



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes Location: Board Room

Thursday, July 17, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown called the July 17, 2025 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 in person and one, Mr. Steve Locklair, was present on speakerphone.

Moment of Silence: Ms. Kasey Feagin requested prayers for all FSD3 students, staff, especially those who are having medical challenges, and we have a good start to the 2025-2026 school year. 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. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Paula Morris provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Approval of the Consent Agenda: Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Jason Kirby provided the 2nd for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the consent agenda as presented passed 9-0.

Public Participation: Mr. Bernard McIntosh addressed the board members and all in attendance with his opinions and concerns regarding the search of the Florence School District 3 Superintendent.

Board Chair Report: None of the board members had reports to share. Ms. Paula Morris wanted to thank Mr. Jamie Daniels who is tutoring our children to learn to read by the time they are in 3rd grade. She continued to praise those who are working hard on teaching our children to learn and focusing on all community and district coming together to improve our district for the betterment of our students.

Request to attend meeting: Let Ms. Yates know and she will convey to Ms. Acuña.

Board Chair Report continued: Board Chair Brown shared that on our FSD3 website and Facebook page has information regarding the Superintendent search. There is an opportunity for community members to provide feedback through a survey that is available to all stakeholders and community members. That survey will close on August 10th. There is also applications to apply to be on the search committee for our next Superintendent. The search committee will be comprised of four board members and five community members. The survey information will be shared with the board and search committee and that feedback will be taken into consideration

for selecting the next Superintendent. We invite everyone for their feedback to assist in the application process. Ms. Paula Morris also suggested we have three public community meetings to hear the communities' feedback. For those who do not have social media, computers etc., that they have an opportunity to share their thoughts as well. Mr. Jac'Kel Brown agreed and will have that set up.

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

Introduced Ms. Hope Gibson for the finance update report, and continued to call all other directors with their updated reports, after each was done.

Finance Update – Hope Gibson, Finance Director

July 2025 Finance Updates. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and 2025-2026 district goals. Ms. Hope presented the June 2025 financial updates. She went through the PowerPoint of the General fund reports, which are posted on our website and is linked to the board agenda online. She reviewed the board approved balance of the general fund budget \$34,142,053. The board approved use of fund balance was \$2,414,000.00 for 24-25 general fund balance, \$1,506,000.00 of the use of fund balance for fy 24-25 & \$163,891.00 for fy 23-24 the band instrument, repair & supplies. The board approved general fund 24-25 is \$38,225,944.00. This was the general budget brought forward as of June 2025. Ms. Paula Morris stated that the final reading of the budget is not on the website yet and requested it be updated. 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 and reading off the openings that are available. This report is also on the website.

Instructional Updates– Mary Howard Ed. S., Chief Academic Officer

Ms. Mary Howard started with a detailed update of the summer learning camps that took place a few weeks past. A lot going on in the month of June. She gave all the statistics of all who attended and what each camp provided and how it helps our students with enriching their education. High school recovery was also available. More exciting camps at the Boys and Girls club camp. A science fair-like opportunity for the students. There was lots of positive feedback from parents. Strong academic gains. 3rd grade did get the math test done. Three opportunities for family engagement. Ms. Thomas put together some snippets of all the arts camps including photography. Other vendors came in to work with our students to explore other arts. They made ice cream out of creamer. Ms. Abra also put together a video to share with the board. Ended summer camp with lots of success stories and fun. A detailed slide show is available online. Headed into July, there was administrator's professional development focusing on vision and goals, new employee and new teacher orientation, coaches and school leader with SCDE Literacy Leads, district and school level back to school professional development. The save the dates are July 22nd – Opening Ceremony at 8:30am at LCHS; July 31st Open House 3:00-7:00pm; August 4th First day of school; August 14th Back to School Parent Conference 6:00pm A video of summer camp activities was shared with the board. Ms. Julia Mims asked how the students are chosen for these camps. Ms. Mary Howard said they open it up by application, recommendation and being on a waiting list. For the higher-grade camps, they put it out to the students with an interest survey before school ends.

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

Ms. Kasey Feagin started with good news. While at the SCASA i3 conference, Ellen Weaver was presenting and she recognized several districts in which Florence 3 was

one of the districts because we had decreased the number of third graders scoring “Does Not Meet” by 20% on ELA SC Ready test scores. We had not received those scores yet, so nice surprise and shout out. Also congratulations to Ms. Tonyelle for a \$25,000 District Arts Support grant that she worked hard on and was awarded and to Ms. Jami Kirby and Scranton Elementary for winning Best of the Pee Dee, Best Public School. The next information was regarding new laws that all district must livestream all board meetings, excluding executive session portion. There will be a model policy to follow from SCSBA. There are penalties if not in compliance, 1% of state funds. Mr. Brian Huckabee is working on switching us from Facebook live to having a FSD3 YouTube channel by August 2025. The Federal funding freeze is on Federal Title funds, which does affect us and all districts across the states. We do not know when they will be released. We do use them on many of our programs and therefore, we will have to cutback or cut some services and programs due to these funding restraints. There was a reminder of the Board work session on July 28th at 5:30pm for the purpose of discussing the Special Obligation Bond priorities. Madelyn from Snyder will provide dinner. Ms. Kasey also spoke about the Distance learning Grant from the USDA in December 2024. It requires the board secretary to sign and it also needs board approval. Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the Secretary Resolution for the Distance Learning Grant from USDA and to submit the authorized representative request. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion to approve the Distance Learning Grant from USDA and submit the authorized representative request, was passed 9-0.

Ms. Kasey Feagin then introduced Mr. Mike Gallagher as the Director of Compass Municipal Advisors, LLC. He will go over the general obligation bond and resolution. He shared the history of the bond and where we go from here in using it. His slide presentation is also online. After going over all the plans for the obligation bond, the board needs to approve so that plans can continue. Ms. Rebecca Yates made a motion to approve the issuance and sale of the non-exceeding \$800,000.00 General Obligation Bond. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the second. All board members present voted in favor of this motion to approve the issuance and sale of the non-exceeding \$800,000.00 General Obligation Bond. The motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Brian Huckabee, Director of Facilities and Technology, gave an update on all the upgrades that are going on throughout the district and what still needs to be approved to get done. All slides are online. End of all reports.

Ms. Paula Morris asked about the SEL Grant that ends in December 2025 in which we will lose 9 counselors due to funding cuts. She would like to know if the district is trying to find other funds due to need and importance of having Social and Emotional counseling. Ms. Kasey Feagin said that we have applied for other grants but have not received a response. Ms. Paula then asked Board Chair Brown to write a letter, for all members to sign and send to all the state representatives, governor, and any other state officials to whom we can reach out so they can understand the importance of getting monies for SEL. Board Chair Brown said he would do that and have it signed at the July 28th, board work session.

Exit into Executive Session – Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to exit regular session to go into executive session to discuss student discipline or potential legal matters, and personnel matters (possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters) as well as the proposed amendment to the Graham Road Lease with Pee Dee Innovation and Leadership Academy. 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 passed 9-0.

Reconvene to Open Session - Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to exit executive session and reconvene to open session. Ms. Rutha Frieson 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 passed 8-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Action from executive session - Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Graham Road Lease with Pee Dee innovation and Leadership Academy. Mr. Jason Kirby provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion passed 8-0

Adjourn: There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Jason Kirby provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to adjourn passed 8-0.

Date approved

Jac'Kel Brown, Chair

Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

Rebecca Yates, Secretary