

**MINUTES**  
**CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**June 9, 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, Gomez

Absent: Sawyer

Also Present: Branding, Bringard, LaBerge, Chapelo, Dwyer, Henry

**II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the May 12, 2025 minutes, as written.

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

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

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

Payroll: \$1,269,127.28

General Fund: \$840,344.22

Food Service: \$64,047.84

Total: \$2,173,519.34

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

Motion carried.

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

None

**IV. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:**

1. Strategic Planning Presentation:

Penny McWilliams from MASB presented the District's Strategic Plan to the Board for discussion and consideration of approval.

2. Capturing Kids' Hearts:

Superintendent Rierson provided data related to the District's use of services from Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) over the school year. The mid-year survey results as well as feedback through short video clips from teachers, staff, students, and families were also shared with the Board for discussion and questions were answered.

3. McComb Refrigerator Compressor:

A proposal for a new refrigerator compressor for the McComb kitchen was presented to the Board for consideration given that the current unit stopped keeping accurate temperature at the end of May. This item was part of the 2024 Bond project.

4. 2025-2026 Food Service Prices:

Although the district will continue to participate in the CEP program which provides free breakfast and lunch for all students again in 2025-2026, the Board must still approve prices annually. The following items were raised by ten cents for 2025-2026: student breakfast, student ala carte, student lunch and student ala carte.

5. NWEA Renewal:

NWEA is used as the district's benchmark assessment for grades K-8 reading and math, and helps the district identify student instructional needs. Due to the current agreement expiring in June, a new proposed three year agreement with NWEA was presented to the Board for discussion and consideration.

6. MHSAA Membership:

The Board discussed the opportunity to renew the District's free membership again with MHSAA for the 2025-2026 school year.

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

1. Moved by McComb, supported by Hart, to approve the Caro Community Schools Strategic Plan for 2025-2030, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Curtis, supported by McComb, to approve the purchase of Capturing Kids Hearts as a district wide program for the 2025-26 school year for \$ 48,000, as presented.  
Ayes: McComb, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, Gomez  
Motion carried.
3. Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the purchase of a refrigerator compressor from Soule for \$10,900.00, as presented.  
Ayes: Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Gomez  
Motion carried.
4. Moved by Holder supported by McComb, to set the meal prices for 2025-2026 school year, per State requirements as follows: Student Breakfast: \$2.35 and Student a la carte Breakfast: \$1.85; Adult Breakfast: \$3.00 and Adult a la carte Breakfast: \$2.25; Student Lunch: \$3.25 and Student a la carte Lunch \$2.85; Adult Lunch: \$5.11 and Adult a la carte Lunch \$3.25; and Play Pals Lunch: \$2.25.  
Ayes: Groosbeck, Hart, Holder, McComb, Curtis, Gomez  
Motion carried.
5. Moved by McComb, supported by Hart, to approve the three year agreement for the NWEA benchmark assessment program for a total cost of \$39,450 as presented.  
Ayes: Hart, Holder, McComb, Curtis, Groosbeck, Gomez  
Motion carried.
6. Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to approve the renewal of our membership with MHSAA for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.  
Ayes: Holder, McComb, Curtis, Groosbeck, Hart, Gomez  
Motion carried.
7. Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to approve the resignation of Brian Bennett as McComb Counselor, Ashley Nicol as Schall Elementary Teacher, James Stapleton as Tennis Coach, and Chad Dewald as Girls Varsity Soccer Coach.  
Ayes: McComb, 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 an update on the 2024 Bond project with phase 1 work beginning on June 13 and the multiple phase 2 meetings to review the plans for 2026 summer work. He shared information about the state 35m Literacy Achievement grant that local districts have discussed. Discussions about the literacy resources for Pre K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will continue and may include the potential for countywide collaboration and alignment. Superintendent Rierson thanked the school nurses and the work that they put into getting permits to host and teach American Red Cross classes for the next three years, and for the treatment and medication carts each building will have for next year. He also expressed his appreciation to the staff and administrators for all of the hard work that goes into the many end of year events and ceremonies and congratulated everyone for another remarkable school year.

**VIII. BOARD COMMENTS:**

None

**IX. CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:**

Moved by Holder, supported by Curtis, to go into closed session at 7:43 PM for the purpose of contract negotiations.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to return to open session at 8:31 PM in the Middle School Media Center.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the June 9, 2025 closed session minutes.

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

Motion carried.

**X. OTHER:**

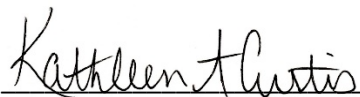
Dates were discussed for the Special Board Meeting and Budget Hearing which will take place on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Curtis, supported by Holder, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.

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

Motion carried.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen Curtis", is written over a horizontal line.

Kathleen Curtis, Secretary