

**Calhoun County Public Schools**  
**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**  
**December 18, 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.

**Election of Officers:** Mr. Porth turned the meeting over to Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, who opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairperson. Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to nominate Mr. Gary Porth as Board Chairperson. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Porth opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to nominate Mr. Kevin Jenkins as Board Vice Chairperson. Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to close the nominations and elect Mr. Jenkins by acclamation. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Porth opened the floor for nominations for Board Secretary. Mrs. Tucker moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to nominate Ms. Debra Fredrick as Board Secretary. Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to close the nominations and elect Ms. Fredrick by acclamation. Passed unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Tullock requested that Academic Updates under the Superintendent's Report be moved to the second bulleted item. Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the agenda adjustment as requested by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the minutes of November 27, 2023 and December 11, 2023 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Employee Recognition:** Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Chief Academic Officer, presented the 2023-2024 Teachers of the Year and Support Staff of the Year. Mrs. Murdaugh asked Dr. Tullock, along with Board Members and Principals, to come forward and recognize the winners. The winners of the 2023-2024 Teachers and Staff of the Year are as follows:

- District Office Support Staff of the Year: Ms. Harriett Haigler
- Sandy Run K-8 School, Support Staff of the Year: Ms. Regina Free
- Sandy Run K-8 School, Rookie Teacher of the Year – Ms. Shelby Fludd
- Sandy Run K-8 School, Teacher of the Year – Mr. Jonathan Gore

- St. Matthews K-8 School Support Staff of the Year – Mr. Charles Green
- St. Matthews K-8 Teacher of the Year and District Teacher of the Year – Ms. Annette Wannamaker
- Calhoun County High School Support Staff of the Year – Ms. Lovier Walker
- Calhoun County High School Teacher of the Year – Ms. Alicia Dixon

**Student Recognition:** Mrs. Murdaugh asked Dr. Tullock, along with Board Members, Principals, and the Art Instructors, to come forward and recognize the winners of the 2023 District Winter Greeting Card Contest. Mrs. Murdaugh said the submitted art work was used to represent greeting cards sent from our School Board Members and Superintendent. The winners were as follows: Lia Sanchez, St. Matthews K-8 School, Mari Gardner, Calhoun County High School and Omari Welcome, Sandy Run K-8 School.

**Chairperson's Report:** none

**Finance:** Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the October 2023 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that in October 2023, the District received 6.5% of the General Fund Budgeted Revenue, expended 8% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures and encumbered 57% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures, with a total of 83.9% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for October 2023. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson said the District Audit with Mauldin and Jenkins Company is now complete. He said he has requested that they come and present their report at the January 22, 2024 Board Meeting.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Murdaugh presented the Turn Around Plan for St. Matthews K-8 and Sandy Run Schools 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades who rated "Below Average" on the State Report Card for Board action. She said because of the ratings, each school had to write a Turn Around Plan to increase achievement to remove the designations. She stated that each school would revisit the plan in increments at the 30, 60, and 90-day mark.

Mrs. Murdaugh said St. Matthews K-8 School is an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) School (Federal Designation). She said St. Matthews's subgroup was "disabilities".

Mrs. Murdugh said Sandy Run School is a Priority school because it performed in the bottom 10% of all schools in their 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>-grade span. To exit Priority status, they must no longer be ranked in the bottom 10% of schools at the end of the three-year cycle.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick to approve the Turn Around Plan for St. Matthews K-8 School and Sandy Run K-8 School. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Tullock presented to the Board the 2024 School Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar for approval.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the 2024 School Board of Trustees Meeting Calendar as presented. Passed unanimously.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar to the Board for approval. Mr. Kiernan said two calendars were available online for votes from November 30 through December 14, 2023. He said there were a total of forty-four responses for calendar A and sixty-five responses for calendar B. Mr. Kiernan said calendar B shows the students first day of school will be August 5, 2024 and would also allow students to complete the first semester before the Winter Holidays. Dr. Tullock thanked the staff, students, and stakeholders that helped in the process of selecting the calendars presented.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar as presented. Passed unanimously.

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

- The new bleachers for the baseball/softball field will arrive this week.
- Mr. Kiernan shared images of the new cafeteria furniture for Sandy Run and St. Matthews K-8 Schools. He said he hopes to have the furniture in by Spring break.

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board a Student Field Trip Request for information. He said the Band will perform at the Martin Luther King Day Celebration Parade on January 15, 2024 in Savannah, Georgia. Mr. Kiernan said the parade will begin at 10:00 A.M. and students will return back to Calhoun County High School at 3:00 P.M.

Mrs. Murdaugh shared with the Board Academic Updates. During the Academic Updates, Mrs. Murdaugh stated that the iReady window will close on December 19, 2023. She said she would share the growth of the students at the January meeting. Additionally, the last testing window should indicate performance on the State assessment. She also indicated that testing season is getting ready to start and gave each member of the Board a copy of the schedule.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. Mr. Parker shared information regarding the COPS Grant and the neighboring districts that have been awarded the grant. He said the district will be applying for the grant this year.

Mr. Parker shared that the recent fiber cut that affected Sandy Run K-8 School was due to a cut that occurred on the Frontage Road.

Mr. Parker shared information regarding the E-rate Program and shared information regarding the Linewize System that is a classroom monitoring system that will soon be deployed in the classrooms. He said this program allows teachers to monitor students that are at risk and provides teachers with real time screen activity. He said this system should be completed in January, 2024.

Dr. Tullock shared the following Superintendent's Updates with the Board:

- Student early dismissal on Thursday, December 21, 2023. Both K-8 Schools will dismiss at 12:15 and the High School will dismiss at 12:30.
- December 22, 2023 is a Professional Workday for staff.
- Staff and students will return on Monday, January 8, 2024.
- Semester will end on January 12, 2024. Dr. Tullock encouraged everyone to work to complete all missing assignments and projects.

Dr. Tullock congratulated Coach Wayne Farmer, Head Football Coach of North-South Shrine Bowl, for his team's win over the North Carolina squad Saturday in Spartanburg. Dr. Tullock also recognized Christian Zachary, NC State commit and Amir Smith, Northern Illinois commit who were major contributors in the game and Mr. Travis Lawton and the marching band for their performance.

Dr. Tullock congratulated Mr. John Sawvell, Visual Arts Teacher at Calhoun County High School, for being awarded the State Department's Art Innovation Grant in the amount of \$7,989.00.

Dr. Tullock said the District has a number of staff members across the District who have earned Micro-Credentials through the Life2 program with Voorhees. He congratulated them for their professional accomplishments.

Dr. Tullock extended holiday greetings to all of the families and stakeholders.

**Public Participation:** None

**Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), Student Expulsion Appeals, and 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 Ms. Fredrick, to uphold the Hearing Committee's recommendation for the expulsions presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 10:16 p.m.  
Passed unanimously.

Debra Shiduck  
Board of Trustees Secretary

1-22-24  
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Kennedy  
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent