held on Monday, August 26 through Wednesday, August 28th at the DoubleTree Hotel on Bush River Road in Columbia. Dr. Tullock told the Board that they are all invited to attend the summit.

Dr. Tullock said this coming Saturday has been designated as Saturday with the Superintendent. He said anyone wishing to take advantage of this opportunity may sign up on the District's website or by calling Mrs. Kennedy at the District Office.

Dr. Tullock asked each Principal to come forward to receive a monetary donation presented by the Delta Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He said this donation is to be shared among the District's three schools.

Dr. Tullock thanked Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff, and students for their patience during the opening of school when the District had to revert to eLearning days on August 6,7, and 8. He thanked everyone for adhering to the various phone and social media communications. Dr. Tullock said having used the days as eLearning days allowed the District to continue with the already approved calendar. He said if the students were to have missed instruction on those three days, they would be required to use make-up days that were already built into the calendar. Dr. Tullock reminded everyone that the District is only afforded five eLearning days per year.

Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, 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 Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Personnel Recommendations and Resignations as presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

Public Participation: None

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Passed unanimously.



Board of Trustees Secretary



Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy