

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees
District Office
August 17, 2026
7:30 P.M.

Members Present: Mr. Gary Porth, Mr. Kevin Jenkins, Mr. Ned Nelson, Ms. Debra Fredrick, Mr. Michael Diaz

Call to Order/Moment of Silence: Mr. Gary Porth called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors and staff, and asked everyone present to stand for a Moment of Silence and recite 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. Ned Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Kevin Jenkins, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Debra Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Michael Diaz, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026 meeting, as amended. Passed unanimously.

Board Recognitions

- Board Recognitions were given by Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent. The Board recognized St. Matthews K-8 Beta Club as a National Beta School of Distinction for excellence in academics, character, leadership, and service.
- Ms. Iris Larrymore was recognized for receiving the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Outstanding Service Award for 35 years of coaching.
- Mr. Joshua Rabon was recognized with the Outstanding Mentorship Award for achieving the highest number of mentorship hours during the 2025–2026 school year. Principal Dinkins accepted the award on his behalf.

Finance

Mr. Stanley Brunson presented the July 2026 Financial Report which reflected revenues at 3% for the month and 3% year-to-date. Expenditures were 3% for the month and 3% year-to-date, with year-to-date encumbrances at 53% for the 12-month fiscal period.

Mr. Ned Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Kevin Jenkins, to approve the July Finance Report as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson also presented the Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) Resolution. The Board considered a resolution authorizing the issuance of a Tax Anticipation Note not to exceed **\$2.5 million** to provide cash-flow support until tax revenues are received. The note would be issued through the South Carolina Association of Governmental Organizations.

A motion was made by Mr. Ned Nelson and seconded by Mr. Kevin Jenkins to adopt the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Tullock presented Policy JFAB Admission of Nonresident Students for second reading. Ms. Frances Keller presented the following policies for second reading:

- Policy CCA - Organizational Chart
- Policy EF Food Services
- Policy ADF School Wellness

Ms. Keller also presented AR ADF School Wellness for first reading.

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jenkins and seconded by Ms. Debra Fredrick to approve second reading of Policies JFAB, CCA, EF, and ADF, and first reading of Administrative Rule ADF – School Wellness. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. George Kiernan presented a Field Trip Request for the Calhoun High School Band to participate in a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans from February 6–9, 2027. The trip would include 50 students and five adults, with a total cost of \$24,997.

A motion was made by Ms. Debra Fredrick and seconded by Mr. Kevin Jenkins to approve the field trip request as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan gave facilities updates for August 2026. Staff were recognized for preparing schools for opening. HVAC replacements and repairs are underway at Calhoun High School and Sandy Run K-8, and Phase I of the Calhoun High School restroom renovations is complete.

Schools were reminded of required lockdown drills. The Board also received an update on a previously reported facility concern; no hazard was identified, the building was cleared as safe, and monitoring will continue.

Mr. Parker presented the E-Rate project, a project that includes a wireless network overlay and server reducer. The project totals over \$250,000 and is currently approximately \$31,000 over budget. The scope is being adjusted before resubmission to USAC, with funding approval anticipated in October.

The Board also received an update on the intercom system project. A kickoff meeting, site walkthrough, and implementation schedule will be completed with the vendor. Installation will occur in phases, school by school, after hours.

Dr. Ferlondo Tullock thanked parents, students, staff, community partners, custodians, security personnel, bus drivers, and maintenance staff for their support in a successful start to the 2026–2027 school year and Back-to-School activities.

He reported that 36 students are enrolled in Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College courses and 36 students are participating in the Early College program. Academic results were highlighted, including:

- 53.5% meeting or exceeding expectations in one reported grade level, compared with 37% district performance and a 36.6% state average in another reported measure.
- Grade 5 performance of 23.1%, compared with a 25% state average.
- Grade 7 performance of 23.9%, compared with a 21.8% state average.
- Science performance remained at 31% in Grade 4 and 21.4% in Grade 6.
- EOC results included 44.7% in U.S. History, 39.9% in Biology, and 77.2% in English 2 scoring Level 2 or higher.

Dr. Tullock also reported the district's chronic absenteeism rate at 19.8%, below the 23% state average, and noted improvement across student demographic groups.

Due to extreme temperatures, some outdoor student activities were restricted and a scheduled event was canceled. The Superintendent concluded by encouraging support for the upcoming football game.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jenkins and seconded by Ms. Debra Fredrick to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel recommendations and resignations. The motion passed unanimously.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Jenkins and seconded by Ms. Debra Fredrick to accept the recommendations of employment and resignations given by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Michael Diaz and seconded by Ms. Debra Fredrick to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 P.M.


Board of Trustees Secretary

9-21-26
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Jenkins
Executive Administrative Assistant