

**Calhoun County Public Schools**  
**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**  
**August 18, 2025**  
**Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent**  
**District Office**

**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. Jenkins, Vice-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". Dr. Tullock asked everyone to remember the families of Mr. Jerry Mintz and Mr. John Sawvell. He said Mr. Mintz passed away last week, and Mr. Sawvell lost his mother-in-law over the weekend.

**Notice to the Media:** Under 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:** Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the minutes of July 21, 2025 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Recognitions:** Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, asked Dr. Tullock and the Board Members, along with Dr. Nelson to come forward to assist with the recognitions.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked Ms. Mary Dixon, with the Calhoun County Soil and Water and Conservation District, to come forward and be recognized for the extended learning opportunities provided to the students of Calhoun County Public Schools.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked Ms. Fredrick to come forward and accept a certificate of appreciation on behalf of Mr. Alshon Jeffery. She said Mr. Jeffery hosted the 2025-26 Alshon Jeffery Back-to-School Football Camp.

Mrs. Murdaugh presented an Award of Appreciation to Coach Erik Martin and the SCSU Men's Basketball Team for partnering with the Calhoun County Public Schools to greet students on the opening day of school. Assistant Coach Dominique Bartley accepted the award on Coach Martin's behalf.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked Coach Zambolista Fredrick to come forward and be recognized for thirty-five years of coaching services to the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association and his Induction into the SCACA Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Murdaugh asked the Board members to have their picture taken holding the Welcome Back to School poster. She said the picture will be posted on the district's website.

**Chairperson's Report:** None

**Finance:** Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the July 2025 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that the District

received 3% of the Projected Revenue and expended 5% in the General Fund Expenditures. He said Year-to-Date Encumbrances are 54%.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for July 2025. Passed unanimously.

**Superintendent's Report:**

**Technology Update:** Mr. Mark Parker, Director of Technology, presented technology updates to the Board. He said the number of students who enrolled on pre-registration day at Sandy Run K-8 School was 75, at St. Matthews K-8 School was 133, and at Calhoun County High School was 191.

Mr. Parker said all students' devices will have covers. He said that for the devices to be covered under warranty and covered for technical support, they must keep the covers on the devices at all times.

Mr. Parker said Sandy Run K-8 School has begun the process of setting up for Middle School E-Sports Lab. He said the completion of the setup is waiting on parts that are on backorder. Mr. Parker said the setup will begin at St. Matthews K-8 School when Sandy Run K-8 School is completed.

**Facilities Update:** Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, shared the following Facilities Updates with the Board. Mr. Kiernan thanked the maintenance and custodial staff for all of their hard work in preparing the schools for the start of the new school year. Mr. Kiernan said the Anti-Vaping classes will begin on September 6, 2025 (Part 1) and September 13, 2025 (Part 2) from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. He stated that the two-part classes will be offered monthly. He added that parents will be required to accompany the students to classes. Mr. Kiernan said Basketball will return to the middle schools for games. He said on December 3, 2025, St. Matthews K-8 School will host Bethune-Bowman School. He said on January 26, 2026, Sandy Run K-8 School will host North Middle/High School. Mr. Kiernan said he is working on repainting and relettering the football scoreboard, as well as making repairs to the bleachers before the first home game. Mr. Kiernan said he has had someone come out to discuss plans to upgrade the restrooms at the District Office and those outside the gym at Calhoun County High School. Mr. Kiernan concluded by saying that lockdown drills have begun for the students in the schools.

Dr. Treda Nelson, Chief Accountability Officer, provided the Board with Enrollment Updates. She said that last year at this time, the enrollment at the schools was as follows: 424 students at Calhoun County High School, 537 students at St. Matthews K-8 School, and 524 students at Sandy Run K-8 School, totaling 1,485 students. She said the current enrollment is 404 students at Calhoun County High School, 484 students at St. Matthews K-8 School, and 523 students at Sandy Run K-8 School. Dr. Nelson said student enrollment usually increases after the Labor Day Holiday weekend. She said the reasons for the decrease in enrollment are that students are moving to another county/school district within the state, moving out of state, or homeschooling.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. Dr. Tullock thanked everyone in the learning community for a great start to the school year. He said there were very few issues, aside from a few crying students and parents. Dr. Tullock said there were limited transportation issues to resolve. He thanked the men of the community who came out in support of students on the first day of school. Dr. Tullock said the men were on hand to hi-five students and wish them a great year. He said there were about 65

men: fathers, grandfathers, uncles, members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and the SCSU Men's Basketball team, and Coach Erik Martin.

Dr. Tullock said on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, the District welcomed back staff from the summer vacation. He thanked Ms. Frances Keller and Mrs. Amy Williams of the Human Resources Department for their hard work in creating a welcoming event for all staff. Dr. Tullock thanked the many sponsors, donors, and exhibitors who supported the event.

Dr. Tullock said this past Saturday, the Office of Exceptional Children sponsored the Exceptional Children's Expo. He said the event was a fun-filled morning and afternoon, providing an opportunity for families to receive information from various community agencies and attend workshops designed to aid them. Dr. Tullock thanked Dr. Nelson, Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Heatley, and all of the staff who contributed to a wonderful day of learning and resource sharing. Dr. Tullock also thanked the families who came out, despite the weather, to take advantage of the offerings.

Dr. Tullock said that we are now in the hurricane season, and he asked everyone to take necessary precautions to be ready in the event we are affected by a storm. He said each District has been allocated five eLearning days for times when students and staff are unable to attend classes face-to-face. Dr. Tullock said the District will use those days only when students and teachers cannot safely get to school, but still have electricity to the majority of homes to conduct virtual instruction. Dr. Tullock encouraged those who have not received devices to please complete the Acceptable Use Policy form, which grants permission for students to use District-owned technology devices and to pay the \$25.00 technology fee. He encouraged students to keep their devices in cases to protect them from damage. He said removing the case can void the warranty on the devices.

Dr. Tullock told the Board Members that inside their Board packets, they will find several pieces of information. He said they will find a program from the SC Athletic Coaches Association Awards Banquet, where Coach Fredrick was recognized for 35 years of coaching service and his induction into the Association's Hall of Fame.

Dr. Tullock told the Board that they will also find in their packets, email communications from the State Department of Education that states that the District will participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, where the students will receive free breakfast and lunch for the next four years from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029.

Dr. Tullock stated that the Board will also find a letter from the South Carolina State Department of Education, which has identified Sandy Run K-8 School as a participant in the Palmetto Math Project. He stated that as a member school, Sandy Run K-8 School will receive assistance from a State Department of Education Math Specialist, who will provide staff development, classroom observations, and support with utilizing the provided math resources.

Dr. Tullock thanked Mr. Alshon Jeffery and his family for the generous gesture of sponsoring a football camp and back-to-school bash that benefited the students. He said Mr. Jeffrey is an alumnus of the University of South Carolina and a former football player with the Philadelphia Eagles, as well as a graduate of Calhoun County High School.

Dr. Tullock said the athletic seasons will begin competitive play in a matter of days. He reminded everyone to come out to support and cheer on each of the teams that are in action.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), a Legal Matter, and then return to open session after discussions. Passed unanimously.

Upon returning from Executive Session, Mr. Porth announced that the Board was back in open session.

Board Action(s): Mr. Porth moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Personnel Recommendations and Resignations as presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Diaz, to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Dolores J. Smith

Board of Trustees Secretary

9-15-25

Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela H. Kennedy  
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent