

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
September 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.

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 Mrs. Tucker, to approve the minutes of August 21, 2023, as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report: none

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the August 2023 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that in August 2023, the District received 3% of the General Fund Budgeted Revenue, expended 7% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures and encumbered 67% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures, with a total of 74% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures. Mr. Brunson reported that the current taxes collected for August was not available from the County and will be included in next month's board packet.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for August 2023. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson shared with the Board that the audit team of Mauldin and Jenkins will begin the District Audit the first week of August 2024.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, presented Policy CBI – Evaluation of Superintendent for First Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve Policy CBI – Evaluation of Superintendent for First Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan presented Policy CBD – Superintendent's Contract for First Reading and Amendment.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve Policy CBD – Superintendent's Contract for First Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan presented Policy JKA – Corporal Punishment for First Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve Policy JKA – Corporal Punishment for First Reading and Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan shared a field trip request with the Board. He said the Calhoun County High School Marching Band has been invited to perform in Washington, DC at the 2024 National Independence Day Parade on July 3-5, 2024. He said there will be approximately fifty students, five employees and six parents that will be included in the trip.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson to approve The Calhoun County High School Marching Band to attend the 2024 National Independence Day Parade on July 3-5, 2024 in Washington, DC. Passed unanimously.

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

- HVAC units are being upgraded at St. Matthews K-8 School in the new wing
- Planning new HVAC upgrades for the summer of 2024
- A new slide was installed at St. Matthews K-8 School due to a crack in the old slide
- The HVAC unit that was reported as making a loud sound has been inspected

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. Mr. Parker updated the Board on the new sound system at Calhoun County High School in the football field area. He said it is up and working and he plans to make a few tweaks to the system along with adding speakers in the press box. Mr. Parker said he is looking into purchasing headphones for the referee and adding WIFI in the football field and press box area. Mr. Parker said he is standardizing the sound and WIFI systems in all of the schools' gymnasiums and the high school auditorium.

Mr. Porth asked Mr. Parker about the recent issues with internet service at Sandy Run K-8 School. Mr. Parker said the problems are due to the wireless internet being upgraded at this time. He said the upgrade will be completed in a couple of weeks. Mr. Parker added that every District that receives e-rate funding has a deadline of September 30, 2023, to have the job completed.

Mr. Parker informed the Board that Student Badges will arrive next week and an application for a Cyber Grant has been completed today for the District.

Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, shared with the Board Academic Updates. He said iReady testing has been completed as of September 13, 2023. Dr. Tullock said iReady testing occurs for students in grades K-9 in ELA and Math to get baseline data for instructional planning. He said the next testing session will be mid-January to gauge academic progress and to adjust the instructional plan for each student.

Dr. Tullock informed the Board that AIMSWeb testing for areas of ELA and Math continues for students grades K-5. He said iReady Professional Development for student goal setting is scheduled for September 25 and 26.

Dr. Tullock informed the Board that District and School Renewal Plans have been approved by the State and SDE requirements with no revisions required.

Dr. Tullock asked the Board to change the Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting date in November. He said the Board meeting calendar is developed in December each year prior to the acceptance of the academic calendar. He said the Board meeting is currently scheduled for November 20, 2023. Dr. Tullock said this date falls during the Thanksgiving holidays of November 20-24. Dr. Tullock offered the option of November 13, 2023 or November 27, 2023.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to move the November 20, 2023 Regular Schedule Board Meeting to November 27, 2023. Passed unanimously.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent Updates with the Board. Dr. Tullock said the District is receiving assessment scores from the Spring 2023 administration of SCREADY, SCPASS, AND EOC. He said he is awaiting the final set of scores for the schools' report cards. He said from his evaluation of the data, the District is showing growth across all subject areas. He added, the growth however, is not on par with the State's performance ratings. Dr. Tullock said there are several areas of which the District needs to celebrate, while remaining focused on moving all student forward academically.

Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that the County will be holding its grand opening of the Calhoun County Sports Complex on Friday, September 22, 2023. He said the District has several grade levels from the K-8 Schools scheduled to attend as well as football players and cheerleaders from the high school.

Dr. Tullock informed the Board that October 16 marks the end of the First Quarter. He said that report card conferences will be held on Wednesday, October 18 and the morning of Thursday, October 19. He said Fall break for students will be Thursday, October 19 – Monday, October 23rd. Dr. Tullock said all students and staff will return to school on Tuesday, October 24.

Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that Saturday with the Superintendent will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Dr. Tullock thanked the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church family for the hospitality shown to he and Mrs. Tullock during his visit.

Dr. Tullock asked Mr. Kiernan to come forward and assist him in recognizing each of the schools and the school system. He said this past Winter, the District underwent the Cognia Accreditation visit. He said the District received a score of 309, which is the highest category of the Cognia Protocol. Dr. Tullock said because of this, each school and the system are now accredited by Cognia through June 2028.

Public Participation: None

Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), a Contractual Property Matter 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): No Board Actions

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:44 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Delia Fredrick
Board of Trustees Secretary

10-16-23
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent