

MINUTES - UNION COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

July 27, 2026 5:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES:

Ms. Beth Anthony (by phone), Mr. Kevin Brewington, Mr. Mark Ivey, Mr. Gene Lipsey, Mr. Mike Massey, Ms. Kelly Shropshire and Mr. Mark Truitt.

ABSENT:

Mr. Manning Jeter

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Matthew Woods, Superintendent, Mr. Eric Childers, Director of Personnel and Student Services; Dr. Lacrosha Byrd, Director of Instruction; Dr. Stacy Farr, Director of Elementary Education, Mr. Tim Barnado, Technology Director; and Ms. Linda Griffin, Finance Director.

Call to Order:

Mr. Mike Massey, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Mr. Mark Ivey, who also led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda

Mr. Mike Massey stated a motion is needed to approve the agenda. Ms. Kelly Shropshire made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Kevin Brewington. The vote was (6-0) in favor of the motion. Ms. Beth Anthony was absent at the time of the vote.

Mr. Massey stated that a board member is requesting to participate in the board meeting electronically according to Policy BEDM and asked for the pleasure of the Board. Mr. Kevin Brewington made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Ms. Kelly Shropshire. The vote was (6-0) in favor of the motion. Ms. Beth Anthony was absent at the time of the vote.

Executive Session

Mr. Mike Massey stated a motion is needed to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters, new hires, transfers, contractual, and a legal matter. Mr. Mark Ivey made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Mr. Gene Lipsey. The vote was (6-0) in favor of the motion. Ms. Beth Anthony was absent at the time of the vote. The Board entered into executive session at 5:32 P.M.

The Board reconvened into open session at 6:45 P.M. Mr. Mike Massey stated that while in executive session no votes were taken.

Notice to Media:

In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: Union County News and WBCU Radio Station

Mr. Mike Massey stated, "If it's OK with the Board, I would like to recognize Daniel Prince. I understand this will be your last night with WBCU, and on behalf of the School Board, I would like to thank you for all you have done. I think you've always been straight up with us and put out a positive image for us. I appreciate that because that's not always the case with media. You have been very loyal to us and to our students and we would like to thank you at this time."

Minutes

Mr. Mike Massey stated a motion is needed to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026, June 11, 2026, June 16, 2026, and June 22, 2026, meetings and asked if there was a need to separate them. Hearing no objection, Mr. Massey entertained a motion to approve all of the minutes. Ms. Kelly Shropshire made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Gene Lipsey. The vote was (7-0) in favor of the motion.

Action as Necessary or Appropriate on Matters discussed in Executive Session

Mr. Eric Childers, Director of Administration, presented the July personnel report to the Board for approval. Mr. Mark Truitt made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Mr. Kevin Brewington. The vote was (7-0) in favor of the motion.

Mr. Mark Ivey stated, “I’d like to make a motion that the Board accepts the Education Capital Improvements Penny Sales and Use Tax Referendum Resolution.” Mr. Mark Truitt seconded the motion. Mr. Mike Massey stated that Mr. Mike Burns, the bond attorney, was present if anyone had any questions. Ms. Kelly Shropshire asked for clarification that the vote from the Board is to approve a question to be put on the November ballot. Mr. Massey replied yes and said the voters would make that decision. The vote was (7-0) in favor of the motion. Mr. Massey thanked Mr. Burns for attending the meeting.

Superintendent and Board of School Trustees

Dr. Matthew Woods provided each Board member with a printout of the district highlights. The information included: As we prepare to welcome students and staff back for the 2026–2027 school year, I would like to take a few moments to share an update on the work taking place across Union County Schools. Over the past several weeks, I have had the opportunity to spend time listening/meeting with employees, community members, and each of you individually to better understand both the strengths of our district and the opportunities ahead. Those conversations have been invaluable and continue to shape our work as we move from transition into implementation in reference to my 90-Day Plan. Over the next several board meetings, I plan on providing updates on my progress and welcome feedback. While much of that work has taken place behind the scenes, our employees have been hard at work preparing our schools, supporting our staff, and ensuring we are ready to welcome students on the first day of school. I'd like to highlight just a few of those efforts. Teaching and learning remain the foundation of everything we do in Union County Schools. This summer, our instructional leadership team participated in an Instructional Leadership Summit facilitated by Jan Carter and Melissa Inman, with support from Andrea Niese of the South Carolina Department of Education. The summit focused on strengthening instructional leadership, supporting the consistent implementation of High-Quality Instructional Materials, enhancing instructional coaching, and building leadership capacity across our schools. Our commitment to strengthening Tier 1 instruction continues into the school year. On August 18–19, nationally recognized literacy consultant Dr. Linda Mook will visit Union County Schools to support our ongoing literacy efforts. During her visit, she will provide professional learning for our new kindergarten teachers focused on oral language development and purposeful play, conduct classroom literacy observations, and collaborate with teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators to strengthen instructional practices. Her expertise will help reinforce our commitment to ensuring every child receives high-quality, research-based literacy instruction. We are also preparing to resume LETRS Volume II professional learning for our first cohort of educators on August 31, pending approval of the South Carolina state budget. Facilitated by district LETRS trainers Melissa Inman and Jen Roberts, this state-supported initiative continues to strengthen teacher expertise in the science of reading and reinforces our district's long-term commitment to improving literacy outcomes for students. Additionally, we introduced our Balanced Technology Framework for elementary classrooms. This framework is designed to ensure technology enhances—not replaces—high-quality instruction while providing teachers the flexibility to meet the individual needs of their students. Finally, we celebrated our first-ever Project SEARCH Signing Day. Through our partnership with Union Medical Center and the outstanding work of our Student Services team, four students have been selected to participate in this nationally recognized transition-to-employment program. This initiative reflects our commitment to preparing every student for success beyond graduation. Preparing our schools for students

requires an incredible amount of work behind the scenes, and our Operations Department has accomplished a tremendous amount this summer. Completed and ongoing projects include:

- Installation of new gymnasium wall graphics at Union County High School.
- Gym floor refinishing at Sims Middle School and Jonesville Elementary/Middle School.
- Cafeteria flooring replacement and parking lot restriping at Buffalo Elementary School.
- Sidewalk replacement and parking lot improvements at Foster Park Elementary School.
- HVAC replacement and parking lot restriping at Monarch Elementary School.

