

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Trustees
District Office/Live Stream
December 14, 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. **Election of Officers:** Mr. Porth turned the meeting over to Dr. Steve Wilson, Superintendent, who opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairperson. Ms. Fredrick moved to nominate Mr. Gary Porth as Board Chairperson, with a second by Mrs. Tucker. Mr. Nelson moved to close the nominations and elect Mr. Porth by acclamation. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Porth opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Nelson moved to nominate Mr. Jenkins as Board Vice Chairperson, with a second by Ms. Fredrick. Ms. Fredrick moved to close the nominations and elect Mr. Jenkins by acclamation. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Porth opened the floor for nominations for Board Secretary. Mrs. Tucker moved to nominate Ms. Fredrick as Board Secretary, with a second by Mr. Nelson. Mr. Nelson moved to close the nominations and elect Ms. Fredrick by acclamation. Passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Wilson asked that the Monthly Financial Report & Board Adjustments be removed from the agenda under the heading of Financial Report until the January Board Meeting. Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the agenda with the change requested by Dr. Wilson. Passed unanimously.
5. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the minutes of November 23, 2020, as submitted. Passed unanimously. (Copy attached.)
6. **Chairperson's Report:** No Formal Report
7. **Financial Report:** Mr. Bill Pouncey, CPA, J.W. Hunt and Company, LLP, presented the Audit Report and Finding Statements of Calhoun County Public Schools, St. Matthews, South Carolina (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, for Board action. The District received an unmodified (clean) opinion from the Auditors.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the Audit of the District's Financial Records for 2019 - 2020. Passed unanimously.

8. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. George Kiernan presented Policy BEDG – Minutes of Board Meetings for amendment and approval.

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve Policy BEDG – Minutes of Board Meetings for amendment and approval. Passed unanimously.

Mr. George Kiernan, presented Policy BG – School Board Policy Process and Policy BGC/BGD – Policy Revision and Review/Board Review of Administrative Rules for amendment.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve amended Policy BG – School Board Policy Process and Policy BGC/BGD – Policy Revision and Review/Board Review of Administrative Rules for amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board the last three weeks of the COVID-19 Activity in Calhoun County. He said that Calhoun County's COVID-19 Activity for November 25th December 2nd and December 9th was high.

Mr. George Kiernan, shared with the Board the Facility Updates. He showed the Board the different sizes of Plexiglas dividers that are currently being installed on each student's desk. He said that cameras will be installed on four buses and discussions have begun regarding the parking lot at Sandy Run K-8 School.

Dr. Wilson spoke to the Board about "What's Best for the Students: Refocus on Literacy and Academic Calendars that Accommodate Teachers and Students." He said that for some time, he has been engaged with the Executive Cabinet and Principals to look at refocusing on two critical areas he believes will benefit the overall performance of teachers and students for "Teaching and Learning". Dr. Wilson said the two critical areas of refocus are Literacy and the District's Academic Calendars. He said he believes the teachers have done a good job using the digital models for instruction, however, one of the areas he believes deserves a concentrated effort of refocus is that of Literacy in the early grades. He shared research (booklets, magazines, etc.) with the Board. Dr. Wilson said The Reading Strategies to be developed will augment the current Reading Plan that has been approved by the State Department of Education. Dr. Wilson said he will continue to work on Reading Strategies so that the strategies will be ready for implementation during the next school year.

Mr. Ferlondo Tullock, Deputy Superintendent, presented draft copies of the proposed 2021-2023 Academic Calendars to the Board for information and review.

Dr. Wilson said he feels the calendars presented by Mr. Tullock will be most beneficial for the students and teachers. He said the calendars will allow for learning all year. It will reduce the summer slide and allow intersession breaks during the year that could be used to bring students together with teachers that need additional help. Dr. Wilson said the proposed calendars will also allow time away to quarantine for deep cleaning of the classrooms and buildings. He added the calendars are being presented first to the Board tonight, then to the Teacher Forum Group and to Parent Groups in each school. He added that the proposed calendars have been sent to the State Superintendent's office and we have received a memo back from her office that seems to give full autonomy to school districts to develop their academic calendars. Dr. Wilson handed out a copy of the memo to the Board. He said that he wants to hear from all groups before

asking for Board approval at the February, 2021 Board Meeting. Dr. Wilson added that the proposed calendars are not year-round calendars and will not change the daily schedules.

Mr. Nelson said he would be very optimistic about a plan that addresses this. He would like to make sure that a good job of marketing is done of the plan to show it is good for the students. Mr. Nelson said he would like to make sure the plan is properly presented to show the benefits to the faculty/staff and parents. Dr. Wilson said he plans to make sure this is done.

Dr. Wilson presented to the Board the Meeting Schedule for 2021 for Board action.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the Board Meeting Schedule for 2021 as presented. Passed unanimously. (Copy Attached.)

Dr. Wilson spoke to the Board about COVID-19 vs. Safety Decisions. He said he hopes with the vaccines being given to thousands of people across the Nation, perhaps we are witnessing the light at the end of the tunnel with this virus. He said the District has had to make decisions that were to keep school stakeholders and families safe. He added that the District has been extremely lucky that students and staff have been fairly safe during this time. He thanked the parents, students and staff for cooperating and adhering to the decisions made by the Board and administration for safety. Dr. Wilson concluded by wishing all a Merry Christmas.

9. **Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s) and Resignation(s), a Bus Incident and Contract Proposal 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.

10. **Board Actions:** No Board Actions

11. **Adjournment:** Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:40 p.m. Passed unanimously.


Board of Trustees Secretary

1-25-2021
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,



Pamela Kennedy, Executive Administrative Assistant
To the Superintendent