

**Calhoun County Public Schools**  
**Minutes of Regular Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
**Sandy Run K-8 School**  
**March 23, 2026**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**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. 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. Dr. Tullock asked everyone to remember Cynthia Lessington, Warren Thomas, Board Member Debra Fredrick, Coaches Tom and Zam Fredrick, Jennifer Williford, Deputy Superintendent Christia Murdaugh, Brenda Goodwin and Reggie Lambright on the loss of their loved one during the moment of silence.

**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 Mr. Diaz, to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2026 and March 2, 2026 minutes, as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Student Recognition:** Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Deputy Superintendent, recognized Kaylee Jordan as a member of the SC Band Directors Association Region 4 Honor Band member.

Kingston Hunter was also recognized for his heroic actions in performing the Heimlich Maneuver on a choking classmate.

Dr. Tullock stated that Kingston apologized for his absence. He had an important baseball game. While others froze, Kingston jumped into action and saved someone's life.

**Chairperson's Report:** Mr. Porth has requested the Special Called Meeting scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> be moved to April 15<sup>th</sup> and Regular Board Meeting scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup> be moved to April 27<sup>th</sup>. After discussion, the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting will change to April 15<sup>th</sup> and the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will remain the same. Chairman Porth will not be in attendance on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick to move the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to April 15<sup>th</sup>. Passed unanimously.

**Finance:** Mr. Stanley Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the January and February 2026 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that the district received 38.7% of the projected revenue year-to-date, 71% of the General Fund Budgeted Revenue. Expenditures were 16.2% for the month and 62% Year-to-date, with encumbrances at 32% for the twelve-month fiscal period.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the Monthly Financial report and Budget Adjustments for January and February 2026. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson stated the first reading of the 2026-2027 budget will be presented for first reading at the next board meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:**

**Board Policies:** Ms. Frances Keller, Director of Human Resources, presented the following Board Policies to the Board for Second Reading, amendment, and approval:

- Policy CCB Line and Staff Relations
- Policy IHAO Environmental Education
- Policy IHAP Consumer Education
- Policy IHAQ Career/Transition-to-Work Education
- Policy IHBA Special Education/Programs for Handicapped/Disabled Students
- Policy IHBB Gifted and Talented Programs
- Policy IHBC Programs for At-Risk/Disadvantaged Students
- Policy IHBD/IHBDA Compensatory Education/Remedial Instruction
- AR IHBD-R/IHBDA-R Compensatory Education/Remedial Instruction
- Policy IHBG Home Schooling
- AR IHBG-R Home Schooling
- File IHBG-E Annual Application for at Home Instruction
- Policy IHBH Charter Schools
- Policy IHCA Summer School
- Policy IHCD Advanced College Placement
- AR IHCD-R Advanced College Placement
- Policy IHCF Child Care Programs
- Policy IHD Adult/Community Education
- Policy IIA Grouping for Instruction

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Diaz, to approve 15 Policies, 4 Administrative Rules and 1 File as presented by Ms. Keller for Second reading and amendment. Passed unanimously.

**Facilities Update:** Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations, presented Facilities Operations Update for March 2026.

Mr. Kiernan stated SMK8 and CCHS had fire inspections within the past month. Both inspections went well and they are rectifying concerns that the fire chief identified.

There was a district-wide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 11, 2026.

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, an earthquake mitigation walk-through was conducted. He stated this went very well and is waiting for the final report for any suggestions. The walk through was conducted by Calhoun County Emergency Management Services.

Mr. Kiernan announced that he received a response from a state safety grant that he applied for in August 2025. Calhoun County was approved for a \$500,000 grant to upgrade the intercom systems in all schools. He stated the process has begun in meeting with potential vendors and they are setting up

trips to visit schools that currently use these vendor products. The district will move from an analog system to a digital system.

The next “Say No to Vape Class” will be Saturday, May 2, 2026 8am-12noon at the district office.

**Staffing Update:** Ms. Frances Keller and Mrs. Christia Murdaugh presented staffing updates. Ms. Keller stated that the primary focus in recruitment is staffing our schools with certified teachers. She stated 97% of the district’s teaching assignments are certified with 3% non-certified. The South Carolina Department of Education launched a pilot program where the district can hire non-certified teachers up to 10%. Calhoun County did not take part in this program because the non-certified teaching assignment percentage is under 10%.

**Non-Certified Staffing Assignments**

- **Calhoun County High School**  
*Band and Music*
- **St. Matthews K-8**  
*Kindergarten, 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math & Science, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math & Science*
- **Sandy Run K-8**  
*SPED and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade*

Mrs. Murdaugh stated student teacher ratios is valid because the district’s funding is based upon the number of students enrolled. She also stated, the Superintendent can modify the staffing allocations at any time to meet the needs of the district. All changes must be reviewed and approved by the Deputy Superintendent. All elementary schools are required to utilize their enrichment staff to provide Art, Music and P.E.

**Current State Regulations/District Modified Ratios**

Grade Levels and Special Areas	Ratio
Pre- K/Montessori	20:1 (State Regulations SR)
K-6 <sup>th</sup>	26:1 (SR 30:1) (District Change)
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>	29:1 (SR 30:1 E/M 35:1 SS/SC) (District Change)
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	32:1 (SR 35:1) District Change
Related Arts	40:1 (State Regulations SR)

Dr. Tullock recognized Ms. Iris Larymore, Head Cheerleading Coach on her upcoming induction into the SC Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame for 35 years of dedicated coaching service. Formal recognition will take place at the Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame Dinner Saturday, July 25, 2026 in Greenville, SC.

Dr. Tullock also congratulated Dr. Treda Keith-Nelson and the Principals as they have achieved District-wide compliance as 100% of the schools met all reporting deadlines and statutory requirements and ensured that all School Improvement Councils fulfilled their legislative requirements.

Dr. Tullock stated we are approaching the Spring Assessment season.

The district will observe the last Early Release Tuesday on March 31, 2026.

Spring Break will be observed Friday, April 3- Friday, April 10, 2026.

The last day of school for students will be Friday, May 22, 2026 with graduation Saturday, May 23, 2026 9am.

Dr. Tullock stated at the April meeting young superlatives from the third quarter will be recognized.

April is last policies meeting before summer break.

He also stated April's "Saturday with the Superintendent" will be held April 18, 2026 at SRK8 9am-11am. Sign up with Mrs. Kennedy via email or call 803-655-7310.

Dr. Tullock encouraged everyone to come out to support our Spring Sports Teams as they are in the height of their seasons.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to enter into Executive Session to consider Personnel: Recommendations and Resignations, 2026-2027 Professional Instructional Staff contracts and 2026-2027 Administrative contracts and then return to open session after discussion. Passed unanimously.

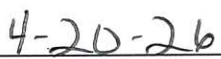
**Board Actions:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve Personnel Recommendations and Resignations as presented by the Superintendent. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve 2026-2027 Professional Instructional Staff contracts as presented by the Superintendent. The motion passed; Mr. Diaz opposed.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve 2026-2027 Administrative contracts as presented by the Superintendent. The motion passed; Mr. Diaz opposed.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Diaz moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:25 p.m. Passed unanimously.

  
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Board of Trustees Secretary

  
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Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlene Jenkins  
Executive Administrative Assistant