

CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2008
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2008

CALHOUN FALLS CHARTER SCHOOL
205 EDGEFIELD STREET
CALHOUN FALLS, SC 29628

CALL TO ORDER AND INVOCATION

Calhoun Falls Charter School Steering Committee met in a scheduled Committee Meeting with Mayor Johnnie Waller presiding. Committee members present were Co-Chair Keith Ashley, Michael Alewine, Evelyn Bounds, Joseph Cade, Martha Patterson, Pauline Thomas-Tillman and Peggy Lee Waters. Also present was Principal Deirdre McCullough and Wes Smith, Director of Member Services of the South Carolina Association of Public Charter Schools.

Mayor Waller called the meeting to order at 3:03 P. M. Mrs. McCullough opened the meeting with prayer.

Mayor Waller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Waller asked Peggy Lee Waters, Committee Secretary if anyone signed up for public comments. Mrs. Waters reported no one had signed up.

Mayor Waller stated the reason for the meeting is to pass a budget by July 1 and each member has a copy of the budget. Mayor Waller stated Mr. Smith is with us today to go over the budget with us. After which I will ask for a motion for this committee to accept this budget. Mr. Smith stated the budget is based on the enrollment of 266 students. The total revenues for the per pupil funding is \$1,406,596.69 which does not include Title I funding. Page 2 includes all instruction expenditures in the amount of \$839,102.50. The support services expenditures on page 3 and 4 amount to \$535,606.00. The total expenditures are \$1,374,708.50. Mr. Smith stated if we follow this budget as we have prepared it, we will finish the year with an ending balance of \$31,888.19 to the good for the

following year. Mayor Waller asked if anyone had questions. Mr. Cade asked if the garbage fees of \$1000.00 could be removed. Mr. Smith stated we must cover all expense codes for the State Department of Education. If we do not utilize those funds the committee can vote to redirect it to another area and adjust the budget accordingly. Mayor Waller asked for other comments. Mr. Ashley stated it is true, the budget is based on the 266 students for right now. Mr. Smith stated on the 45th and 135th day of school, our budget will be adjusted accordingly on those 2 counts and this budget does not include Title 1 funds, it does not include projection of food service adjustments as those plans come in. Mayor Waller informed the committee we have about 220 registered. We need an additional 40 students to receive the funds we see in this budget. If we do not register those students, we will have to take funds from these items across the budget for it to work. Mayor Waller asked for if there were more questions. Mr. Smith stated as a formality Mr. Alewine had already made a motion to amend the budget and should complete that motion or a second should be made. Mayor Waller asked for a second to amend the budget. There was no motion, motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Waller asked for a motion to adopt the 2008-09 budget. Mr. Cade made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Ashley. There was no further discussion and with a show of hands, all were in favor of the budget. There was no opposition, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith stated let it be resolved by the Board of Directors of the Calhoun Falls Charter School that the following amounts of this budget are hereby appropriated for the operation of the Calhoun Falls Charter School for the General Fund, Special Revenue Fund, Education Improvement Act, Food Service Fund and the Pupil Activity Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009. He further stated, all appropriations paid first from revenues restricted and unrestricted, the increase or decrease operating budget shall be presented. Mayor Waller signed the budget.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mrs. McCullough welcomed each person in attendance and expressed appreciation to the Steering Committee for their tireless efforts to make this day possible. She thanked them for their confidence in her as principal. She also thanked the many in the audience who have played a major role in the process as well. Mrs. McCullough reported she has hired 5 teachers and has 5 prospects to meet with in the next few days to finalize contracts with. She also

stated she has hired an assistant principal/counselor, and introduced Lori Lindler as such, along with School Secretary Keri Hunnicutt. With input from the Athletic Booster Club we have hired Athletic Director Harold Watkins.

We have approximately 220 enrolled.

A crew is going to Columbia to pick up computers for computer labs.

We have been blessed with furniture from Westpoint plant.

