



# Florence County School District 3

## Board Meeting Minutes Location: Board Room

Thursday, June 12, 2025

6:00 p.m.

**Call to Order:** Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown called the June 12, 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 all nine board members were in attendance.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Board Chair Jac'Kel 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 second 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. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Jason Kirby 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 passed 9-0.

**Public Participation:** None.

**Board Chair Report:** Mr. Steve Locklair attended graduations & promotions. He also attended the Lake City Community Theatre. Mr. Jason Kirby attended the graduation and promotion ceremonies. All were wonderful. Mr. Gregory McKnight attended all graduations and track and field championship. He is very proud that his granddaughter won the 100-meter hurdles. Ms. Rebecca Yates also attended graduation ceremonies and other events. Ms. Ruth Frieson attended the Athletic Banquet, Florence Darlington Tech College celebration, J. Paul Truluck & Lake City High School graduations, Scranton Elementary's Promotion, and Pearls Appreciation at LCECC. Ms. Julia Mims also attended the Athletic Banquet it was great. We have many athletes to be proud of in FSD 3. Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown attended all graduations and was happy to see that all programs ran smooth and all who attended followed rules and guidelines.

**Request to attend meeting:** Let Ms. Yates know and she will convey to Ms. Acuña. All board members have been registered for the School Law Conference in August. More details to follow.

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



### **Finance Update – Hope Gibson, Finance Director**

June 2025 Finance Updates. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement. Ms. Hope presented the May 2025 financial updates. She went through the PowerPoint of the General Fund reports, which are posted on the FSD3 website. 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 is \$38,225,944.00. No questions asked. The **Final Reading of General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026**. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and district goals. Slide presentation of the 135 average daily membership trend. Ask the board to focus on the 2025-2026 on bottom of page. Projected is a decrease of \$159.14. Education funding reform: aid to classrooms program – proposed in FY 25-26 Executive Budget slides, pages 5 & 6, were read aloud. Local Tax projections by millage, was also read aloud. Millage history for operations graph from 19-20 through 25-26 were presented. Next slide was of millage levy fy 2024-2025 chart showing Florence School District 3 is the lowest of all Florence school districts. Going on to next slide showing the method used to calculate local taxes for school district with examples from home fair market values. The next four pages of Preliminary General Fund Budget for FY 2025-2026. Started with projections of revenues. Local, State\*, New Formula State\*, Transfers all total Revenues of \$35,646,811.00. (\*Conference Committee and House Budget Estimates, the District has not received projections from the State Department of Education). Ms. Hope continued to explain the following slides regarding the detail of revenue and expenditures to reflect the final totals of the balanced budget for 2025-2026. This completed her presentation of the Final Reading of the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Board Chair Jac'Kel Brown acknowledge and appreciated all the dedication, time and hard work that Ms. Gibson and all the finance committee put into achieving a balanced budget. It was not an easy task. He recognized that other school districts across the state are having challenges balancing their budgets. We are blessed not to have to take some of the steps that they have had to do. Ms. Gibson mentioned that our district will also be diligent in monitoring our budget and will have to be very conservative and work with the essentials only without affecting the classroom for teachers and student achievement. We will put in to process the 30% as we have done in previous years until December or January when we see the impact of the first 135 days. No questions asked. Ms. Paula Morris made a motion to accept the Final Reading of General Fund Budget Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to passed 9-0.

### **Human Resources Updates: – Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources**

Ms. Scott began by introducing her Transition Specialist Zauria Isaiah who will be assisting in passing out the Retiree's Clock. A farewell & celebration for our Retirees and appreciation for their time and work with Florence School District 3.

\*Dr. Yvonne Commodore, 2018-2025 Director of Social Emotional Services

\*Julia Kay Conner 2001-2025 Academic Interv. Asst. Scranton Elementary

\*John Cothran 2020-2025 Social Studies Teacher J. Paul Truluck



- \*Benjamin Epps 2016-2025 Lead Custodian, Olanta Creative Arts
- \*Lori Flegler 2012-2025 School Counselor Lake City High School
- \*Kenneth Gibson 2019-2024 Social Emotional Counselor Asst., J.C. Lynch Elementary
- \*Dr. Laura Hickson 1993-2025 Superintendent
- \*Rosalynne Kauffman 2021-2025 Teacher- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade J.C. Lynch Elementary
- \*Suzanne Rybak 2015-2025 School Librarian, Lake City Early Childhood
- \*Lacie Ward 2008-2025 Teacher - Science, J. Paul Truluck
- \*Debbie Whittington 1998-2025 Teacher - Science, Lake City High School

Ms. Scott reviewed the vacancies for certified staff for 2025-2026 with the provided chart. Ms. Paula Morris asked if we were able to retain any of our international teachers. Ms. Scott did say for certain ones yes. Ms. Paula asked for monthly update report at board meetings for the international teachers. Ms. Scott will provide that.

**Instructional Updates- Mary Howard Ed. S., Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Curriculum**

Ms. Mary Howard presented her report starting with an update on the LETRS program. Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. It is a professional development program started in 2022-2023 school year with two schools. Ms. Mary gave details on how the program works and how it will help our teachers to support our students to become proficient readers. The goal is to improve literacy outcome. All our schools have teachers in the program. She gave the updates on the status of our teachers who are in the 2-year program. Moving on to summer school, which is finishing tomorrow on June 13<sup>th</sup>. They had some showcases done today and more tomorrow. Average attendance for the first two weeks was 350. This week the average was 400. We had added SEL, Aviation and Leadership camps with the help of Ms. Carla and community help. Lots of summer learning and enrichment opportunities. Activities with the Boys and Girls club. A full report on the next board meeting. Upcoming events: June 13<sup>th</sup> is the last day of camp excel, June 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> is SCASA Conference, June 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> Model Schools Conference; Education Business Summit and July 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> is the New Teacher Orientation. No questions asked.

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

Ms. Kasey shared that Adult Ed received a Literacy Grant of \$10,000.00 from Dollar General. The plan is to re-start the family literacy program. She gave some legislative updates on the Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF), Work Experience Credit for Educators, Noncertified Teacher Pilot Program, Educator Assistance Act, and Excused School Absences. The detailed information is available on the Florence School District 3 website. An update on the Mental Health Grant was given. It will not be renewed and end in December 2025. It will be effecting our staff. We will lose 9 positions. Human Resources will be handling that. This was the 5 year grant that was cut to 1 year. Ms. Paula asked if we have to cut 9 position, how will this effect our mental health and services provided to our students? Ms. Kasey said that we will still have PeeDee Mental Health and other agencies that come in and provide services, that will bill Medicaid. The SEL counselors that are covered by the district are the ones that were effected. Ms. Kasey invited Mr. Brian Huckabee to give an update on the facilities and improvements going on throughout the district.

**Brian Huckabee - Facilities Update**

Mr. Huckabee reviewed a presentation with updates on all the improvements that are happening at all school sites, Graham Road Campus, District Office and other Districtwide Projects. After question from board members regarding the auditorium seats and other renovations that need to be done, Mr. Huckabee explained the steps



needed to be taken to get that work done as well. The presentation is posted on the district website.

**Exit into Executive Session** – Ms. Paula Morris made the motion to exit open session to go into executive session to discuss Personnel Matters, Possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters and receipt of Legal Advice Regarding Interim Superintendent Contract. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to enter executive session passed 9-0.

**Exit out of Executive Session and Reconvene to Open Session** – Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to exit executive session and reconvene to open session. Ms. Rebecca Yates 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 9-0.

**Action from executive session** – Mr. Jason Kirby made the motion to accept and approve the Interim Superintendent’s contract. Ms. Mattie Thomas provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to accept and approve the Interim Superintendent’s contract passed 9-0.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business for the Board of Trustees; Ms. Rebecca Yates 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 passed 9-0.

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**Date approved**

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**Jac’Kel Brown, Chair**

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**Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk**

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**Rebecca Yates, Secretary**