



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, May 28, 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 8 board members were in attendance. Present in person with her were Ms. Rutha Frieson, Mr. Gregory McKnight, Mr. Jason Kirby, Ms. Mattie Thomas, Ms. Paula Morris, and Ms. Julia Mims. Mr. Steve Locklair was attending on speakerphone. Mr. Jac'Kel Brown was absent.

**Moment of Silence:** Dr. Suber requested that we observe a moment of silence.

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

**Approval of the Agenda:** Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Gregory McKnight 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 8-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Paula Morris 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 8-0.

**Public Participation:** Mary Boston Pressley, Pee Dee Innovation and Leadership Academy.

**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:

**Ms. Julia Mims:** attended the open house for the CATE Building. Was very impressed.

**Ms. Paula Morris:** attended and enjoyed the graduation ceremony at LCHS and gave high praises to all the employees & retirees for their dedication to FSD3.

**Ms. Mattie Thomas:** attended the graduation ceremony at DREM, JP Truluck, & LCHS. Ms. Thomas congratulated and thanked the retirees.

**Mr. Jac'Kel Brown:** None. Absent.

**Ms. Rebecca Yates:** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Gregory McKnight:** attended the graduation ceremony at LCHS and JCL water day. Congratulated the retirees.

**Ms. Rutha Frieson:** attended the various graduation ceremonies, ROTC banquet and STARS banquet. Enjoyed all the events.

**Mr. Steve Locklair:** Nothing to report.

**Mr. Jason Kirby:** attended all the graduation ceremonies and stated they were all great. Also Mr. Kirby congratulated the retirees.

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

**Request for parliamentarian:** Ms. Rutha Frieson acknowledged that in January & February she brought up her request for a parliamentarian. She then went forward and withdrew her request. Instead, Ms. Frieson would like each board member to have a copy of the Robert Rules and study the book and rules. No vote was needed.

**City of Lake City request concerning money for water tower:** Mr. Malik Whitaker, City Administrator, Ms. Yamekia Robinson, Mayor of Lake City, and two other city representatives joined to request \$1,500.00 per year for 10 years as participation toward maintenance and upkeep associated with the tank's aesthetic and preservation components following rehabilitation. The water tower is on Mathews Road, between LCECC and LCHS. The district also gains prominent community branding, enhanced visibility, and the ability to showcase school pride and partnership with the City. Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to approve the request for \$1,500.00 per year for 10 years as participation toward maintenance and upkeep associated with the tank's aesthetic and preservation as presented. Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion carries 8-0.

**Superintendent's Report:** *Dr. Suber -Superintendent began with Finance Dept.*

**Finance Update - Hope Gibson, Finance Director - May 2026 Finance Updates.** Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and 2025-2026 district goals, presented the May 2026 financial updates. She reviewed the April 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 April 30, 2026. Ms. Hope presented the timeline for the 2026-2027 General Budget Approval. Ms. Hope continued her report by reviewing the Preliminary Second Reading of the 2026-2027 General Fund Budget. She went through the complete 17-page Preliminary Budget for 2026-2027 in its entirety. Ms. Julia Mims asked a question and it was answered by Ms. Gibson and Ms. Feagin. Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the Preliminary Second Reading for General Fund budget Fiscal Year 2026-2027 as presented. Mr. Gregory McKnight provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion carries 8-0. \*All of this presentation is also on YouTubeFSD3.\*

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

Ms. Scott began her presentation with sharing the seven names of the students who were part of the Future Teacher Signing Day. They were pictured on the slide presentation with the college which each student will be attending. She proceeded with acknowledging and thanking our eleven Retirees. Presenting each of them with a Retirement Clock and a brief summary of the impact they each had in Florence School District Three. Ms. Scott finished her report with the updated Certified/Administrative Vacancies - Tentative for 2026-2027

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

Ms. Mary Howard introduced Ms. Tonyelle Thomas to share her slides regarding the Arts Updates beginning with Focuses for the Arts, Goals and Strategic Plan for 2026-2027. She also shared many of the accomplishments that the Arts department has achieved this school year. Ms. Thomas also reviewed all the Grants we currently are receiving as well as two other applications to apply for additional grants to for future years to help continue and give more Arts opportunities to our students. Her

presentation included the Proud Partnerships FSD3 has and learning opportunities for our students. Ms. Mary Howard reviewed the Champion of Learning Summer Camp on May 28<sup>th</sup>, and June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Both from 8:00am to 2:15pm. \*All of this presentation is also on YouTube@fsd3.\*

**Other Legislative and District Updates - Dr. Suber, Superintendent**

Dr. Suber congratulated the retirees. He then reviewed the Cognia Noteworthy practices and standards and area of improvement in those standards. He also went over the Risk Score for our district. Dr. Suber then invited Mr. Mitch Driggers to give the Facilities Update. During this presentation, at 7:24pm, Board chair Jason Kirby stopped the presentations to ask for a motion to extend the meeting passed 8:00pm, if needed. Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to extend the meeting passed 8:00pm, if needed. Ms. Paula Morris provided the second for this motion. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. Motion carries 8-0.

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

**Exit into Executive Session** - Ms. Julia Mims made the motion to exit from open session into executive session to discuss student appeal and personnel matters, concerns, possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters. 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 - 0. Mr. Steve Locklair is disconnected from speakerphone.

**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 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. Julia Mims made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Rutha Frieson 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**