Mrs. McCullough asked if anyone had questions, with none, Mr. Ashley made a motion to accept the principals report with a second by Mr. Cade. There was no discussion, no opposition, motion passed unanimously. Mr. Smith made the recommendation to give Mrs. McCullough, Principal, the power to operate on a day to day basis. Further stating, the board must give her the authority to act without having to meet each time a decision must be made, such as paying the bills. It is also important for someone to represent the board to negotiate contracts, resources and services necessary to operate the school in a timely manner. See attached resolution. Mrs. Tillman made a motion to give Mrs. McCullough authority and was seconded by Mr. Alewine. With no discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Smith made the recommendation to nominate a board treasurer. Mayor stated we have nominated Mrs. Patterson. Mr. Alewine made a motion to conclude the business portion of the meeting. Mr. Cade seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mayor adjourned the business meeting and proceeded with the public session conducted by Mr. Ashley who welcomed everyone to the meeting. There is no other way to say it, this school belongs to us, it happened, it's a done deal. There are no more hearings or meetings. The next big step is school will begin on August 20. All doubts and worry can be put to rest as you have heard we made a super selection for our Principal. He further stated he has yet to hear a bad word about Mrs. McCullough. She has been working hard along with Mrs. Lindler and other staff members.

Mr. Ashley stated as I have informed you before, as of December 14, 2007 the way we educate our kids in this community has changed forever. This school will not be a success without a large community involvement. We have many people working around the clock. Our first work day is scheduled for July 13 and be prepared to clean, work, move and paint. Mr. Ashley thanked Tracey Lindler for his connections in obtaining the computers Mr. Alewine had just brought to the school. He also thanked Benjy Sorrow for obtaining furniture from the mill and a \$5000.00 donation he had recently received from

CFHS graduate, David Neely. This donation will be applied to the athletic program. Mr. Ashley stated he informed Mrs. McCullough not to worry about furnishing the school. He also stated his appreciation to the Abbeville County School Board for giving the town the school. If they had not given us this school we would not be here today, if you see a school board member, thank them for this.

Lee Boggs asked if we have a list of items needed. Mr. Ashley stated Mrs. McCullough will have a list.

Mr. Ashley recognized Karen Sorrow who has an alumni letter going out and money is coming in.

Mr. Ashley also announced a banquet will be held on July 25, which hopefully will become an annual event, at \$50.00 per ticket. We will sell 120 tickets for a steak dinner with all the trimmings and a speaker. A silent auction and raffles for different items will be held.

Mr. Smith introduced himself with the SC Association of Public Charter Schools. He thanked everyone for allowing him to be involved in this project. A school district can never take your school again unless the school does not meet the commitment of the charter. Parental support is vital. Transportation is not funded and all must work together to get the students to school. Studies show parents involved in their child's education have children who succeed. To be sure the charter is renewed in 10 years you must be fiscally responsible and reach academic achievement. Without those 2 things the school will fail. Mr. Smith closed by saying he looks forward to going out back and seeing a Blue Flash strike on that football field.

Mr. Ashley stated start up requires a lot of money and we will raise money on a continuous basis. We currently have containers at City Hall for cans outside the building and one inside for old printer cartridges and cell phones. Also save your Box Tops and Campbell Soup labels.

Mr. Smith stated concerns about accreditation should not be an issue saying he did not know of any issues with charter schools. Sax accreditation is not a necessary requirement to enter college.

Mr. Ashley stated our goal is for all teachers to be certified. Dr. Church informed me our children can go to college when leaving CFCS. To increase our numbers we must go before the Charter School District and ask for an increase.

Mr. Ashley reported the library was emptied except for the shelves. The Abbeville County Library has a large donation. We will take any age level book. Mr. Smith stated we will probably have a better

library than before. He encouraged people to contact Oprah Winfrey for help. Cathy Payne asked that everyone make sure we do not duplicate requests from donators of books and accept all donations of books.

Mayor Waller stated money is important. We have not received our state funds as of today. We need to get down to serious fund raising. Our goal is to raise \$100,000.00 this year with 100 people giving \$1000.00 each. We don't want our Principal worrying about making ends meet. We have witnessed a miracle take place and it can continue. Today it is a reality and we thank you for your prayers.

Mayor Waller welcomed Coach Watkins to the meeting. Coach Watkins stated he is honored to be a part of our school. You have a great opportunity to show Calhoun Falls has been reborn. He stated he is in town on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. In closing, Coach Watkins stated he wanted to quote President Kennedy, ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

In closing, Mayor Waller thanked everyone for attending and continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Lee Waters, Committee Secretary