



# Florence County School District 3

*Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, March 19, 2026 @ 6:00p.m.*

*Location: Board Room*

125 S. Blanding St., Lake City, SC 29560

Live Stream –YouTube@fsd3

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**Call to Order:** Board Chair Jason Kirby called the board meeting of the Florence County School District Three Board of Trustees to order.

**Declaration of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):** In accordance with the S. C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-809d, as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: Morning News, Lake City Shopper, WBTW, WPDE, & WMBF. This agenda is also posted on the Florence County School District Three website.

**Roll Call by Board Secretary:** Ms. Rebecca Yates reported that seven board members were in attendance. Present in person were Mr. Steve Locklair, Ms. Rutha Frieson, Mr. Gregory McKnight, Ms. Rebecca Yates, Mr. Jason Kirby, Ms. Mattie Thomas, and Ms. Paula Morris. Ms. Julia Mims and Mr. Jac’Kel Brown are in attendance via phone conference.

**Moment of Silence:** Ms. Kasey Feagin requested prayers for all FSD3 students and staff. We observed a moment of silence.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Board Chair Jason Kirby led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Paula Morris provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented carries 9-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Gregory McKnight provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the consent agenda as presented carries 9-0.

**Public Participation:** None.

**Board Chair Report:** Board Chair Kirby addressed the items on the Board Chair Report.

**Board members report of any meetings/schools attended:** Mr. Jason Kirby opened the floor for board members to report their activities within Florence School District Three:

**Mr. Steve Locklair:** None to report.

**Mr. Gregory McKnight:** None to report.

**Ms. Rebecca Yates:** None to report.

**Ms. Rutha Frieson:** Visited three fourth grade classes.

**Ms. Mattie Thomas:** None to report.

**Ms. Paula Morris:** None to report

**Ms. Julia Mims:** None to report.

**Mr. Jac’Kel Brown:** None to report.

**Mr. Jason Kirby:** None to report.

**Request to attend any meetings:** Let Ms. Yates know and she will convey to Ms. Acuña.

**Superintendent search update:** Interviews for four candidates were completed and the board will have further discussion. On April 1, 2026, they will have announcement regarding the new superintendent.

**Interim-Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Kasey Feagin, Interim-Superintendent

**Finance Update - Kasey Feagin for Hope Gibson, Finance Director - March 2026**

Finance Updates. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and 2025-2026 district goals, presented the March 2026 financial updates. She reviewed the February 2026 Financials PowerPoint of the General fund reports beginning with the FSD3 mission and district goals. She reviewed the board approved balance of the general fund budget \$35,646,811.00 for fiscal year 2025-2026. She read over her financial slides and totals for 2025-2026 budgets. New approved general fund budget for 2025-2026 is \$41,199,818.00. Ms. Hope also reviewed the General Fund Budget by Object Code as of February 28, 2026. Ms. Hope presented the timeline for the 2026-2027 General Budget Approval. Ms. Hope reviewed the Preliminary First Reading of the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget. Mattie Thomas made the motion to approve the First reading of the Proposed Budget as presented. Paula Morris provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the First reading of the Proposed Budget as presented carries 9-0. Ms. Hope presented the board with the financial information they requested in regards to the cost for Mauldin and Jenkins, CPA's & Advisors. The permission to extend Florence School District Three Contract with Mauldin and Jenkins, CPA's & Advisors for One year (27-28) was asked of the board. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve to extend Florence School District Three Contract with Mauldin and Jenkins, CPA's & Advisors for One year (27-28) as presented. Mattie Thomas provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve to extend Florence School District Three Contract with Mauldin and Jenkins, CPA's & Advisors for One year (27-28) as presented carries 9-0.

**Human Resources Updates: - Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources**

Ms. Scott began her presentation with the personnel report for March 2026. She presented her power point slides with the certified vacancies that are tentative for 2026-2027 with some updates on the totals. Board members asked questions and Ms. Scott responded to each question. She then reviewed teacher allocations for all school sites. Ms. Scott announced all the 2026-2027 Employees of the Year. Voted on by FSD3 employees.

**Instructional Updates- Mary Howard Ed. S., Chief Academic Officer**

Ms. Mary Howard presented her slides that gave the board goals, school choice updates, I-Ready data-overall, and Tutoring Updates.

\*\*\*7:51pm Board Chair Jason Kirby brought up the time and the need for an extended meeting. Rutha Frieson made a motion to extend board meeting passed 8pm. Paula Morris provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of extend the board meeting passed 8pm. The motion to extend the board meeting passed 8pm as presented carries 9-0. \*\*\*

Ms. Howard continued her report with student highlights for i-Ready growth since enrollment. In the Spotlight this month was for the Junior & Primary (4K-3<sup>rd</sup>) Pee Dee Competition and Congratulations to Scranton Elementary for completing there Cognia STEM Certification Review. Upcoming events: March 1-31<sup>st</sup> -Title One Needs Assessment Survey; March 23<sup>rd</sup> -Report Cards issued; March 30<sup>th</sup> -Cognia Accreditation Review; April 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> -Spring Break; SESA's 2026 Leadership Day March 27<sup>th</sup>; MSE's Save the Date Leadership Day April 17, 2026; JCL Elementary Leadership Day April 2<sup>nd</sup>; Save the Date Stars Gala, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

***All of this presentation is also on YouTube fsd3.***

**Other Legislative and District Updates - Kasey Feagin, Interim-Superintendent**

Ms. Feagin went over the enrollment update for 2025-2026, Budget Impact for 26-27 SY, State Budget Process, House Bills-h.4756-Student Physical Privacy Act; House Education Committee H.4468-Local Advisory Councils for Education Student with Disabilities, H.5073-Grading Practices, House Floor Actions H.4762 -School Volunteer Chaplain's & Historical Displays & H.4163 - SC High School Athletic Association Act, Senate Floor Actions S.70 - School Board Training & Ethics & H.3858 - Water Property Tax. Ms. Feagin information regarding the withdrawals for the 2025-2026-SY, to detail to the board of the amount of students that are not in our FSD3 due to release approvals for seven different reasons. She shared a comparison of each school year form 2024-2025 thru 2026-2027 for Staff Allocations.

Ms. Feagin then invited Mr. Brian Huckabee up to go over the Facilities Update.

\*\*\*All power points are also posted online and can be seen on YouTube@fsd3.\*\*\*

**Exit into Executive Session** - Rebecca Yates made the motion to exit from open session into executive session to discuss student discipline and potential legal, personnel matters, possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session carries 9-0. Julia Mims and Jac'Kel Brown were disconnected from phone conference call.

**Reconvene to Open Session** - Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and reconvene to open session. Paula Morris provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to exit executive session and reconvene to open session carries 7-0.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Action from executive session** - No action needed from executive session.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Paula Morris provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn carries 7-0.

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**Date approved**

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**Jason Kirby, Chair**

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**Elizabeth Acuña, Recording Clerk**

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**Rebecca Yates, Secretary**