



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, February 24, 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 eight board members were in attendance and Ms. Julia Mims was on the phone. Present in person were Mr. Steve Locklair, Mr. Jason Kirby, Mr. Gregory McKnight, Mr. Jac'Kel Brown, Ms. Rutha Frieson, Ms. Mattie Thomas, Ms. Paula Morris.

**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:** Ms. Paula Morris made an amendment to the agenda to add a speaker. Ms. Paula made the motion to approve the agenda as presented and amended. Mr. Jac'Kel Brown provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** Kathy Carter with Educational Foundation. Ms. Ellasiah Morris was heard after board members gave their report.

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

**Request for parliamentarian:** Ms. Rutha said she was the one who had asked to put it on the agenda but made a motion to postpone the request until May 2026. Ms. Paula Morris second the motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the postponement carries 9-0.

**Superintendent search update:** Ms. Christy Flowers stated in December of 2025 there were 3 forums for the superintendent search to gather community input, the committee met virtually in January and a face-to-face meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to review all applications. They elected to interview all 15 applicants. Virtual interviews were conducted from February second through February 12, 2026. The committee met again in person to evaluate all applicants and decide who would proceed to the next phase of the process. As a result, the committee has 4 candidates

for the Board of Trustees to interview. Ms. Flowers thanked the board for opportunity.

**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:** Attended the Annual Conference last week and spoke of the speaker Anderson he enjoyed regarding the change of behavior and also spoke of his visit to DREM.

**Mr. Gregory McKnight:** Attended the Annual Conference last week he mentioned the referendum and spoke of his continuing thoughts on getting a gym built for JC Lynch.

**Ms. Rebecca Yates:** Attended the Annual Conference last week and also enjoyed Dr. Liz Huntley and the interesting speech she gave.

**Ms. Rutha Frieson:** Attended the Annual Conference last week and also enjoyed a few speakers, Mr. Beasley, Dr. Liz Huntley and she also won two prizes at the end of the conference to the benefit of FSD3.

**Ms. Mattie Thomas:** Attended the Annual Conference last week and shared stories of her favorite takes from speakers. She also visited Olanta Elementary for board member appreciation week.

**Ms. Paula Morris:** Attended the Annual Conference last week and spoke of Dr. Liz Huntley and her life story. Enjoyed that speaker. She thanks DREM for attending to her during her visit.

**Ms. Julia Mims:** Attended the Annual Conference last week and the speaker regarding how Colleton County made Improvements.

**Mr. Jac'Kel Brown:** Attended the Board Chair workshop & the Annual Conference last week and spoke of what the workshop highlighted as well as the conference. Thanked Schneider Electric for taking all board members to dinner on Friday night.

**Mr. Jason Kirby:** Attended the Board Chair workshop & the Annual Conference last week and learned about the flow of traffic of information between the board, the community, employees & social media etc. He also attended the LCHS board member appreciation presentation for him.

\*\*\*Complete reports from board members can be viewed and heard on our YouTube channel. YouTube@fsd3\*\*\*

**Interim-Superintendent's Report:** *Ms. Kasey Feagin, Interim-Superintendent* City of Lake City Mr. Malik Whitaker, City Administrator spoke of the Matthew Road water tower and the concerns they have with it. They request an annual contribution of \$1,500.00. The board asked questions regarding the normal care and maintenance of the city for the tower in which the City responded. Mr. Jac'kel Brown made a motion to postpone the decision on the request for annual contribution. Ms. Rebecca Yates second the motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the postponement carries 9-0.

Ms. Kasey continued with Ms. Hope Gibson to read the finance update report.

**Finance Update - Kasey Feagin for Hope Gibson, Finance Director** - February 2026 Finance Updates. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and 2025-2026 district goals, presented the February 2026 financial updates. She went through the PowerPoint of the General fund reports. 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 January 31, 2026. Ms. Hope presented the timeline for the 2026-2027 General Budget Approval. Mr. Jac'Kel Brown made a motion to approve the timeline for the 2026-2027 General Budget and Ms. Mattie Thomas second the motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the timeline passes 9-0. Ms. Hope also gave the board an update on the 45<sup>th</sup> day projections for our budget. Due to the conservative estimates that our finance department took, we are still \$296,350.36 in the good. This is with all the considerations that we had a decrease in state aid to classrooms, health insurance

cost that went up and the 159 ADM decrease. The board was appreciative of the results the finance department managed and received with their projections.

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

Ms. Scott began her presentation with the personnel report for 2026. She presented her power point slides with the certified vacancies that are tentative for 2026-2027. Board members asked questions and Ms. Scott responded. Advertising our openings through all the info is FSD3 online and YouTube fsd3 and other media.

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

Ms. Mary Howard presented her slides that gave the board goals. She presented 2 students with 2 certificates for their JR Scholar achievement. Fredrick Richey is the 8<sup>th</sup> grade -JPT Reading, not in attendance. Mr. Jaxson Gunnells for 8<sup>th</sup> grade -JPT Reading, in attendance and pictures taken. Ms. Howard then went over all the Spelling Bee winners who are moving on to the March 16, 2026 Regional Bee at Francis Marion Univ. Our upcoming events calendar consists of Read Across America on March 2 thru 6, National History Day Pee Dee Competition on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>, the 135<sup>th</sup> day of school is on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and the District Cognia Visit on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Howard also recognized that 5 of our bank members students received grants from Benedict College and others. All of this presentation is also on YouTube fsd3.

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

Ms. Feagin reviewed the Board Meeting Dates for 2026-2027. Ms. Mattie Thomas made the motion to approve the Proposed Board Meeting Dates for 2026-2027 SY. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the Proposed Board Meeting Dates for 2026-2027 SY carries 9-0. Ms. Feagin reviewed the request to extend our contract with Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC for our future Audit Services. Board requested to postpone the approval until further financial information from previous costs and procedures have been given to the board. Ms. Rebecca Yates motioned to postpone the approval and permission to extend our contract with Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC. Ms. Mattie Thomas provided the second to the motion. All board members present voted in favor to postpone the approval and permission to extend our contract with Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC 9-0 the motion passed.

Ms. Feagin reviewed the enrollment update for 2025-2026, the State Budget Process, the Revenue & Fiscal Affairs, and reviewed the Governor's Budget vs. State Superintendent's/SDE/EOC Budget. Continued with the additional Governor's Budget Recommendations and Additional SC Department of Ed & EOC Requests. House and Senate Education Subcommittees proposals were also shared.

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

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

**Exit into Executive Session** - Mr. Jac'Kel Brown 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. Ms. Julia Mims was disconnected from phone conference call.

**Reconvene to Open Session** - MR. Jac'Kel Brown made the motion to exit executive session and reconvene to open session. Ms. Mattie Thomas 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 8-0.

**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 8-0.

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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**