**Calhoun County Public Schools**

**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**

**November 27, 2023**

**District Office**

**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, 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".

 **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.

 **Approval of Minutes**: Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the minutes of October 16, 2023 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Student Recognition**: Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Chief Academic Officer, asked Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, along with Board Members and Principals to come forward and recognize the students receiving the First Quarter Highest GPA Awards for the 2023-24 school year. Each student was given a certificate of award and a Calhoun County Public School Honor Student Yard Sign to be placed at their residence.

 **Employee Recognition**: Mrs. Murdaugh presented the 2023-2024 First Quarter District’s Shining Star Awards to Mr. Anthony Scott, Mrs. Jennifer Hogan, Ms. Janice Smith, and Dr. Jennifer Lincoln. Each employee received a certificate and a gift card sponsored by Tri-County Electric Co-op.

 **Chairperson's Report**: none

**Finance:** No Report

**Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Frances Keller, Director of Human Resources, presented Policy JAA – Gavin’s Law for Second Reading and Amendment.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve Policy JAA – Gavin’s Law for Second Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Keller shared with the Board the District’s Recruitment Flyer for information. She said the flyer was created for recruitment purposes.

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Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, shared with the Board the following Facility Updates for the month of October:

* In the process of upgrading the cafeteria furniture at all schools
* A representative from ABM Energy Management Company is working on a final report for the District

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board the 2024-2025 Proposed Academic Calendars for information. Dr. Tullock said that all calendars were presented to various stakeholders, staff, student leaders, as well as the community. He said the District asked for a waiver to allow the school to start prior to the third Monday in August. Mr. Kiernan said calendars A and C were chosen out of four calendars. He said the two calendars will be online between November 28 – December 13, 2023 for all stakeholders to vote on the calendar they prefer. Mr. Kiernan said the calendar with the most votes will be presented at the December Board Meeting.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. Mr. Parker shared with the Board a change that has occurred with Google that recently caused some technology issues in the schools. He said this change is only for Google for Education and for students under the age of eighteen. He shared information with the Board from Google Workspace for Education. Mr. Parker said the changes were made and the issues have been corrected. Mr. Parker explained to the Board how the issue was found and the process of how it was corrected.

Mr. Parker shared with Board information regarding the COPS Grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. He said this organization has a commitment to school safety and to assure students’ success in supportive safe environments. Mr. Parker said this is a completive grant that is awarded to designated schools to provide funding to provide security at the schools and the school grounds.

Mrs. Murdaugh shared with the Board the ESSER Audit Report from the State of SC Department of Education for information. She said because the District has updated the ESSER plans and submitted each time a change was made for the past three years, it has been noted that Calhoun County Public Schools will not have to go through the desk audit.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent’s Updates with the Board. He said St. Matthews K-8 School was awarded $27,900.00 from the SDE Fresh Fruits and Vegetables grant. He said this grant will be used to introduce students to new fruits and vegetables. Dr. Tullock said the introduction of the new food items will take place twice weekly during the months of January, February, and March.

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board prepackaged meals that are currently being used by the Food Service Department. He said the meals will be used on Fridays throughout December to reduce the inventory. Dr. Tullock said the meals can be used in cases of emergency or for after-school programs.

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Dr. Tullock thanked the entire District and community for their cooperation when Sandy Run K-8 School had to move to eLearning on November 8-10th due to an increase of students and staff out due to respiratory illness. He also thanked the community, vendors and partners for coming out to the Health Fair that was held on November 11th. Dr. Tullock said it was a fun filled morning that included games, prizes, and receiving health related information and screenings.

Dr. Tullock told the Board that in their board packets they were given copies of the basketball schedule. He reminded everyone to support the students participating in either the middle school boys, varsity girls, and varsity boy’s teams as well as the cheerleaders. He added that schedules can be found on the schools’ websites.

Dr. Tullock said Saturday with the Superintendent will take place on Saturday, December 16, 2023. He said signup can take place with Mrs. Kennedy or on the District’s website.

Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that December 18, 2023 will be the next Board meeting. Prior to the meeting, the District will recognize the Certified and Classified staff of the Year during a reception in their honor at 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room.

Dr. Tullock said the District Winter Concert and Art Show will take place on December 21, 2023 at Calhoun County High School. He said the program will feature bands, choruses, and art displays from all of the schools.

Dr. Tullock said December 21, 2023 will be the last day before Winter Break for students. He said the two K-8 schools will dismiss at 12:15 and the high school will dismiss at 12:30.

Dr. Tullock asked everyone to read a letter that was recently shared with parents and guardians referencing student conduct. He asked that everyone please take a moment to read the letter and discuss appropriate behaviors with their children. He said it breaks his heart that the District has senior students who have made ill advised choices that land them in precarious situations.

 **Public Participation:** None

**Executive Session**: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), the Superintendent’s Evaluation, and a Student Expulsion Appeal 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.

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**Board Action(s)**: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to uphold the Hearing Committee’s recommendation for expulsion. Passed unanimously.

**Adjournment**: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to adjourn at 9:29 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