

**MINUTES**  
**CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**May 12, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Tina Gomez, President, in the Caro Middle School Media Center.

Pledge of Allegiance – Moment of Silence

Roll Call: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Gomez

Also Present: Branding, Bitzer, Bringard, Moyer, Warren, LaBerge, Lester, Chapelo, Weijola, Dwyer, Henry

Moved by Curtis, supported by McComb, to make a change to the agenda to remove the resignation from Topic for Board Consideration and/or Action.

Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Gomez

Motion carried.

**II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by McComb, supported by Sawyer, to approve the April 14, 2025 minutes, as written.

Ayes: Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Gomez

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

Moved by Holder, supported by McComb, to approve the bills as follows:

Payroll: \$1,363,099.22

General Fund: \$358,463.09

Food Service: \$66,199.26

Total: \$1,787,761.57

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Gomez

Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Dani Dise - Student Comment

**IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Drama Program:

Janet Swarthout, Drama Club Advisor presented information about the drama program to the Board.

2. Tuscola ISD Biennial Election:

The Tuscola ISD's biennial election of the board members of the Tuscola Intermediate Board of Education is scheduled for June 2nd, 2025 with two open seats. The names of two candidates on the ballot, Scott Richards and incumbent Louise Hodges, were shared with the Board for consideration.

3. Tuscola ISD Budget:

The Board reviewed the Tuscola ISD 2025-2026 General Education Budget.

4. USDA Grant Purchases:

An advisory committee of teachers from each building and the Technology Director have collaborated on the equipment to purchase through the USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant. The Board received material to consider and discuss the items recommended to purchase in the second phase of the grant including classroom interactive display boards and mobile carts, keyboards, computer mouse, surge protectors, and PC view board connectors.

5. Middle School Math – Go Math:

With the Go Math contract expiring in June, a one year extension to the Middle School contract with Go Math was requested and provided to the Board for consideration.

6. No Red Ink:

The High School requested to renew the NoRedInk program contract, which focuses on aiding student writing and grammar skills. A three year contract was presented to the Board for consideration.

7. Bond Bid – Geotech Services:

Bids for geotechnical investigation and soil borings were collected by IDI and provided to the Board for consideration.

8. Lexia Learning:  
It was brought to the Board's attention that the District's subscription for Lexia Learning was due to expire. Data and feedback was collected with the district's overall consensus leading to not renew the contract with Lexia Learning.
9. Strategic Planning:  
The district held a strategic planning workshop on April 26<sup>th</sup> with thirty people in attendance including administrators, Board members, community members, parents, teachers and non-instructional staff. Superintendent Rierson explained the next steps in the process with hopes to present the final strategic plan for Board consideration by the July meeting.

**V. TOPICS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION:**

1. Moved by Curtis, supported by Sawyer, to approve the resolution as presented naming Kathleen Curtis as the representative of the Caro Community Schools Board to elect two candidates on the Tuscola ISD Board on Monday, June 2, 2025 and name Stacy Sawyer and Susan Holder as an alternate representative. Be it further resolved that the representative or alternate are directed to cast a vote on the first ballot on behalf of this Board for Louise Hodges and Scott Richards.  
Ayes: McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.
2. Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to approve the resolution supporting the 2025-2026 Tuscola Intermediate School District General Education Budget, as presented.  
Ayes: Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Gomez  
Motion carried.
3. Moved by McComb, supported by Sawyer, to approve the purchase of classroom interactive boards and related technology equipment for a total of \$651,672.06, with \$559,319.00 reimbursed from the USDA DLT Grant, as presented.  
Ayes: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Gomez  
Motion carried.
4. Moved by Holder supported by Curtis, to approve the Middle School GO MATH curriculum resources through Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for the 2025-26 school year for \$22,684.86, as presented.  
Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Gomez  
Motion carried.
5. Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the renewal of No Red Ink through the 2027-2028 school year for \$16,140.83, as presented.  
Ayes: Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Gomez  
Motion carried.
6. Moved by Sawyer, supported by McComb, to approve the 2024 Bond Bid for Soil Borings and Geotechnical Investigation from Driesenga and Associates Inc. for \$10,950.00, as presented.  
Ayes: Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Gomez  
Motion carried.
7. Moved by Curtis, supported by McComb, to approve the unpaid leave of absence for the 2025-2026 school year to McComb Teacher, Lauren Henry, and Middle School Teacher, Sarah Emery-Hall.  
Ayes: McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.

**VI. BUILDING REPORTS:**

The Board received updates from administration and had an opportunity to ask questions.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:**

Superintendent Rierson gave a brief update on the 2024 Bond project phase 1 contracts awarded with planning started for the 2025 summer work. Designing and decisions related to the phase 2 work continue in preparation for implementation in the summer of 2026. Superintendent Rierson shared how proud he is of our staff and the success Capturing Kids Harts has had across the District. Congratulations for being selected as a National Showcase District and for McComb, Schall, Middle School and Alternative High School for earning a National Showcase School Award. The high school gym floor design will go through a competitive bidding process over the summer in hopes to transition to a water based floor over the holidays next year. May's staff appreciation week was great to see people come out and contribute to teacher and staff appreciation like local business and the PTO groups. We appreciate all that our teachers and staff do for the district and students.

**VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:**

Holder: Mrs. Holder thanked Mrs. Weijola, Food Service Director, and all other staff that helped with the county-wide Board of Education dinner event.

Gomez: Mrs. Gomez mirrored Mrs. Holder's comment and thanked Ms. Stein for her work as well for the event.

Curtis: Mrs. Curtis thanked Ms. Swarthout for her passion and dedication to the drama program and the students.

**IX. PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

Pursuant to Section 8(1(a)) of the Open Meetings Act, personnel have the right to request the Board of Education convene in closed session to receive and deliberate personnel matters. With no request for a closed session, the Board must review the recommendation in open session, and any formal resolution of the Board of Education must take place in an open session as required by the Open Meetings Act.

Personnel information related to Varsity Volleyball Coach, Stephanie Goodall was presented to the Board for review and discussion.

Moved by Groosbeck, supported by McComb, to approve the termination of Stephanie Goodall as Varsity Volleyball Coach.

Ayes: Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Gomez

Motion carried.

Personnel information related to Schall Teacher, Stephen Schwartz was presented to the Board for review and discussion.

Moved by Groosbeck, supported by McComb, to approve the nonrenewal of Stephen Schwartz as Schall Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

Ayes: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Gomez

Motion carried.

**X. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DUE PROCESS REINSTATEMENT HEARING AND NEGOTIATIONS:**

Moved by Sawyer, supported by Hart, to go into closed session at 7:50 PM for the purpose of due process reinstatement hearing and negotiations.

Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Gomez

Motion carried.

Moved by Holder, supported by Sawyer, to return to open session at 9:55 PM in the Middle School Media Center.

Ayes: Hart, Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Gomez

Motion carried.

Moved by Curtis, supported by McComb, to approve the May 12, 2025 closed session minutes.

Ayes: Holder, McComb, Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Gomez

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to follow the administrations' recommendation that, in pursuant to 1311(1) of the Revised School Code, that student 020098007 be reinstated to Caro Community Schools with a strict safety plan.

Ayes: McComb, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Gomez

Nays: Sawyer

Motion carried.

**XI. OTHER:**

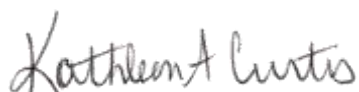
None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 PM.

Ayes: Sawyer, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Gomez

Motion carried.



Kathleen Curtis, Secretary