

**Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Calhoun County High School
May 18, 2026
7:30 P.M.**

Members Present: Mr. Gary Porth, Mr. Kevin Jenkins, Mr. Ned Nelson, Ms. Debra Fredrick, Mr. Michael Diaz,

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mr. Gary Porth called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors and staff, and asked everyone present to stand for a Moment of Silence and recite 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. Ned Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Debra Fredrick, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes Ms. Debra Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Michael Diaz to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026 minutes, as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Tullock shared several positive updates and announcements for Calhoun County Public Schools. He noted that the final two days of the school year, Thursday, May 21, 2026, and Friday, May 22, 2026, will be half days for students. Dismissal will be at 12:00 p.m. for K-8 schools and 12:15 p.m. for the high school. Breakfast and lunch will be served on both days.

Dr. Tullock recognized the Calhoun County High School Drama Club, Ms. Sullivan, and the cast members for their performance of *Cinderella* on April 25, 2026. He commended the students for their talent and thanked everyone involved for their work.

He also shared that Calhoun County High School recently hosted Community Day, which included games, valuable information, and food provided by the high school counselors, the district's community engagement coordinator, and others throughout the district.

Dr. Tullock congratulated the girls and boys track teams for participating in the Class A State Track Meet at Spring Valley High School. He especially recognized the boys track team for being crowned Class A State Champions for the second year in a row.

In preparation for the upcoming school year, Dr. Tullock announced that the Back-to-School Bash will be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Calhoun County High School.

MUSC Orangeburg Wellness Awards Presentation

Representatives from MUSC Orangeburg, including Kelsey and Ms. Booker, Director of Strategic Partnerships, addressed the Board and shared appreciation for the district's partnership. They thanked the schools, staff, and students for their continued work in promoting wellness and creating healthy school environments.

It was announced that all Calhoun County Public Schools earned a wellness award this year. This marks the fifth year of the wellness program. MUSC Orangeburg provided approximately \$20,000 in wellness support, with approximately \$4,000 awarded directly to schools for wellness initiatives. Matthews K-8 School was recognized for

establishing a new wellness team this year. The school was commended for its hard work, maintenance of a healthy environment, and continued success with its outdoor classroom.

Calhoun County High School was recognized as this year's top winner, earning more than 100 points overall. The school's wellness efforts included active participation in the Garden Club and Walking Club, as well as hosting a staff salad bar during the Pork Crunch Countdown. Special recognition was given to Ms. Joyce Watson for her outstanding leadership and commitment to wellness.

Escape the Haze

Mr. George Kiernan introduced Mr. Vincent Sanders from the Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Mr. Kiernan shared that vaping continues to be a serious epidemic affecting students in schools, homes, athletic facilities, and the community. He explained that, because schools cannot compete with the extensive marketing resources of vaping companies, education is the district's strongest tool.

Mr. Kiernan stated that, approximately a year and a half ago, the district partnered with Mr. Sanders to begin offering Saturday vaping intervention and education classes for students and families. Mr. Sanders shared that the classes have been successful and well attended. The current nicotine vaping curriculum includes six lessons covering the effects of vaping on the brain, heart, and lungs; marketing techniques used by companies; addiction; coping skills; and a brief lesson on marijuana/cannabis.

Mr. Sanders then presented information on the Smart Talk Cannabis Prevention and Awareness Curriculum, which is part of the Stanford Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Toolkit. He explained that the curriculum is a five-lesson, theory-based and evidence-based program developed through collaboration with Stanford Reach Lab, the Stanford Lab Youth Action Board, educators, health providers, scientists, and youth across the United States. The curriculum is designed to educate students on cannabis awareness and prevention, including how cannabis affects the teenage brain, addiction, and overall health.

Presentations

The graduating Class of 2026 from Calhoun County High School was recognized. The class consists of 98 graduates who will pursue post-secondary education, military service, and/or enter the workforce. The students were commended for their leadership, unity, support of one another, and positive representation of the school and community. Board members and guests were reminded of the invitation to attend graduation on Saturday, May 26, at 9:00 a.m. on the football field, weather permitting. Graduates were also presented with Class of 2026 yard signs as a gift from Dr. Tullock and his family.

Mrs. Christia Murdaugh recognized students, faculty, and staff for their outstanding accomplishments during the 2025–2026 school year. It was noted that, similar to the previous year, there were numerous awards to be presented in celebration of the hard work and achievements throughout the district.

