

**Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
March 17, 2025
District Office
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. 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 Mr. Jenkins, to approve the minutes of February 24, 2025 and March 3, 2025 as submitted. Passed unanimously.

Employee Recognition: Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Interim Deputy Superintendent, asked the Board, Dr. Tullock, Principals and Assistant Principals to come forward and recognize Ms. Angela Colter-Haigler. Ms. Colter-Haigler was recognized by State Treasurer Curtis Loftis as Educator of the Month for the month of February.

Chairperson's Report: No Report

Finance: Mr. Rusty Brunson, Chief Financial Officer, presented the January/February, 2025 Monthly Financial Report and Budget Adjustments for Board consideration. Mr. Brunson informed the Board that the District received 36.6% of the Projected Revenue and Year-to Date, 69% of the projected General Fund Budgeted Revenue, expended 17% for the two month period, and 63% for the year to date. He said Year-Date Encumbrances was 37% 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/February 2025. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Brunson presented a Transfer of General Funds to the Board for approval. Mr. Brunson shared that the District has a Fund Balance of \$11,523,795 which equals to approximately six months of expenses and the State Department of Education requires only three months in the fund balance. He asked the Board to transfer \$1,900,000 to the General Fund for use in capital projects needed in the District. After the transfer, he said the fund balance would be \$9,623,795. He said the funds would be used for the following expenses:

- Upgrading the Sound System for Calhoun County High School

- Refresh of Student Devices
- Update/Renovation of Calhoun County High School's Cafeteria Dining Area
- Replacement of Aging HVAC Systems at Various Buildings

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the Transfer of Fund Balance to the General Fund in the amount of \$1,900,000 to pay for District projects. Passed unanimously.

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

- Policy GBA Open Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action
- Policy GBC Staff Compensation
- Policy GBE Staff Rights and Responsibilities
- Policy GBEB Staff Conduct - Second Reading
- Policy GBEBB Staff Dress Code
- Policy GBEBB Staff Conduct With Students
- Policy GBEBB Gifts To And Solicitations By Staff
- Policy GBEBDA Criminal Record Checks
- Policy GBEC Drug-Free Workplace
- Policy GBG Staff Welfare/Protection
- Policy GBGD Workers' Compensation
- Policy GBH Staff Participation In Community Activities
- Policy GBI Staff Participation In Political Activities
- Policy GBJ Personnel Records And Files
- Policy GC Professional Staff
- Policy GCA Professional Staff Positions
- Policy GCB Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation
- Policy GCBD Professional Staff Fringe Benefits
- Policy GCE Professional Staff Recruitment
- Policy GCEC Posting and Advertising of Professional Vacancies

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Policies as presented by Ms. Keller for Second Reading and amendment. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Jurnee Jenkins, District Family Engagement Coordinator, shared recent activities and initiatives of the Stronger Connections Grant with the Board. She said the overall goal is to boost student attendance in school, promote healthy social emotional learning habits through personalized learning opportunities for student and families with community partnerships, and bridge the communication gap between home, school, and community. Ms. Jenkins shared the programs used to encourage family engagement, student attendance, and community involvement through various incentives, raffles, and external speakers. Ms. Jenkins said her plans for moving forward is to continue fostering engagement through additional incentives and raffles for both students and parents. She also said the plans include exploring new opportunities to bring in guest speakers or external organizations to further support staff and student development. Ms. Jenkins also shared upcoming events with the Board.

Mr. George Kiernan, Chief of Operations and Communication, presented Facilities Updates to the Board. He said the yearly bleacher inspection is coming up the week of April 14, 2025. Mr. Kiernan said the new District dump truck will be arriving tomorrow. Mr. Kiernan said he reached out to Clemson Extension regarding the trees around the Football Stadium. He said he was advised that the trees are very old and any pruning could possibly damage or kill the trees. Mr. Kiernan shared that new teacher chairs for the three schools arrived today.

Mr. Mark Parker, Technology Director, updated the Board on Technology Updates. Mr. Parker shared that student devices will undergo a refresh. He said grades K5 – 10th grade will receive Chromebooks and grades 11-12 will receive laptops. He is hoping to have all the devices in the District the first part of June.

Mr. Parker said at the last Board Meeting, he shared safety procedures were recommended by SLED and the SC State Department of Education. He said procedures such as backups are done in the District three times a day. He said he receives a report every night of the backups performed. Mr. Parker shared that our District uses multi factor authentication within the Finance Department, and moving forward, multi factor authentication will also be used in other areas within the District.

Mr. Parker shared upcoming projects such as a video/score board at Calhoun County High School's Football Stadium. He said this type of score board would allow the graduations to be projected on the board.

Dr. Tullock shared Superintendent's Updates with the Board. Dr. Tullock thanked the students, staff and community for adjusting to the day of cancelled classes on Wednesday, March 3, 2025. He said the students were out due to the impactful winds that disrupted school bus operations. He said the missed day will be made-up using the Tuesdays in May. Dr. Tullock said on May 6th, 13th, and 20th, students will dismiss at the regular 3:00 and 3:15 to extend the days to equate to the time missed on March 3, 2025. He said this allows the District to keep the remaining two make-up days if needed which is May 27th and 28th.

Dr. Tullock said the third quarter ended on Thursday, March 13th. He said the third quarter report cards will be distributed at the Parent/Teacher Conferences on April 1, 2025. He added more information about scheduling the conferences should be received from the schools.

Dr. Tullock reminded everyone that there is no school for students on Friday, March 21, 2025. He said this is a previously scheduled In-Service Day. He said classes will resume on Monday, March 24th.

Dr. Tullock thanked the various advisory councils who meet with him to talk about ideas, issues, or concerns across the District. He said he would like to thank the young people of the Student Advisory Council who met with him a couple of weeks ago. He said he hopes through the meetings, they realize their voice and leadership power. Dr. Tullock said he has invited them to attend an upcoming Board meeting, so that they can be recognized and thanked the students for their service.

Dr. Tullock shared that he will have a Community Communicators group meeting on Monday, March 24, 2025.

Dr. Tullock shared that Saturday, March 15, 2025, Saturday with the Superintendent was held. He said this is a time that anyone who has questions or concerns can use this opportunity to come in to have a conversation with him. He said these meeting provide an opportunity for dialogue. He said by policy, questions or concerns brought during public participation are addressed only in writing. Dr. Tullock said sign-up can be done via the District's website or through a phone call to Mrs. Kennedy at 655-7310. He said the next meeting is on Saturday, April 12, 2025.

Dr. Tullock said the next Policies meeting will take place on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. in the Board Room and the regular April meeting will be held on April 14, 2025 at 7:30 P.M. in the Board Room. He said Spring Break will begin on Friday, April 18, 2025 and students and staff will return to the classroom on Monday, April 28, 2025.

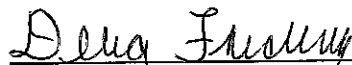
Public Participation: None

Executive Session: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s), Student Expulsion Appeal, 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): Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to uphold the Expulsion's Committees decision. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 10:32 p.m. Passed unanimously.



Board of Trustees Secretary

4-14-25

Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Kennedy
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent