

**Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
August 21, 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. Gary 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 Ms. Fredrick, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023, as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: none

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the July 2023 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that in July 2023, the District received 3% of the General Fund Budgeted Revenue, expended 4% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures and encumbered 72% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures, with a total of 76% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures. Mr. Brunson reported that the current taxes collected for July 2023 is 11.5% of the budget, and delinquent taxes collected for July 2023 was 11.5% of the budget.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for July 2023. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson presented the 2022-2023 Annual Financial Audit and Engagement Letter for approval. He informed the Board that upon his arrival, he contacted the audit firm J.W. Hunt that the District had previously used for the District's Annual Audits. Mr. Brunson said he was told that the company would not be able to perform the Audit this year due to lack of personnel. He said immediately, an RFD was generated and the firm of Mauldin and Jenkins was selected. Mr. Brunson explained he received the Engagement Letter today. Mr. Brunson asked the Board for approval for the 2022-23 Annual Financial Audit to be performed by Mauldin and Jenkins.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the 2022-23 Annual Financial Audit to be performed by Mauldin and Jenkins. Passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented Policy CCA – Organizational Chart for Second Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve Policy CCA – Organizational Chart for Second Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board the following Facility Updates for the month of August:

- Painting is complete at all schools and the District office
- Roof leak in the Gymnasium at Calhoun County High School is in the process of being repaired
- All single water fountains have been installed. The double-sided water fountains will be installed in approximately one week
- All 10-ton HVAC units have been installed at both K-8 Gyms and the Cafeteria at St. Matthews K-8 School
- Waiting on a new 15-ton unit for the Kitchen area at St. Matthews K-8 School
- HVAC replacement at St. Matthews K-8 School A-Wing scheduled for September 11th or 18th
- Two new lawn movers were purchased for the Maintenance Department

Mr. Kiernan concluded by thanking the custodians and maintenance crew for their hard work during the summer break.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. Mr. Parker said the Technology Department is in the process of handing out the new Chromebooks to the students. Mr. Parker said new cases have been ordered for the Chromebooks that are of a better quality in order to protect the devices.

Mr. Parker shared with the Board that Dr. Tullock has requested that starting this school year, the doors of the schools will be locked in the mornings for intake and throughout the day.

Mr. Parker shared that the District Infrastructure is in the process of being updated. He said the time frame of completion is based on the E-Rate Extension which is September 30, 2023. Mr. Parker said the major infrastructure upgrade that involves the largest switch removal will begin in November.

Mr. Parker shared that the District has received a grant that will allow the purchase of computers for the teachers so they can monitor what the students are working on in the classroom. He added the computers should arrive within a week.

Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Chief Academic Officer, shared with the Board a PowerPoint presentation regarding Academic Updates. Mrs. Murdaugh shared information regarding the New Formative Assessment System, AimsWeb Plus, the District Assessment Windows, State Assessment Schedule, Curriculum Adoptions and the Read to Succeed Act 284. (PowerPoint Presentation Attached)

Dr. Treda Nelson, Chief Accountability Officer, shared with the Board Student Enrollment Data for 2022-2024. Dr. Nelson said at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, the District had 1,534 students enrolled. She said as of today, there is a total of 1,485. She added the enrollment is increasing every day. Dr. Nelson said the top three reasons for students withdrawing from the schools are moving to another district or county, moving to another state, and homeschooling. She said the District is in the process of going into the schools and locating the students that have not returned this year.

Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, shared with the Board that the Calhoun County High School Marching Band has been selected to participate in the 2024 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, DC. The parade will take place on July 4, 2024 through the streets of the Nation's Capital. The parade will begin at 11:45 A.M. and will be online and on television. Dr. Tullock congratulated Mr. Lawton, Band Instructor, and his band, for receiving the invitation. Dr. Tullock informed the Board that a request for Board approval to attend the event will be presented at a later time.

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board the District's First Steps Representative Selection for Board approval. He said the District has had a longstanding relationship with the local First Steps office. Dr. Tullock said in the past, the District has had a member on the First Steps Board. He said this is a four-year term. Dr. Tullock asked for approval of Mr. Floyd Dinkins, Principal of Sandy Run School, to serve on the Board for First Steps due to his vast knowledge of literacy instruction.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, for Mr. Floyd Dinkins to serve on the Board of First Steps as the District Representative. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board that beginning Tuesday, August 22, 2023, the District Office will receive requests for Senior Athletic Passes. Seniors must present an ID, be 65 years of age and be a resident of Calhoun County. Dr. Tullock said the passes can be picked up on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at the District Office starting at 10:00 A.M.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. Dr. Tullock thanked everyone for a smooth opening of the 2023-24 school year. He also recognized the many community organizations, community partners, business partners, and civic and fraternal organizations who contributed to the Back-to School Bash that was held in late July.

Dr. Tullock said on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, the students at St. Matthews K-8 School were treated to an Encouragement Rally sponsored by the Carolina Panthers organization and its owners, the Tepper Family. He said it was an incredible time as the State Superintendent of Education, Ellen Weaver, joined Mr. Porth and Mr. Nelson, our Board members, along with Representative Russell Ott to encourage the students to have a great year and to read daily. Dr. Tullock said it was a bit overwhelming to think that one of only 32 professional football teams in the world chose St. Matthews K-8 School to have this experience. He said through their kindness, the Panthers sent bookbags full of supplies for all students at St. Matthews K-8 and Sandy Run K-8 School. Dr. Tullock added that he is eternally grateful for their act of kindness.

Dr. Tullock also shared the following updates:

- Saturday with the Superintendent will be held on September 9, 2023.
- Schools are selecting students to participate on the 2023-24 Student Advisory Council. The group will meet with Dr. Tullock on Wednesday, August 30, 2023.
- Staff Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2023.
- Community Communicators will meet on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. Letters are being sent to all group members inviting them to their respective meetings.
- Dr. Tullock thanked the Second Mt. Beulah Church family for their warm hospitality while he visited with their church family on Sunday.
- Next Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2023 at the District Office.

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 Expulsion Expungement Request, 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 Expulsion Expungement request that was presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously

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

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:29 p.m. Passed unanimously.



Board of Trustees Secretary

9-18-23

Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent