

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Trustees
District Office/Live Stream
August 17, 2020
7:30 P.M.

Members Present: Mr. Gary Porth, Chairperson; Mr. Kevin Jenkins, Vice Chairperson; Ms. Debra Fredrick, Secretary; Mrs. Sandra Tucker, and Mr. Ned Nelson.

1. **Call to Order/Moment of Silence:** Mr. Gary 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".
2. **Notice to the Media:** In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Section 30-4-80-(E), the following have been notified of this meeting: The Calhoun Times; The Times and Democrat; notices placed on the bulletin boards in all schools and the District Office.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Steve Wilson, Superintendent, noted that under Approval of the Agenda, there was an error with the acronym for SCSBA. Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the agenda with the changes requested by Dr. Wilson. Passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020, Regular Board Meeting, as submitted. Passed unanimously. (Copy attached.)

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2020, Emergency Board Meeting, as submitted. Passed unanimously. (Copy attached.)

5. **Chairperson's Report:** Dr. Steve Wilson, Superintendent, asked that the Board come forward and take a picture with a Welcome Back poster that will be posted in the media, the District's Website and sent to SCSBA. Dr. Wilson told the Board that this was suggested by SCSBA to welcome students and staff back to school.
6. **Finance Report:** Mrs. Sky Strickland, Chief Financial Officer, presented to the Board the Audit Engagement Letter from J.W. Hunt & Company to perform the audit for the 2019 – 2020 school year. Mrs. Strickland added that the audit will begin on September 14, 2020 and will be passed by December 2, 2020.

Mr. Porth asked if this engagement letter was for one year and Mrs. Strickland said it was for one year.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Audit Engagement letter from J. W. Hunt & Company. Passed unanimously. (Copy attached.)

7. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. George Kiernan, Human Resources Director and Compliance Officer, presented Policy ACG – Resolution of Discrimination Complaints/Title IX and ACG-E for amendment and approval.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve Policy ACG – Resolution of Discrimination Complaints/Title IX and ACG-E for amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board the Recent COVID-19 Activity in Calhoun County. He said for the Aug. 3rd date, that the county was still in the high category. He presented the Board with an updated report as of Aug. 17th along with article from WSPA (Update of SC) regarding ranking 2nd in the United States for Covid-19 cases among Children at the end of July per 100,000 children.

Mr. Kiernan informed the Board of the Facility Updates. He said he has inspected each classroom's Air Conditioner filter to ensure that they are clean and spoke to the teachers about their needs in the classroom. Mr. Kiernan said that Sandy Run School's Gym roof leak has been repaired and it is still under warranty. He added that we will have a riding lawn mower coming to SMK8 to help the custodians mow areas that the bigger lawn mowers cannot reach. He concluded by saying, the buildings look great due to the hard work done by the custodians over the summer.

Mr. Kiernan updated the Board on the District's PPE. He told the Board that he spoke to the teachers about their needs and they were very appreciative of the items that the District purchased for them. He said a few teachers requested some additional items that he is looking to obtain. Some of the items purchased were, disinfectant spray, face shields, masks, purifiers, disinfectant hand spray, wipes, HVAC filters, thermometers, gloves and water dispensers instead of using the fountains and electrostatic cleaners are on their way for each school. Mr. Kiernan said he has talked to the nurses at each school about isolation rooms for students that show COVID-19 symptoms until parents arrive to pick them up. Ms. Fredrick asked how many students do the isolation rooms hold. Mr. Kiernan said the rooms are designed to hold one student. Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Kiernan to explain how the air purifiers work that are being ordered. Mrs. Murdaugh was asked to come forward and give the explanation. She said the size of the units are based on the size of the classroom, office and large areas such as the gym, cafeteria and library. She said the units will clean the areas of all bacteria and germs. It will assist in limiting the possibilities of contracting the COVID-19 virus. She added that filters have been ordered. Mr. Kiernan said a representative from Home Depot will be training our custodial staff on how to properly use the 360 Clorox machines. After further Board discussion, Mr. Porth said that he wants to make sure that procedures and training/protocols are in place for all staff using the PPE supplies. Dr. Wilson said all the Board suggestions are well taken and a checklist of protocols will be in place for the custodial staff to use daily. He added that a meeting was held with the custodians last week and they were informed of what is expected of them when the students arrive. Dr. Wilson concluded by informing the Board that a copy of the District's COVID-19 Protocols for School Reopening was placed in their Board packets.

Mrs. Christia Murdaugh, Chief Academic Officer, explained to the Board about E-Learning and Virtual Teaching Professional Development provided to the teachers. She stated that four trainers provided training on using Google Meets platform along with Google Classroom. The professional development took place over a two week period. In addition, teachers were able to receive individual assistance if they needed additional help. Mrs. Murdaugh assured the Board that all teachers have been trained.

Mrs. Cinthia Wolfe, Chief of Accountability and Administration, spoke to the Board about E Learning Instruction. She explained the one day face-to-face and the recommended instructional rotation plan.

Mr. Mark Parker spoke to the Board about Hot Spots and Band Width. Mr. Parker thanked his IT staff and cabinet members for all of the hard work they have done to get ready for the new school year. He also thanked Dr. Wilson for his leadership and giving him the autonomy for running the IT department. He said the district received 635 hotspots for Verizon and he expects to receive hotspots from AT&T. He said there have been some coverage problems in certain areas, but like your cell phone, there can be issues based on location. Mr. Parker said district owned hotspots have been ordered for the teachers that do not have internet to have access from home. He said there have been issues with some of the Verizon hotspots and Verizon is working on the problems. Mr. Porth said he has heard of a few of the hotspot problems and asked Mr. Parker to explain. Mr. Parker said that Verizon sends out policies in order for the device to be active or inactive and several of the hotspots did not have the policies in place turned on active. He said that other districts are having the same issues with the Verizon hotspots. He said Verizon is working on correcting the issues. Mr. Porth asked if everyone that has a hotspot is working now. Mr. Parker said that everyone that has made him aware of issues, is up and running. Mr. Nelson asked why the district is using Verizon and AT&T hotspots. Mr. Parker explained that the Sandy Run area has better reception with the cell phones with AT&T. After further Board discussion regarding hotspots, Mr. Porth added that Verizon needs to get the hotspots working. Mr. Parker also discussed bandwidth with the Board. He said the South Carolina State Department of Education has approved the district to receive additional band width. He said that Dr. Wilson called the State Department and asked them to move our district up to priority. Mr. Parker said his department is currently preparing and putting things into place to receive the additional bandwidth. Mr. Porth asked if we get our bandwidth from the State Department and Mr. Parker said that is correct. After further Board discussion regarding bandwidth, Mr. Porth said he just wants to make sure things are corrected and the district technology is up and running correctly. Dr. Wilson said that he talked to the State Superintendent and she approved Calhoun County Schools to be moved up the list for additional bandwidth. He said that with technology, there will always be glitches and he visited all of the schools today and he saw teachers teaching and things working well. He added that several students forgot their passcodes and parents were talked through issues over the phone. Dr. Wilson said he is aware that things are not perfect and of the many changes from the State Department, but he is pleased with where the District is today.

Mr. Ferlondo Tullock, Deputy Superintendent, spoke to the Board about the Student Counts for the District. He reported that today, 1,344 students have logged in for instruction and he expects more students to log on as the week progresses. He said they plan to check the numbers three times this week.

Dr. Wilson shared a memo from State Superintendent Molly Spearman, regarding face-to-face instruction. Dr. Wilson said the letter instructs the District to evaluate for in person offering every two weeks after the school start date.

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

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

9. **Board Actions:** No Board Actions

10. **Adjournment:** Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Board Secretary

Date of Approval