



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, January 15, 2025 @ 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 Jac’Kel Brown 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 all nine board members were in attendance. 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 and Ms. Julia Mims.

**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 Jac’Kel Brown led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Mattie Thomas 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. Julia Mims 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.

**Board Chair Jac’Kel Brown:** Kind words of “Thank you” were given by Mr. Jac’Kel Brown in appreciation for the last two years being elected School Board Chair.

**Election of Officers:** – Ms. Kasey Feagin, Interim-Superintendent

Ms. Feagin began the election of officers by explaining the procedure of electing officers Board Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for the board. It is an annual, in January, procedure to elect board officers. Ms. Feagin opened for nominations for Board Chair. Gregory McKnight nominated Ms. Rutha Frieson. Ms. Rebecca Yates nominated Jason Kirby for Board Chair. Ms. Mims moved to close the nominations. With no other nominations for Board Chair, Ms. Feagin took a vote, by raised hands, for Board Chair. Ms. Rutha Frieson received 4 votes. (McKnight, Frieson, Morris and Mims). Mr. Jason Kirby received 5 votes. (Locklair, Kirby, Yates, Brown and Thomas). Mr. Kirby was elected as Board Chair. Ms. Rutha Frieson asked Mr. Kirby two questions, he answered and the members traded chairs. Mr. Kirby gave a prompt appreciation speech. Mr. Kirby now opened for nominations for Vice Chair. Mattie Thomas nominated Jac’Kel Brown. Ms. Rutha Frieson nominated Ms. Julia Mims. Ms.

Mims declined the nominations at this time. Ms. Mattie Thomas moved to close the nominations. With no other nominations Mr. Jac'Kel Brown is the Vice Chair. The nominations for Board Secretary were opened. Ms. Julia Mims nominated Ms. Rutha Frieson, Mr. Steve Locklair nominated Rebecca Yates. Ms. Julia Mims moved to close the nominations. Board Chair Mr. Jason Kirby took a vote, by raised hands, for Secretary. Ms. Rutha Frieson received 4 votes. (McKnight, Frieson, Morris and Mims). Ms. Rebecca Yates received 5 votes. (Locklair, Kirby, Yates, Brown and Thomas). Ms. Yates was elected as Board Secretary.

Mr. Kirby now turned to Mr. Brian Huckabee to request all board members sign the Ethical Principles poster. As the poster was sent around for each member to acknowledge and sign, Mr. Brian explained the SC School Board Member Ethical Principles to the board. The principles are the same each year, they were not read aloud.

**Public Participation:** None

**Board Chair Report:** Board Chair Kirby opened the floor for board members to report their activities within Florence School District Three:

**Mr. Steve Locklair** visited JCL, Mr. Divine took him, visited some classrooms and saw the new playground, he received gifts and treats and had an all-around good morning with them.

**Mr. Gregory McKnight** visited DREM and had a tour of the classrooms and invited everyone to the show on 1/29/26 for Dr. Ronald E. McNair celebration. He also went to JCL for the award state program. It was very good; they gave him gifts at the end of the tour and they didn't know that it was his birthday.

**Ms. Rebecca Yates** visited Scranton today at 8:00am had breakfast, walked around school and visited some classrooms, saw the goats and chickens and had a very nice morning.

**Ms. Rutha Frieson** visited MSE and was greeted at the door, toured the school and brought to the gym were the step team and others to entertain her. They also gave her gifts.

**Ms. Mattie Thomas:** none attended

**Ms. Paula Morris:** none, offered prayers of unification,

**Ms. Julia Mims:** none attended

**Mr. Jac'Kel Brown** Thanked LCECC for the snacks on 1/14/26 during his visit on board appreciation week, everything done up in orange, saw the Leader in Me in action when students guiding him throughout the school, visited the ready lab Mr. Daniels put into action.

Mr. Jason Kirby had not visited his school yet but will give an update once that happens.

**Request to attend meeting:** Mr. Board Chair reminded all board members to let Ms. Yates know and she will convey to Ms. Acuña.

**Superintendent Search Update:** Ms. Mims requested that the update be put on agenda to be transparent about the search and for the public to know where they are in the search. Mr. Brown responded to Ms. Mims and a discussion took place.

**Interim-Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Kasey Feagin, Interim-Superintendent Ms. Kasey stated Ms. Hope Gibson was not able to be at meeting and therefore she will read the finance update report. Once she is done with the finance update, she will continue to call all other directors with their January updated reports.

**Finance Update - Kasey Feagin for Hope Gibson, Finance Director** - January 2025 Finance Updates. Ms. Feagin reviewed our mission statement and 2025-2026 district goals, presented the January 2025 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. Feagin also reviewed the General Fund Budget

by Object Code as of December 31, 2025. No questions or comments were asked by the board.

**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. Ms. Scott shared that they will have a Teacher Recruitment Fair on Saturday, February 21, 2026. All the info is FSD3 online and FSD3 media. No questions asked.

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

Ms. Mary Howard presented her slides that gave the board goals, ATSI Report (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement). She went over the various events happened once we returned from the winter break. Ms. Mary then reviewed the upcoming events including all the Dr. Ronald E. McNair celebrations beginning on Jan. 28, 2026: Kick-Off in Columbia, SC., Jan. 29, 2026: FSD3 annual Dr. Ronald E. McNair Day (9:30-11:00am), Jan. 30, 2026 STEM Bus Activities at Ronald McNair Park and Life History Center, featuring interactive experiments and dimensional activities for the community and Jan. 31, 2026 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Gala. The District Spelling Bee - January 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00am, Blanding St. Auditorium. The 2026-2027 Magnet School Lottery window will open January 26<sup>th</sup> - February 6<sup>th</sup>. A reminder for students to read for 30 minutes everyday. 30 for 30 Challenge.

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

Ms. Feagin reviewed the enrollment update for 2025-2026 as of 12/19/25 the 90<sup>th</sup> day, Truancy vs. Chronic Absence, Chronic Absenteeism, Truancy, and Attendance Matters. Ms. Feagin then invited Mr. Brian Huckabee up to go over the Facilities Update. One question was asked and answered. All power point is also posted online and can also be seen on YouTube@fsd3.

**Exit into Executive Session** - Ms. 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. Paula Morris 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.

**Reconvene to Open Session** - Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and reconvene to open session. Mr. Jac'Kel Brown 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 9-0.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Mattie Thomas 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 9-0.

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**Date approved**

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**Jason Kirby, Chair**

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**Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk**

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**Rebecca Yates, Secretary**