

Calhoun County Public Schools
Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Trustees
District Office/Live Stream
February 15, 2021
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:** Mrs. Tucker moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021, as submitted. Passed unanimously. (Copy attached.)

Ms. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the minutes of January 28, 2021, as submitted. Passed unanimously. (Copy attached.)

5. **Public Participation:**
 - Ms. Tiffany Jones addressed the Board about students returning to face-to face instruction.
 - Mrs. Melissa Mack addressed the Board about students returning to face-to face instruction.
 - Ms. Dawn Gressette addressed the Board about the upcoming school year calendar and expressed her thanks to the Board.
 - Mrs. Racheal Swartz addressed the Board about various concerns as a parent.
 - Ms. Wendy Rogers addressed the Board about students returning to face-to face instruction.
 - Dr. Peggy Whittenburg addressed the Board about the Extended School Year.

Mr. Porth thanked everyone that spoke and said that each person would receive a letter from the Superintendent addressing their concerns.

6. **School Recognition:** Dr. Wilson shared with the Board a certificate of recognition from The Office of Health and Nutrition that was presented to Calhoun County High School's cafeteria for receiving a score of 100 Percent during a recent audit.

7. **Chairperson's Report:** Mr. Porth informed the public that the school year calendar for 2021-2022 will be addressed at the March Board Meeting.

8. **Financial Report:** Mrs. Sky Strickland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the January 2021 Monthly Financial Report. Mrs. Strickland informed the Board that in January 2021, the District received 47% of General Fund Budgeted Revenue and expended 49% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures and encumbered 38% of the General Fund Budgeted Expenditures with a total of 87% that is expended and encumbered. Mrs. Strickland said the county did not have the taxes ready for the month of January. She added that at the last Board Meeting, she was unable to have the December tax information. She reported that in December 2020, the current taxes collected was 2.8 million and delinquent taxes collected was \$222,217.58.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mr. Jenkins, to approve the Monthly Financial Report for January 2021. Passed unanimously.

Mrs. Sky Strickland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the January 2021 Budget Adjustments.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Budget Adjustments for January 2021. Passed unanimously.

9. **Superintendent's Report:** Mr. George Kiernan, Director of Human Resources and Compliance Officer, presented Policy GCC – Professional Staff Leaves and Absences for 2nd Reading/Amendment and approval.

Mr. Kiernan presented AR GCC –R – Professional Staff Leaves and Absences for 2nd Reading/Amendment and approval.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to approve Policy GCC – Professional Staff Leaves and Absences and AR GCC–R – Professional Staff Leaves and Absences for 2nd Reading/Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan presented Policy GDC – Support Staff Leaves and Absences for 2nd Reading/Amendment and approval.

Mr. Kiernan presented AR GDC –R – Support Staff Leaves and Absences for 2nd Reading/Amendment and approval.

Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve Policy GDC – Support Staff Leaves and Absences and AR GDC –R – Support Staff Leaves and Absences for 2nd Reading/Amendment. Passed unanimously.

Mr. Kiernan presented Policy IDDB – Remedial Programs/Compensatory Programs for Deletion.

Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to delete Policy IDDB – Remedial Programs/Compensatory Programs. 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 January 27, February 3, and February 10, 2021 was reported in the high category.

Mr. Kiernan shared with the Board the Facility Updates. He said that Mr. Bruce Todd with ADC Engineering would be speaking to them during Executive Session regarding the parking lot at Sandy Run School. Mr. Kiernan said the roof inspection at Calhoun County High School was completed last week and he is awaiting the results. He added that repairs are scheduled for the roof at St. Matthews K-8 School.

Mr. Ferlondo Tullock, Deputy Superintendent, and Mrs. Melissa Mack, District Lead Nurse, spoke to the Board about Virus Vaccines for Educators. He said that at the onset of the virus, the District formed a COVID-19 response team which consists of Mrs. Melissa Mack, Mrs. Cinthia Wolfe, Mr. George Kiernan, and Mr. Ferlondo Tullock. Mr. Tullock said that he has been in communication with the Family Health Centers to be the provider of the vaccine. He said they have agreed to vaccinate when the vaccine becomes available for educators. He added that he is currently waiting for the Memorandum of Agreement to confirm the collaboration. He reported to the Board that out of 277 District Employees, 87 employees said yes, 30 said no, 76 said maybe and 71 did not respond to receiving the vaccine. Mr. Tullock said some of the responses of receiving the vaccine have changed as they receive more information about the vaccine. He added that 13 employees in the district have already started or completed the vaccine process. He shared the revised return dates of face-to-face instruction of the students. He said March 1, 2021, the Pre-K-3rd grade along with Self-Contained students will return, March 22, 2021, 4th grade – 8th Grade will return and April 12, 2021 the high school students will return. Mrs. Mack said she has the names of the employees that would like to receive the vaccine. She said she contacted the employees that answered maybe or no to the vaccine and asked them if she could give them information regarding the vaccine. She said several employees have changed their decision after receiving information. Mrs. Mack said each employee wanting to receive the vaccine will receive a number from her and the employee's name will not be used. She said she will send the information to the Family Health Department. She assured the Board that employee privacy will be maintained regarding the employee and their decision on receiving the vaccine.

Dr. Steve Wilson spoke to the Board about Teaching and Learning and returning students to their schools. He said when he arrived as Superintendent of the District in 2010, the State rating of the District was "At Risk". He said the decision was made to receive accreditation by school. He said 2012, 2013 and 2014 the district's State rating was Excellent. He said this happened because the District has excellent teachers and staff. He said he has not been happy with communication in the district and this year, the position of ombudsman was created so there can be communication to and from the school district. He said communication is a two-way street. He said he welcomes calls from the community and they will receive an answer.

Dr. Wilson said Teaching and Learning has been our focus for a long time as the pandemic has drastically changed the way we, along with school districts all across the country, deliver

instruction. He said the District was fortunate to be able to switch to a virtual or eLearning model of instruction when the order came to close schools because of the pandemic. Dr. Wilson said bringing staff and students back to schools or leaving them home for instruction are tough decisions. He said the District has stakeholders on both sides of whatever decision is made. Dr. Wilson added the social and emotional welfare of students must be considered as he has heard from several parents on this issue.

Dr. Wilson said a schedule for bringing teachers and students back has been decided and developed. He said the district staff has tried to consider the teachers and staff in drafting the return schedule, for their work is critical to everything we do to educate our students, and their safety is equally as important. Dr. Wilson said today was their first day back as they taught virtually from their classrooms, and they will continue to do so for the next two weeks. Students in Pre-K - 3rd grade will return as the first group on March 1st, and teachers with their devices will be able to teach virtually and face-to-face. He said the periods between the time students return to their teachers gives us the opportunity to monitor for safety and other concerns during these interim periods. Dr. Wilson said as students return to schools, they will be on a four day week until we work up to five days/weeks. The four-day week allows teachers and students to remain home for Teaching and Learning while deep cleaning is completed on Fridays.

Dr. Wilson said the District has invested much time and resources insuring that the schools are equipped with the safety materials and equipment required by DHEC and the Center for Disease and Control (CDC) to reopen schools, otherwise the decision would not have been made. He said he trusts that we will have the same record of safety as when Pre-K, Kindergarten and Special Needs students were in the schools for approximately two months without a single incident of COVID-19. Dr. Wilson added another reason that the district has spaced the time between teachers receiving students is it allows our teachers and staff closer to the time when vaccines will be administered. He said the Senate has passed a bill to move educators up as priority to receive the vaccine and it is now moved over to the House. Dr. Wilson said during the last Board Meeting, Mr. Keirnan demonstrated and showed much of the equipment that has been purchased for the safety of everyone in the buildings. He added safety is and will be a priority, and he will continue the monitoring process to ensure all is well. He concluded by saying, that he looks forward to having teachers and students back in their schools.

10. **Executive Session:** Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to go into Executive Session to consider Personnel Recommendation(s) and Resignation(s) and Legal: Parking Lot Project at Sandy Run K-8 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.

11. **Board Actions:** No Board Actions

12. **Adjournment:** Mrs. Tucker moved, with a second by Ms. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:31 p.m.
Passed unanimously.

Della S. Smith
Board of Trustees Secretary

3-15-2021
Date of Approval

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Kennedy
Pamela Kennedy, Executive Administrative Assistant
To the Superintendent