Chairperson's Report

No Report

Finance

Mr. Stanley Brunson gave the March and April 2026 financial reports and budget adjustments. During this period, the district received 13% of its projected revenue, bringing year-to-date general fund revenue to 84% of the projected budget. Expenditures for the period totaled 16.3%, with year-to-date general fund expenditures at 78%. The Board was asked to consider approval of the March–April 2026 financial reports and budget adjustments. Year-to-date encumbrances were reported at 19% for the 12-month period.

Mr. Ned Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Debra Fredrick, to a Financial Report Budget Adjustments. Passed unanimously. Mr. Brunson presented second reading of the 2026-2027 budget.

2026-2027 Budget Highlights

Budget Area	Projected Amount	% of Budget	Notes
Bus Drivers: Salaries & Fringe	\$1,115,088		Supports student transportation, field trips, athletics, and career center transportation
Bus Drivers: Services & Supplies	\$89,700		Purchased services and supplies
Total Bus Driver Cost	\$1,204,788	1.75%	State revenue support is approximately \$275,000
Teachers: Salaries & Fringe	\$12,079,211	47.62%	Includes salary scale increase; beginning teacher salary projected at \$53,135
Special Needs Program	\$3,404,951	13.42%	Increase of \$877,220 from prior year
IDEA Funding	\$847,820		Federal funding does not cover half of special needs costs
County Tax Revenue	\$16,995,679		Projected 2026–2027 revenue
State Revenue	\$8,367,987		Increase of \$110,260 over prior year
Total County, State & Other Revenue	\$25,364,687		Increase of \$1,733,710 over 2025–2026
Retirement Cost	\$3,297,524		Increase of \$131,725
PEBA Credit	\$114,000		Included as projected revenue
Health Insurance Cost	\$1,830,420		Increase of \$126,287
Total Salary Fringe Benefits	\$6,098,598		Increase of \$238,615
Total Payroll & Fringe Benefits	\$20,545,914		Projected for 2026–2027

Mr. Kevin Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Debra Fredrick, to accept the second reading of the 2026-2027 budget. Passed unanimously.

Third reading along with Public Hearing will be held June 8, 2026 beginning with Public Hearing at 7:00pm and the Board Meeting at 7:30.

Policy JFAB – Admission of Non-Resident Students

Ms. Frances Keller presented Policy JFAB, Admission of Non-Resident Students, for first reading. The policy outlines procedures for non-resident student enrollment, including application timelines, required student records, tuition or participation requirements, and special enrollment conditions for qualifying students, such as children of employees, military families, exchange students, and students who move during the school year.

It was noted that the highlighted red portions of the policy represent deletions, while the highlighted yellow portions represent additions. Board members discussed whether the policy was a new state-required policy or a revision of an existing policy. It was clarified that the policy is an updated revision, with the most recent previous revision occurring in February 2025.

Mr. Kevin Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Debra Fredrick, to take first reading on Policy JFAB, Admission of Non-Resident Students. The motion carried.

Facilities Update

Mr. George Kiernan provided the Facilities Update for May 2026. He reported that the fire panels in all three schools have reached the end of their life expectancy and will be replaced the following week. The replacement is being scheduled between the end of the school year and the start of summer enrichment. Mr. Kiernan explained that the current fire panels are outdated, and replacement parts are no longer readily available. Delays in obtaining parts could result in the schools being placed on fire watch.

Mr. Kiernan also shared that he is working with Mr. Parker to review options for new PA systems. In addition, summer cleaning schedules are being developed to ensure schools are prepared for students returning in July or the first week of August.

He further reported that the required annual bleacher inspections are underway. The football stadium bleachers were inspected the previous week in preparation for graduation, and the remaining bleachers at the K-8 schools and inside the high school will be inspected in the near future.

Public Participation

None

Executive Session

Mr. Kevin Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Debra Fredrick, to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters, student expulsion appeals, and the Superintendent's contract, with the understanding that the Board would return to open session upon completion of the discussion.

Board actions

Motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jenkins upon returning to open session, and seconded by Mr. Michael Diaz to uphold the hearing committee's decision in both student expulsion appeals. There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

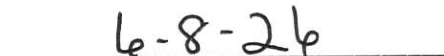
Mr. Kevin Jenkins made a motion with a second by Mr. Michael Diaz to approve the employee recommendations for employment and resignations as submitted by the Superintendent. There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kevin Jenkins made a motion and seconded by Mr. Michael Diaz to extend the Superintendent's contract by one additional year, through June 30, 2029. There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kevin Jenkins made a motion and seconded by Ms. Debra Fredrick to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:55pm.



Board of Trustees Secretary



Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Jenkins
Executive Administrative Assistant