These projects represent more than maintenance, they are investments in the environments where our students learn and our employees serve each day. I want to sincerely thank our maintenance and operations teams for their outstanding work in preparing our schools for another successful year. Across every department, our support teams continue working to ensure a smooth opening of school. Our Human Resources Department recently welcomed our newest employees through New Teacher Induction and New Employee Orientation. These events not only introduce employees to Union County Schools but also begin building the relationships and support systems that contribute to long-term success. I'm also pleased to share that Union County Schools has been awarded the Rural Teacher Recruiting and Retention Grant, bringing more than \$140,000 in additional funding to strengthen our efforts to recruit and retain outstanding educators. Meanwhile, our Technology Department has made significant progress preparing student devices for the new school year. The excitement surrounding the start of this school year is evident across our district, and I hope each of you will join us for our Opening Day Celebration on Tuesday, July 28, at 9:00 a.m. in the Union County High School Gymnasium as we officially welcome our employees back for the 2026–2027 school year. Thank you for your continued leadership, your partnership, and your commitment to the students, employees, and families of Union County Schools. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the months ahead. Dr. Woods asked if they had any questions. Mr. Massey asked for information regarding the summer meals program. Ms. Mickela Mitchell, Food Service Director, said she is still waiting on her final total but we are in the neighborhood of 264,000 meals served. Mr. Mike Massey thanked Ms. Mitchell and her staff for all of their hard work.

Instruction

Dr. Stacy Farr, Director of Elementary Education, presented iReady data, per a Board member request, to the Board for information. Dr. Fran Adams, Principal at Foster Park Elementary School, and Ms. Dena Addis, Principal at Monarch Elementary School, assisted with the presentation. Ms. Kelly Shropshire said she appreciated the presentation and their honest feedback. Ms. Beth Anthony thanked them for the presentation and said she was glad our trends are moving in the right direction and that we've identified big bucket items we can work on to help our students be successful. She also thanked Ms. Addis and Dr. Adams for helping with the presentation. She said that she would like to see how this data compares to our report card and to see if the success reflects over to the report card.

Dr. Lachesha Byrd, Director of Instruction, presented the 2026-2027 Locally Board Approved Courses to the Board for approval. The renewed courses were History of Sports in Society, Jacket Pathways, and Strength and Conditioning for Athletes. Mr. Kevin Brewington made a motion to approve the courses, seconded by Mr. Mark Ivey. Mr. Mike Massey asked if we offer a Strength and Conditioning class to non-athletes. Dr. Byrd said she will check on that. The vote was (7-0) in favor of the motion.

Finance

Ms. Linda Griffin, Director of Finance, asked Mr. Mark Haney, Director of Facilities, to join her at the podium. She presented the Capital Needs Plan to the Board for approval. She said this plan will take us through June 2027. Mr. Kevin Brewington made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Mr. Gene Lipsey. Ms. Kelly Shropshire asked for more information regarding the two batting cages that had photos included in their packet. Mr. Haney said this will be a collaborative project with the Athletic Department. He deferred to Mitchell Moss, Athletic Director, for specific questions. Ms. Griffin said the photos were from the facility in Clinton. Mr. Haney said they visited the facility and

really liked what they saw. Mr. Mike Massey asked for the cost. Ms. Griffin said it was around \$225,000 and said we will have to do an RFP. Ms. Kelly Shropshire asked if it would be on the high school premises. Mr. Haney replied yes. Mr. Massey asked him to explain collaborative effort. Mr. Haney said that means they will work in conjunction with the Athletic Department. We will assist with the needs on the maintenance side of the project. Mr. Mark Ivey asked if the Maintenance Department did their project or did they sub it out. Mr. Haney said they poured their pads with a local contractor and hired a steel building company to construct the building and hired an electrician to do the wiring and hang the lights. They put turf in them but were not sure if it was a local contractor. Mr. Mark Ivey asked if they looked into a pole structure. Mr. Haney stated they did a cost comparison and shared it with us. In their case, steel was cheaper. Mr. Mike Massey asked if they had looked at any others structures. Mr. Mitchell Moss said they just looked at that one but there were others they could look at. Mr. Massey said, "I know we just approved the money, but I would like for y'all to look at some more around, and like Mr. Ivey said compare pole buildings to steel and just see which is the best way." Mr. Massey asked if both the softball and baseball would use it and Mr. Moss said there was one for softball and one for baseball. After the discussion, the vote was (7-0) in favor of the motion.

Ms. Linda Griffin presented the FY 27 General Obligation Bond Resolution to the Board for approval. Mr. Mark Ivey made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Mark Truitt. The vote was (7-0) in favor of the motion.

Ms. Linda Griffin presented the Annual Report on budget transfers to the Board for information.

Ms. Linda Griffin presented the Monthly Budget Report to the Board for information.

Adjourn

Mr. Mark Truitt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kevin Brewington. The vote was (7-0) in favor of the motion. The Board adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Kim Petty*