**Calhoun County Public Schools**

**Minutes of Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**District Office Boardroom**

**January 25, 2016**

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

1. **Call to Order/Invocation**: Mr. Gary Porth, Chairperson, called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors and staff and asked everyone present to stand for the invocation and the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag".

2. **Notice to the Media**: In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1985, Section 30-4-80-(e), as amended, 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**: Mr. Nelson moved, with a second by Mrs. Fredrick, to approve the Agenda as submitted. Passed unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes**: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the minutes of December 14, 2015, as submitted. Passed unanimously. (Copy attached.)

5. **Board Recognition**: Dr. Wilson informed the Board that January is "School Board Appreciation Month" and he would like for them to come forward and be recognized for the role they play while working together to provide a better future for the students enrolled in the District.

 Dr. Wilson read a statement to salute the Board Members and read some of the responsibilities Board Members face and their role in the education of the children in their respective districts. Each Board Member was presented a gift of appreciation (Copy attached.)

6. **Student Recognition**: Dr. Wilson asked Mrs. Christia Murdaugh to come forward to present a certificate to Luis Nunez, currently a senior at Calhoun County High School. Luis went to Washington, D.C to take part in the 2016 Jobs for America's Graduates National Student Leadership Academy in Washington, D.C. Luis Nunez brought back the First Place National Math Completion Trophy.

7. **Employee Recognition**: Dr. Wilson asked Mr. George Kiernan to recognize Calhoun County's 2016 Classified Employees of the Year. They are as follows: Mrs. Lillian DeBruhl, St. Matthews K-8 School; Mrs. Brenda Arant, Sandy Run K-8 School; Mrs. Rosalind Jenkins, Calhoun County High School; and Ms. Ruby Guinyard. Each employee was presented a plaque.

 **Public Participation**: Mr. Michael Lee, a parent in our District, spoke to the Board with concerns regarding the District's Digital Device Roll-out. He questioned if the $50.00 fee was for the purpose of insurance. He feels that allowances should be made if a family already has computers in the home. Mr. Porth stated that Mr. Lee had valid questions and the Superintendent would respond to his concerns.

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8. **Chairperson's Report**: Mr. Porth informed the Board that he was recently invited by Dr. Wilson to speak to the Rotary Club of St. Matthews about the School District's progress and where we see ourselves going in the future. Mr. Porth stated he is very proud of our District and our students, and sees us moving forward in the future.

9. **Financial Report**: Mrs. Sky Strickland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the December 2015 Monthly Financial Report for Board consideration.

 Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to approve the Monthly Financial Report for December, 2015. Passed unanimously.

 Mrs. Sky Strickland, Chief Financial Officer, presented the December 2015 Budget Adjustments for Board consideration.

 Mrs. Fredrick moved, with a second by Mrs. Tucker, to approve the Budget Adjustments for December, 2015. Passed unanimously.

 Mrs. Strickland reported to the Board that we have collected $2,025,097.12 in current taxes, which is 39% of the budgeted amount from the county. For delinquent taxes, we have collected $254,328.31, 85% of the budgeted amount.

 Mrs. Strickland informed the Board that she received an e-mail from the Chief Financial Officer for the State Department of Education. This e-mail reported that the base student cost has been capped at $2,172. Our budget was based at $2,220. It will cost our District approximately $150,000.00 at this time. That total will change again on the 135th day.

10. **Superintendent's Report**: Dr. Wilson has reset the 2015-16 Academic Calendar due to the recent inclement weather. Students have already made up three of the five days during our first semester and will make up two days during the second semester. We will re-evaluate if we have additional inclement weather.

 Dr. Wilson informed the Board that the February 22, 2016 Board Meeting will be held at the District Office due to the high volume of attendance involved in Highest GPA recognition. The March 21, 2016 Board Meeting will be held at Sandy Run K-8 School.

 Dr. Wilson informed the Board that the Digital Device Roll-out went very well and he has received numerous e-mails and calls applauding the District's effort. He sees the roll-out as transforming teaching in our county and will promote college and career readiness. He is looking at using technology money to purchase classroom sets in the K-2 grade levels. He stated this is a historical time in Calhoun County and over 1,000 devices have been rolled out to students in the District.

 Dr. Wilson presented, as information, a request by Iris Larrymore, Calhoun County Cheerleader Coach, to attend the National Stomp N Shake Cheer and Dance Championship along with the Varsity Cheerleaders. This event will be held in Winston Salem, NC on March 18-19, 2016.

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 Dr. Wilson presented to the board Governor Haley's K-12 Education Reform Initiative. Governor Haley's plan is to spend more than 230,000,000.00 dollars to fix decaying rural schools, recruit teachers, expand the internet access to students' homes and bolster transportation services.

Her executive budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year includes $165.3 million to increase the base student cost to $2,300 and included a dual enrollment add-on weight of approximately $345 per student. Governor Haley also wants to increase the minimum pay of bus drivers from $7.46 per hour to $10.96 per hour.

Governor Haley has an additional $27 million budgeted for digital and traditional teaching materials, $11.6 million for charter school supplements and $1.2 million for virtual schools.

 Dr. Wilson informed the Board that the Senate panel approved a bill to make school lunches tastier. They intend to loosen the standards regarding whole grains and sodium.

 Dr. Wilson presented Policy GBEA Staff Ethics/Conflict of Interest and said he hopes to talk about this policy during our February 2, 2016 Work Session.

11. **Executive Session**: Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mr. Nelson, to consider a personnel resignation and the Superintendent's evaluation and to return to open session at the completion of discussions. Passed unanimously .

 Upon returning from executive session, Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Fredrick, to accept the employee resignation. Passed unanimously.

 Mr. Jenkins moved, with a second by Mrs. Fredrick, to increase the Superintendent's annual annuity by 8.5 % contribution and to pay the employee's portion of the Superintendent's health insurance. Passed unanimously.

12. **Adjournment**: Mr. Nelson, moved with a second by Mrs. Fredrick, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Passed unanimously.

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 Board Secretary

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 Date of Approval