

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
January 22, 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 December 18, 2023 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

School Board of Trustees Recognition: Dr. Ferlondo Tullock, Superintendent, said the month of January has been designated as the month to recognize and honor School Board Members from across this country. He said their tireless work of advocacy for students, parents, staff, and community stakeholders often goes unrecognized. He thanked all of the Board Members for all they do to allow the staff to do their jobs preparing the community's next generation of leaders.

Dr. Tullock asked Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Chief Academic Officer, to come forward and assist in recognizing the Board Members of Calhoun County Public Schools.

Mr. Floyd Dinkins, Principal, presented gifts to the Board Members from the staff and students of Sandy Run K-8 School.

Dr. Melissa Peeples, Principal, along with some of the Student Council Members from St. Matthews K-8 School, presented gifts to the Board Members.

Mr. Milton Howard, Principal, presented gifts to the Board Members from the staff and students of Calhoun County High School.

Dr. Treda Keith-Nelson, Chief Accountability Officer, presented gifts to the Board Members from the District Office Staff.

Dr. Tullock asked Mrs. Murdaugh to come forward and read aloud the South Carolina Governor's Proclamation for School Board Recognition Month. A framed copy of the Proclamation will be displayed in the Board Room.

Dr. Tullock recognized and congratulated Chairman Gary Porth for his election to the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) as Regional Director for Region 7 and his appointment to the South Carolina School Board Insurance Trust (SCSBIT) Board of Directors.

Dr. Tullock asked Mrs. Tucker to come forward and be recognized for her service to the Board. He said Mrs. Tucker is receiving her twenty-year service pin.

Dr. Tullock asked Mrs. Murdaugh to come forward and read aloud the South Carolina School Board Member's Ethical Principles and asked fellow Board members to sign a poster that included the Board Principles. The signed poster will be displayed in the Board Room.

Chairperson's Report: Mr. Porth thanked everyone for the recognition and said that he feels it is not about the Board, but it is all about the students. He said the Board feels appreciated and said the District with Dr. Tullock, has a wonderful staff. Mr. Porth added the Board's ultimate goal is the children of Calhoun County.

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the November 2023 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that in November 2023, the District received 16.9% for the month, and year to date, 30.9% of the General Fund Budgeted Taxes. Total revenue received, including State Funds, was 13% of the budget. Total for the month expended was 10.1% and Year to Date was 27.3% of the General Fund Expenditures. Encumbrances for the month was 48.6 % for a total of 84% of Year-to-Date Budgeted Expenditures. Taxes for the month were over 1.2 million and the taxes received in December was 1.4 million.

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

Mr. Brunson introduced Mr. Brain Nicholson, Engagement Director, with Mauldin & Jenkins to present the 2022-2023 Annual District Financial Audit Report to the Board.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker to approve the 2022-2023 Annual District Financial Audit Report as presented.

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

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve Policy ADF School Wellness for First Reading and Amendment.

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

- Bonnette Electric installed a new transformer at Sandy Run K-8 School.
- Copper piping was replaced in the kitchen at Sandy Run K-8 School.
- HVAC unit was replaced in the Band Room at Sandy Run K-8 School.
- Cafeteria furniture has been ordered for both K-8 Schools. They should arrive over the Spring Break.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communications, shared with the Board a Student Field Trip Request for Board approval. He said the Calhoun County High School Track Team would like to participate in the Bob Hayes Track Invitational in Jacksonville, Florida on March 15-17, 2024. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the CCHS Track Team to be allowed to participate in the Bob Hayes Track Invitational in Jacksonville, Florida as requested.

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board a Student Field Trip event for information. He said Calhoun County High School DECA Team will participate in the DECA State Competition on February 15-17, 2024 in North Charleston, South Carolina at the Convention Center.

Mrs. Murdaugh shared with the Board Academic Updates. She presented a PowerPoint presentation showing the comparison of the Fall and Winter Data of the i-Ready Testing results in the District.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, shared Technology Updates with the Board. He said he had new information regarding the COPS Grant that he previously shared. Mr. Parker said he recently met with the writer of the grant to confirm that everything is ready in a timely manner. He said the COPS Grant is a community grant whereby it has to be partnered with different entities in the community.

Dr. Tullock shared with the Board new information regarding the JUUL Settlement. He said the District has received the first payment in the JUUL e-cigarette/vaping settlement in the amount of \$11,543.30. Dr. Tullock said the District will receive three additional payments: one each in January 2025, 2026, and the final payment in January 2027. He said each payment should range between \$2,000.00 and \$2,200.00. Dr. Tullock said through a separate settlement payment from Altria, the District should expect to receive an additional payment of \$5,300.00 to \$5,500.00 in the first quarter of this year. Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that the original JUUL settlement amount was \$28,212.59 prior to the assessment of fees. He said the proceeds from the settlement are being used to fund the vape detection project across the District's three schools. Dr. Tullock said vape detectors will be strategically placed about the buildings to deter the use of vapes and e-cigarettes.

Dr. Tullock shared the Superintendent's Updates with the Board. He thanked the staff, students, parents, and community as a whole for their patience and cooperation as the District was forced to eLearning on January 9 and again on January 12. He said a lot goes into the making of the decision to alter the academic schedule. Dr. Tullock said ultimately, the decision comes down to student and staff safety. He said on both days, there was the threat of high winds making it unsafe to operate school buses and other high-profile vehicles. Dr. Tullock said the decision to go eLearning as opposed to no school, gives the District a day's credit of instruction rather than altering schedules by using one of the makeup days.

Dr. Tullock said the second semester started on January 16, 2024 and Interim Reports will be issued on February 15, 2024. Dr. Tullock said the mid-winter break will take place on February 16 and 19 2024.

Dr. Tullock reminded the Board that Saturday with the Superintendent will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024.

Dr. Tullock said the next Board Meeting will take place on Monday, February 26, 2024 at the District Office. He said the second quarter superlatives will be recognized.

Public Participation: Mrs. Astrid Anders spoke to the Board regarding the District's Policy on Gavin's Law. She said this is a very important policy that everyone should be aware of. She said this policy was in place because of her grandson, Gavin, who lost his life. Mrs. Anders said The Less Than 3 Foundation that is based in Rock Hill, S.C., was established in memory of Gavin and is in place to help everyone in the State to raise awareness of teenage suicide, sextortion, bullying, catfishing and Mental Health. She said on the website you can find information, assistance and help. She offered her support to the District to help to talk to parents or students.

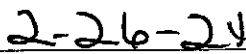
Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), and then return to open session at the completion of discussions. Passed unanimously.

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

Board Action(s): No Action

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:33 p.m. Passed unanimously.


Board of Trustees Secretary


Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent