

**Calhoun County Public Schools**  
**Minutes of the Board of Trustees**  
**February 26, 2024**  
**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 Mrs. Tucker, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the minutes of January 22, 2024 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

**Student Recognition:** Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Chief Academic Officer, asked Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, along with Board Members and Principals, to come forward and recognize the students receiving the Second Quarter Highest GPA Awards for the 2023-24 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.

**Employee Recognition:** Mrs. Murdaugh presented the 2023-2024 Second Quarter District's Shining Star Awards to Mr. Alvin Fersner, Mrs. Betsy Perrow, Ms. Bridget Love, and Ms. Sherra Vogt. Each employee received a certificate of award and a gift card sponsored by Tri-County Electric Co-op.

Mrs. Murdaugh recognized and presented the District's School Counselors with a certificate of appreciation for their outstanding service and contributions to the school counseling program. Awards were given to Mrs. Shanika Garvain, Mrs. Jamie Stephens, Dr. Peggy Whittenburg, Mrs. Betsy Tant, and Mrs. Loressa Jenkins. Mrs. Murdaugh asked Dr. Melissa Peeples, Principal, to come forward and accept a Posthumous Award for Mrs. Thomasena Simmons for her service.

**Chairperson's Report:** Mr. Porth thanked Mr. Gore and the Sandy Run K-8 Band for their performance at the South Carolina School Board's Association's Annual Convention that was held at Hilton Head, SC. Mr. Porth said the band did a fabulous job and expressed how proud he was of them.

**Finance:** Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the December 2023 and January 2024 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that in January 2024, the District received 14.2 % for the month and 43.4% year to date. He said for the month, 14.6% was expended and year to date was 51.9% of the General Fund Expenditures. Mr. Brunson said Year to Date Encumbered was 56% and expended was 52% of the Budgeted Expenditures for the first seven months of the fiscal period.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for December 2023 and January 2024. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson shared with the Board that the Finance Department is working on the 2024-25 Budget. He said they have been gathering information from the Administration and Principals. Mr. Brunson said he has been watching the Legislature Budget meetings and he is watching for their budget projections. He said in March or April we should start hearing budget projections on what the District should expect to receive.

**Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Francis Keller, Human Resources Director, presented Policy ADF School Wellness for Second Reading and Amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve Policy ADF School Wellness for Second Reading and Amendment.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, shared with the Board the following Facility Updates:

- New bleachers have been installed at the baseball field.
- The softball bleachers will be placed at the field this week.
- The 15-ton HVAC unit at St. Matthews K-8 School kitchen has been installed.
- New furniture for the Cafeteria at St. Matthews K-8 School and Sandy Run K-8 School should be installed in March.

Mr. Kiernan thanked Tri-County Electric for helping with the light repairs at the Softball Field.

Mrs. Murdaugh shared with the Board Academic Updates. Mrs. Murdaugh said the Interim Reports for the Third Quarter went out on February 15<sup>th</sup>. She said report cards for the third nine weeks will go out on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Mudaugh said for the school year 2024-2025, the new ELA Standards will be in effect for the students. She said the District has a team working on the new ELA Curriculum and since January there has been a series of training with the ELA teachers. Mrs. Murdaugh said the District is in the process of selecting the new ELA text that will be commensurate with the new ELA Standards.

Mrs. Murdaugh said i-Ready testing will begin on March 13, 2024. She said ESSER III Funding will end on September 30, 2024. She said we must use the remaining funds by this date. Mrs. Murdaugh said Dr. Tullock has called a meeting to review what the remaining funds are and what needs to be purchased.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. He said regarding the COPS Grant, the consultants are gathering and compiling information and then they will schedule a meeting to go over everything that they found. Mr. Parker said the District should receive approximately \$550,000.00 from the grant.

Mr. Parker informed the Board that the District just moved to a different student monitoring software platform. Mr. Parker shared a short video that explained how the software will assist in monitoring students while on the computer in the classroom.

Mr. Parker shared with the Board information on the Esports Bus that recently visited Sandy Run K-8 School. Mr. Parker said this is a big initiative that the District is about to embark upon. Mr. Parker thanked Dr. Tullock for allowing our students to have this opportunity in the District.

Dr. Tullock shared the Superintendent's Updates with the Board. He said as we recognize our School Counselors, he would like to also honor the bus drivers as part of Bus Driver Appreciation Week. He said the drivers provide daily transportation for the morning and afternoon riders, OCTech and Honors Academy students, and those attending field trips and sporting events. He thanked everyone for all their hard work and extended work hours.

Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that students and staff will observe Spring Break on March 29-April 5, 2024. He said students and staff will return to the classroom on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Dr. Tullock thanked the Sandy Run K-8 School Band, Mr. Gore the Director, Mr. Dinkins, Principal, and the Parent volunteers who traveled to Hilton Head, SC on Sunday, February 18, 2024 to perform at the SC School Boards Association Conference. He said the band's performance opened the final day of the three-day conference. Dr. Tullock said this is the first time since COVID-19 halted student performances in 2020 that students have been able to perform at the convention. Dr. Tullock also said he received a thank you card from Ms. Michelle Branning, SCSBA President, that he will present to Mr. Dinkins to be shared with the students and Director.

Dr. Tullock thanked the Calhoun County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Sandy Run K-8 School Faculty and staff, and the volunteers who have begun the work to create the outdoor classroom at Sandy Run K-8 School.

Dr. Tullock congratulated the eight DECA students from Calhoun County High School who participated in the State competition on February 15-17, 2024, in North Charleston. He said of the fifty-three events, the District had four students to place in the top ten and one who placed in fourth place. The participating students were Jeremy Fields, Shamari Brown, De'Corius Canty, Isaiah Johnson, Alyssa Rucker, Arely Morales, Evan Kiernan, and Alesha Carter. Dr. Tullock thanked Ms. Gressette, Mrs. Dixon, and Ms. Boyd for accompanying the group.

Dr. Tullock thanked Dr. Isaiah Reese of Blaze Technologies for his partnership with the District to bring the eSports Bus to the students in the District. He said the bus was at each school multiple days allowing students the opportunity to experience first-hand the world of coding and gaming.

Dr. Tullock said Wednesday, February 25, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., the District will hold a Wellness Committee meeting in conjunction with the Community Communicators’ meeting. He invited all to come out to take part in this meeting about Food Services across the District and to sample potential menu items prepared by the District’s Food Services staff and vendors.

Dr. Tullock announced that St. Matthews K-8 School will hold its Literacy Night on Thursday, March 7, 2024 from 5:30 – 7:00 P.M. He asked all stakeholders to attend a fun and informative evening.

Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that Saturday with the Superintendent is scheduled for Saturday, March 23, 2024.

**Public Participation:** None

**Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), 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):** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker to approve the Personnel Recommendations as presented by the Superintendent.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to extend the Superintendent’s contract to June 2027.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to adjourn at 10:49 p.m. Passed unanimously.

*Pamela Kennedy*  
Board of Trustees Secretary

3-18-24  
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Kennedy  
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent