

**Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
District Office
February 16, 2026
Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent**

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 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 were notified of this meeting: *The Calhoun Times*, *The Times and Democrat*, the District website, and notices posted on 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 January 29, 2026, and February 9, 2026, as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Student Recognition: Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, asked Dr. Tullock, along with Board Members and Principals, to come forward and recognize the students receiving the Second Quarter Highest GPA Awards for the 2025-2026 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.

Mrs. Murdaugh recognized the students from Calhoun County High School who received a perfect score on the End of Course Exam in Biology and US History.

Mrs. Murdaugh recognized The Calhoun County High School Marching Band ("Thunder and Lightning") and Band Director, Mr. Travis Lawton, for winning 15 trophies and winning first place in every category, including a 91/100 score for their field show at the 2026 Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. The band also performed in the 2024 National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

Employee Recognition: Mrs. Murdaugh presented the District's Shining Star Awards to Mrs. Elisa Holman-Brown, Ms. Tiandra Heyward, Ms. Mary Beth Doucette, Mr. Theodore Frederick, Mr. Barry Hunter, Mr. Ricky Rickenbaker, and Mr. Brad Jumper. Each employee received a certificate of award and a gift card.

Mrs. Murdaugh recognized Calhoun County Public School's Guidance Counselors. She said February 2nd-6th, 2026, the School Counselors were honored for National Counselors' Week. The following counselors were honored: Sanquetta Williams, Shanika Garvin, Teranesa Bartley, Betsy Tant, Michaela Evans, Loressa Jenkins, Jurnee Jenkins, and Harriett Haigler.

Dr. Treda Nelson, Chief Accountability Officer, recognized the Second Quarter School Superlatives for attendance rates and mentorship hours. She said every quarter, a school will be recognized for receiving the highest daily attendance rate. Dr. Nelson announced that St. Matthew K-8 School was the winner for the second quarter with a score of 94.4 percent.

Chairperson's Report: Mr. Porth asked that the March 16, 2026, Regular Called Board Meeting be moved to Monday, March 23, 2026.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Diaz, to move the March Regular Board meeting from March 16, 2026 to March 23, 2026. Passed unanimously.

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Mr. Brian Nicholson, Engagement Director with Mauldin & Jenkins, to present the 2024-2025 Annual District Financial Audit Report to the Board. Mr. Nicholson said the District received a Clean Opinion Audit. He thanked Mr. Brunson, his Financial Team, and Dr. Tullock for their hard work and cooperation.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the 2023-2024 Annual District Financial Audit Report as presented.

Superintendent's Report: Ms. Frances Keller, Director of Human Resources, presented the following Policies for Second Reading, amendment, and approval:

- Policy DKA Payroll Procedures/Schedules
- Policy IA Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives
- Policy IB Academic Freedom
- Policy ID School Day
- Policy IE Organization of Instruction
- Policy IG Curriculum Development, Adoption, and Review
- Policy IGC Curriculum Pilot Projects
- Policy IHA Basic Instructional Program
- Policy IHAA English/Reading/Writing/Language Arts Education
- AR IHAA-R English/Reading/Writing/Language Arts Education
- Policy IHAB Mathematics Education
- Policy IHAE Physical Education
- Policy IJKA Technology Resource Selection and Adoption
- Policy IHAC Social Studies Education
- Policy IHAD Science Education
- Policy IHAF Arts Education
- Policy IHAG Music Education
- Policy IHAH Foreign Language Education
- Policy IHAJ Computer/Technology Literacy
- Policy IHAL Teaching About Religion
- Policy IHBIB Primary/Pre-Primary Education (Child Development)

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Second Reading of twenty Policies and one Administrative Rule as presented by Ms. Keller. Passed unanimously.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, spoke to the Board on the recent facilities updates. He said the track resurfacing and striping project has been completed at Calhoun County High School.

Mr. Kiernan said the next "Say No to Vaping" class will be held on March 7, 2026 from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon. He said a group of high school students will be attending the annual Escape the Haze conference in Columbia, SC, on April 30, 2026, which is focused on the harmful effects of vaping.

Mr. Kiernan said a new, higher fence at Calhoun County High School has been added on the softball field behind first base. He said the dugouts are also undergoing an upgrade as well.

Mr. Kiernan stated that yearly inspections of generators have been completed and that inspections of the bleachers will take place in April. He also mentioned that a set of science lab stools for classrooms will arrive soon at Calhoun County High School.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. Dr. Tullock reminded everyone that there is no school on Friday, February 20, 2026, due to the scheduled Mid-Winter break. He said students and staff will return to the classroom on Monday, February 23, 2026.

Dr. Tullock thanked all of the honorees and accompanying guests for being present at the Board Meeting. He said it is always heartwarming to recognize the students and staff for their hard work in serving and representing the District's stakeholders.

Dr. Tullock thanked the Board members who attended the Unique Sensations Black History program on Saturday, February 14, 2026. He said he hoped everyone enjoyed the speaker, Mr. Antjuan Seawright, just as much as he did. Dr. Tullock said this organization provides scholarships to the District's high school seniors who are going on to post-secondary educational pursuits.

Dr. Tullock announced that the band will be recognized in the County Council's Chambers on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 5:30 P.M.

Dr. Tullock said the District is nearing the end of the Winter Sports season and the beginning of the Spring Sports season. He said the Boys Varsity Basketball team will host a first-round playoff game tomorrow at 7:00 P.M.

Dr. Tullock announced that he just learned before tonight's Board meeting that he was selected to serve as the Alternate Delegate for the SCHSL Executive Committee for Class 1A.

Dr. Tullock reminded everyone that the next Policies meeting will take place on Monday, March 2, 2026, at the District Office in the Board Room.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s) and Resignation, the Superintendent's Evaluation, and then return to open session after discussions. Passed unanimously.

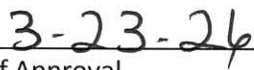
Upon returning from Executive Session, Mr. Porth announced that the Board was back in open session.

Board Action(s): No Action Taken

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 10:00 P.M. Passed unanimously.



Board of Trustees Secretary



Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent