

**Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
May 19, 2025
Calhoun County High School
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.

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". Dr. Tullock asked everyone to remember the family of the late Mr. Willie Lee Brown, a former bus driver who transported students for twelve years before his retirement. Dr. Tullock also welcomed back Mr. Diaz following a family emergency.

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 April 14, 2025 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: No Report

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2025-2026 First Reading on the Budget in Title only for 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 \$7,867,737; an increase of \$318,538 over the previous fiscal period. Mr. Brunson said the total County, State and other projections for the 2025-2026 fiscal period is \$23,542,268; a \$1,969,181 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 \$23,542,267 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. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the 2025-2026 First Reading of the Budget in Title Only. Passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report: Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, asked the Board to consider scheduling a Special Called Board Meeting on June 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. for the Public Hearing and the Third Reading of the 2025-2026 Budget. Dr. Tullock also asked that the location of the September Board Meeting be held at Calhoun County High School and the October Board Meeting be held at St. Matthews K-8 School. After Board discussion, the Board agreed to approve the requested changes to the Board calendar.

Dr. Tullock said the end of the 2024-2025 school year is this Friday, May 23, 2025. He said Thursday and Friday, May 22-23, 2025 will be early dismissal days. He said the two K-8 schools will dismiss at 12:15 p.m. and the high school will dismiss at 12:30 p.m. Dr. Tullock said report cards will be issued to K-8 students on Friday, May 23, 2025 and the High School students will receive their report cards the following week in the mail.

Dr. Tullock reminded everyone of the communication sent regarding student registration. He asked that everyone please be certain to have a current email address on file so as to receive the registration link in July. He asked that parents complete the registration process and pay the Technology Fee of \$25.00 so students will have their device by the first day of school. He added that parents can, in fact, pay the device fees now.

Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, asked Dr. Tullock along with Board Members, to come forward and recognize advisors and students receiving awards and recognition. Awards were presented for the following:

- Skills USA Chapter Display
- Calhoun County Work-Based Learning Student of the Year
- Calhoun County Technology Champion of the Year
- Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Graduates
- The Addams Family Musical
- Trebuchet Team
- Calhoun County DECA
- Build the Moon Challenge
- Congressional District Art Contest
- Sandy Run K-8 School Band
- Superintendent's Student Advisory Council
- R.I.D.D. Essay Winner
- Calhoun County High School Class of 2025

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 Resignations, a Contractual Matter - Facilities, 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.

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 10:03 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Debra Fredrick

Board of Trustees Secretary

6-9-25

Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent