



Florence County School District 3

Board Meeting Minutes for Thursday, October 16, 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 October 16, 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 and one, Ms. Julia Mims, was attending by speaker phone.

**Moment of Silence:** Ms. Kasey Feagin requested prayers for all FSD3 staff, family and students, especially those who have experienced loss this month. 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 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 passed 9-0.

**Approval of the Consent Agenda:** Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Paula Morris 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 passed 9-0.

**Special Recognition- 2024-2025 Boardmanship Institute Recognition- Mr. Brian Huckabee, Director of Communications, Facilities and Maintenance-**

Two board members were being recognized by the SC School Board Association for achieving another level in the training focused on leadership skills on state and national educational issues. Mr. Huckabee presented certificates and pins to Ms. Rutha Frieson for reaching the fifth level and Ms. Rebecca Yates for reaching the second level for the 2024-2025 Boardmanship Institute.

**Public Participation:** None

**Board Chair Report:** Board Chair Brown offered board members time to report their activities representing Florence School District Three. Each shared where they went and a summary of what the event was about. Mr. Steve Locklair had none to report, Mr. Gregory McKnight had none to report, Mr. Jason Kirby had none to report, Ms. Rebecca Yates attended Regional Advocacy and a Title 1 meeting, Ms. Rutha Frieson attended Regional Advocacy meeting, Risky Business conference and Beyond the Basics, Ms. Mattie Thomas attended Risky Business, Ms. Paula Morris attended the Regional Advocacy meeting, Ms. Julia Mims had no report, and Mr. Jac'Kel Brown attended Risky Business with the other board members.

(\*Regional Advocacy meeting in Florence, SC 10/1/2025 \*Risky Business Conference at Sonesta Hilton, in Hilton Head, SC.10/8-10/25 \*Beyond the Basics meeting in Columbia, SC 10/16/25)

SC School Board Association Delegate Nomination- Board Chair Mr. Brown opened the floor for nominations for selecting a SCSBA Delegate and alternate to represent FSD3 and also attend the conference on December 6-7, 2025 in Charleston, SC. Ms. \_\_ nominated Ms. Paula Morris to be our Delegate and Mr. Gregory McKnight as our alternate delegate. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the second to the nomination. All board members present voted in favor of this nomination. The nomination to approve the appointment vote as presented passed 9-0.

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

**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 October updated reports.

**Finance Update - Hope Gibson, Finance Director** - October 2025 Finance Updates. Ms. Hope reviewed our mission statement and 2025-2026 district goals. Ms. Hope presented the September 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. Ms. Hope also reviewed the General Fund Budget by Object Code as of September 30, 2025. Questions were asked by the board members regarding fund balance, safety grants and bond expenses. All were answered by Ms. Hope Gibson.

**Human Resources Updates: - Angelia Scott, Director of Human Resources** Ms. Scott began her presentation with the personnel report of 2025. She presented her power point slides with the Coastal Carolina Practicum Day and what those two days entail. Staff Recognitions of National IT Professionals Day, HR Professional Day, Maintenance/Custodial Worker Recognition Day and National Athletic Coaches Day. She also presented the second reading of the proposed policy of Sick Leave Bank Program GCCAAA with various slides. Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to approve the second reading of policy of Sick Leave Bank Program GCCAAA as presented by Ms. Scott. Ms. Paula Morris provided the second for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve policy of Sick Leave Bank Program GCCAAA as presented passed 9-0.

**Instructional Updates- Mary Howard Ed. S., Chief Academic Officer** Ms. Mary Howard presented her slides that gave the board goals, literacy plan highlights for Spring 2025. Ms. Howard presented policy revisions for policy IKA-R (Admin Rule), ADF- District Wellness Policy and EFE/EFE-R-Competitive Food Sale/Vending Machines-Code. Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the policy revisions of ADF and EFE-EFE-R as presented. Mr. 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. Ms. Howard finished her report with a few "Save the Dates", including Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> -Dr. Ronald E. McNair 5K Run & Walk and Reading Under the Lights on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 5:30-7:00pm at Lake City High track & field and October is the National Principals Month!! Board member Ms. Paula Morris made comments on how to get more personnel for our SEL program.

**Other Legislative and District Updates - Kasey Feagin, Interim-Superintendent** Ms. Kasey Feagin began with introducing Mr. Mike Gallagher, Director of Compass Municipal Advisors, LLC to go over his power point prepared for the board, regarding the equipment financing overview, Special Obligation Bonds (SOB). She proceeded to present new policies JHE- Excused Absences for Career and Technical Organization Experiences & BEA- Livestreaming of Board Meetings for their second reading. Ms. Rutha Frieson made the motion to approve the second reading of new policies for JHE & BEA as presented. Ms. Rebecca Yates provided the second for this motion. All board members voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the policy revision as presented, motion carried 9-0. Another item that needed the board's approval was the Fund Balance for Purchased Services. Ms. Kasey explained the reason as to why we need the fund transfer in her power point. She then made the request for \$1.2 million for purchase services be transferred from the fund balance to cover the expenses for the purchase services payroll. Ms. Mattie Thomas made the motion to

approve the fund balance transfer for \$1.2 million to the general budget to cover the expenses for the purchase service payroll as presented. Mr. Jason Kirby provided the 2nd for this motion. Board Chair Mr. Brown took an individual member roll call vote. Mr. Steve Locklair, Mr. Gregory McKnight, Mr. Jason Kirby, Ms. Rebecca Yates, Ms. Rutha Frieson, Ms. Mattie Thomas, Ms. Paula Morris, Ms. Julia Mims, and Mr. Jac'Kel Brown all voted Yay. Zero Nays. All board members present voted in favor of this motion. The motion to approve the fund transfer as presented, motion carried 9-0.

**Mr. Brian Huckabee, Director of Facilities and Technology** – Mr. Brian gave a FSD3 Facilities Update. The updates included an update on each school site and/or other district locations that needed upgrades and completed upgrades throughout our district. The updates included estimated costs to upgrade all that was needed at each location. There was discussion between board members, Mr. Brian and Mr. Driggers regarding costs and answering questions and providing more information as needed. Action item, in Mr. Brian's presentation, to prioritize the options on the list available needed for the upgrades at the various school sites and locations and eight items had been approved in the September Board meeting. The board needed to vote now on the priority options of those eight items. Schneider Phase 2, Option 1 or 2 was on this list. Ms. Rebecca Yates made the motion to proceed with Schneider Phase 2 Option 1 Ms. Rutha Frieson provided the second for this motion. The board voted individually: Option 1-Mr. Steve Locklair, Mr. Gregory McKnight, Mr. Jason Kirby, Ms. Rutha Frieson, Ms. Mattie Thomas, Ms. Julia Mims, and Mr. Jac'Kel Brown all voted Yay. Ms. Rebecca Yates and Ms. Paula Morris voted Nay. Schneider Phase 2 Option 1 received the majority of the votes, motion passed 7-2.

(Note: At 6:23pm, during the Instructional updates presentation, Ms. Julia Mims conference phone call was dropped due to connectivity issues and she texted Ms. Liz Acuña, during the meeting, that she returned to the meeting by viewing it on YouTube. Her votes on all the remaining voting items during this meeting were all "Yay" by Ms. Julia Mims via a phone text provided to Ms. Acuña while the board meeting was ending, before the board chaired declared meeting adjourned.) All the department updates and power point reports are posted for the public on the FSD3 website and are shown on the streamed meeting on youtube@fsd3.

**Exit into Executive Session** – Mr. Jason Kirby made the motion to exit regular session to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters concerns, possible hiring, termination, resignation, placed on leave or potential legal matters. Ms. Rebecca Yates 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. Ms. Paula Morris 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. Ms. Julia Mims is no longer connected to meeting and no longer voting.

**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. Mr. Jason Kirby 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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Jac'Kel Brown, Chair

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Liz Acuña, Recording Clerk

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Rebecca Yates, Secretary