

**Calhoun County Public Schools**  
**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**  
**November 14, 2024**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent**

*Prior to the Regular Board Meeting, The Honorable Cassandra Keller, administered the Oath of Office to reelected Board Members, Mr. Gary Porth, Mr. Ned Nelson, and newly elected Mr. Michael Diaz.*

**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 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 asked that Technology Updates be deleted under the Superintendent's Report due to the absence of Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, as requested by the Superintendent. Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the agenda with the deletion of Technology Report, as requested by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2024 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Board Member Introductions:** Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, introduced the newly elected and re-elected Board Members. Mr. Gary Porth, representing District One, Mr. Michael Diaz, representing District Three and Mr. Ned Nelson, representing District Four. He said the Board Members were administered the Oath of Office earlier this evening. Each newly elected Board Member offered comments of appreciation.

**Student Recognition:** Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, 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 2024-25 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 2024-2025 First Quarter District's Shining Star Awards to Mrs. Doris Grant, Ms. Tara King, Ms. Tonikha Brown and Ms. Amie Brunson. Each employee received a Certificate of Award and a gift card sponsored by Tri-County Electric Co-op.

Dr. Tullock recognized Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, being named the South Carolina Association of Black School Educator's District Administrator of the Year.

**Chairperson's Report:** None

**Finance:** No Report

**Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Frances Keller, Director of Human Resources, presented Policy JICJ – Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day for Second Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve Policy JICJ – Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices during the School Day for Second Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Keller presented Policy KEC- Public Concerns and Complaints About Instructional Resources for First Reading and Amendment. She also presented AR KEC-R and File KEC-E Public Concerns and Complaints About Instructional Resources for information. She said when this policy is approved, it will be Policy KEC – Parent/Guardian Complaints About Instructional Materials.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve Policy KEC- Public Concerns and Complaints About Instructional Resources for First Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Keller presented Policy ADC Tobacco Free School District for First Reading and Amendment.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve Policy ADC Tobacco Free School District for First Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar for first reading. He said Calendar A received 150 responses and Calendar B received 90 responses.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve Calendar A for the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

Mr. Kiernan presented Facility Updates to the Board. He said the Sandy Run Gym floor project is on target and will be completed by the end of next week. Mr. Kiernan said work has begun on the next HVAC project for this upcoming summer. He added that middle school grades are tentatively set to have new desks arrive on December 20<sup>th</sup> for both K-8 Schools.

Mrs. Murdaugh presented the District's Curriculum Updates. She presented dates for the completed testing, the updated State-Wide Assessment Testing for the 2024-2025 school year, and the new Math Standards training dates for teachers.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. He thanked the stakeholders and community members as they had to adjust their schedules for operation on Thursday and Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> due to the effects of the heavy rains the area received overnight on November 6<sup>th</sup>. He said buses were forced to operate on a two-hour delay on Thursday and Friday. Dr. Tullock said the delays were to allow for daylight so drivers could safely navigate their way to school.

Dr. Tullock thanked all of the stakeholders who came out to enjoy Thanksgiving lunch yesterday at the three schools. He said visitors feasted on a meal of turkey and ham, dressing and gravy, green beans, sweet potatoes, and tea.

Dr. Tullock shared a copy of the School Designation Letter. He said this letter gives directions to Districts who have what is deemed an underperforming school, either Below Average or Unsatisfactory. He said in Calhoun County Public Schools, Sandy Run K-8 School is rated Below Average with a reporting rating of 38, needing 4 more points to Average. Dr. Tullock said by State Department of Education rule, there

must be a review of the school’s and District’s Strategic plan with stakeholders to determine if any changes are needed to the plan to achieve an Average Rating. He said the meeting with the administration and SIC of Sandy Run K-8 School will take place on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Tullock said he will bring any updates to the plans to the Board at a later meeting.

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board a letter of invitation to another meeting of community level of service to young people and what changes, if any, we need to be addressing to better serve the District’s youth. He said the first meeting took place on October 29<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting will take place on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Tullock thanked everyone who has taken an interest in helping our youth through this group.

Dr. Tullock reminded everyone of the upcoming meetings of the Board. He said there will be a Work Session on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. and the regular December Board Meeting on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M. He added both meetings will take place in the Board Room of the District Office.

Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that Thanksgiving Holidays will soon be here. He said students and staff will be out the week of November 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. He said students and staff will return to the classrooms on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dr. Tullock said students will dismiss early on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. He said St. Matthews K-8 and Sandy Run K-8 Schools will dismiss at 12:15 and Calhoun County High School will dismiss at 12:30.

Dr. Tullock extended well wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season to everyone.

**Public Participation:** None

**Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s)/ Resignation[s], the Superintendent’s Evaluation, 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 Mr. Nelson, 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 9:11 p.m. Passed unanimously.

*Debra Frank*  
Board of Trustees Secretary

12-16-24  
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Kennedy