

**Clover School District Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**May 22, 2023**  
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The Clover School District Board of Trustees met on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. for executive session and for the regular business session at 6:00 p.m. Board members in attendance were Chairperson Rob Wallace, Vice Chairperson Ginger Marr, Secretary Jessica Cody, members Mike Ballard, Matt Burris, Keron Meeks, and Tracy Stiff.

Others in attendance for open session were Superintendent Dr. Sheila Quinn, Chief Financial Officer Ken Love, Chief Operations and Student Services Officer Dr. Mark Hopkins, Chief Human Resources and Strategic Planning Officer Dr. Tony Hemingway, and Board Attorney Franklin Pendleton. Chief Academic Officer Dr. Millicent Dickey and Public Information Officer Bryan Dillon attended the Open Session only.

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, The *Herald* was notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting. An agenda was posted at the meeting site and on the school district Web Site.

**OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Wallace called the meeting to order at 5:20pm and asked for a motion to convene executive session. ***The motion for executive session was made by Mrs. Cody and seconded by Mrs. Marr. Motion carried unanimously.***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive session included discussions on personnel and legal matters.

***A motion to suspend executive session and go into Public Hearing was made by Mrs. Cody and seconded by Mrs. Stiff at 6:00pm. Motion carried unanimously.***

**PUBLIC HEARING/OPEN SESSION– LIVE-STREAMED VIA YOUTUBE**

Mr. Wallace called the Public Hearing to order at 6:05pm (live Streamed via the district's YouTube page) and turned the meeting over to Dr. Quinn and Mr. Love for presentation of the proposed operating budget for 2023-2024.

Mr. Love presented the proposed 2023-2024 operating budget for Clover School District, commenting that this year's proposed budget is a people focused budget. 84% of the district's expenditures goes to salaries and related costs. The aim of the district is to become a 'Destination District' for educators and support staff. The proposed budget reflects a 7.9% increase over last year's budget and includes:

- 23 new positions for student growth
- \$5million in new state education funding
- \$1.3 million in budget cuts
- \$3,000 raise for teachers and step increase for all employees
- Targeted adjustments to the pay scale for several groups
- 14.5% tax mills levy

The proposed balanced budget of \$120,288,730.00 will be presented for approval during the Open Session of tonight's meeting.

During the public comments section of the Public Hearing, the following persons spoke:

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1. **Mrs. Jennifer Johnson**, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Larne Elementary, asked the board to consider the following facts regarding placement of Special Ed. Behavioral classes at Larne:
  - Larne already has four self-contained classes
  - three full time resource teachers
  - feels Larne will be viewed as CSD's Jr. BEA
  - the timing it takes to set up a program of this type
  - classes do not address severe behavior issues with no IEP's
2. **Mr. Bill Jenkins**, community member had questions about the stipend for Teacher Assistants, the 14.5 millage increase and encouraged the board to look at all programs. The entire Public Hearing can be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/qffNzqGO3oQ?feature=share>

***The Public Hearing adjourned on a motion made by Mrs. Marr and seconded by Mrs. Cody at 6:32pm. The motion carried unanimously.***

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive session reconvened at 6:35pm for additional discussions on legal matters.

**OPEN SESSION-LIVE-STREAMED VIA YOUTUBE**

Mr. Wallace called the public open session meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. which was Live Streamed via the district's YouTube page. The audience was welcomed and greeted. Mr. Wallace read the guidelines for the meeting format. The meeting continued with the Pledge of Allegiance and the invocation by Mr. Burris.

***The May 22, 2023, agenda was approved with no objection or concerns.***

***The board approved the printed minutes from the April 24, 2023, regular meeting as written with no objections or additional concerns.***

***The board approved the staff personnel recommendations as presented by the administration in executive session with no objections or concerns.***

**RECOGNITIONS**

Dr. Quinn and the board recognized the following:

**[Aria Brown - Crowders Creek Elementary](#)**      **[Scholastic Books Storyworks writing contest](#)**

**Aria Brown**, a 5th grader at Crowders Creek Elementary School was recently selected as the runner-up for the Storyworks 2022-23 kid fiction writing contest hosted by Storyworks, a magazine produced by Scholastic Books. Aria's work was selected out of hundreds of entries from across the nation. The competition required young writers to demonstrate their creativity and apply the tools of storytelling. Aria's name will be published on the Storyworks website.

[Lily Kanbar, Lily Addington, Anna Reese Hinkle - Griggs Road Elementary](#)    [Artfields Competition Winners](#)

**Lily Kanbar, Lily Addington, and Anna Reese Hinkle** had artwork selected for exhibition in the Artfields Competition. This is a large, juried exhibit held annually in Lake City to draw attention to the extraordinary talent in our state. Artfields is held in conjunction with a larger art show that showcases work from across the Southeast. Congratulations again to these aspiring young artists.

[Oakridge Middle School FFA](#)

The Oakridge Middle School FFA program had a terrific inaugural year, including multiple awards at the state FFA competition. The team of **Kara Quiafe, Katherina Heald, Peyton Ferrell and Eli Storms** ranked 1st in the state at the middle school level and 10th overall in the Agronomy CDE section, while **Divya Jakkula, Madeline Taylor, and Tristan Fasick** finished 2nd at the middle school level and 10th overall in the Milk Quality and Products section.

Finally, Fasick, Heald and Taylor earned the top middle school ranking in the Poultry CDE section.

Congratulations to all of our students for their hard work and congratulations to Ms. Erica Wearing who has been instrumental in starting this program at Oakridge Middle School.

[Clover Middle School Baseball](#)

The Clover Middle School baseball team completed their championship season with an overall record of 10-1-1 on the year. The team, coached by Sheldon Brown, completed their title run with a 10-3 victory over Oakridge Middle in the championship game.

[Clover Middle School Band](#)

Clover Middle School Band had another terrific year under the guidance of Mr. Nicholas Gibson. They recently were named the recipients of the Outstanding Performance Award (OPA). The OPA is the most prestigious award that the South Carolina Band Directors Association gives each year. The CMS Band program performed at a very high level in all SCBDA events including All-State and Region Band, Concert Performance Assessment, Jazz Performance Assessment and Solo and ensemble. The band earned enough points in each of these areas to be recognized as one of the top bands in the state.

[Asher Fife and Ashlee Monk - Clover High](#)    [Protstart National Certification of Achievement](#)

Our next recognition is for Asher Fife and Ashlee Monk of Clover High School. These two culinary arts students became the first Blue Eagles to receive the Prostart National Certification of Achievement. To qualify for this certification, students must pass two prostart culinary exams and earn 400 hours in the field of hospitality. Congratulations to Asher and Ashlee

[Seal of Biliteracy](#)

The South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy advances the state's commitment to preparing every learner for college- and career-readiness in an increasingly international community by recognizing learners who attain levels of proficiency in English and at least one other world language required in the global workforce. The Seal of Biliteracy is an award that can be made by a state department of education or school district to recognize students who have attained a high level of proficiency in both English and at least one additional world language by graduation. Earning this award gives South Carolina students an

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opportunity to provide evidence displaying their language proficiency to universities and employers. We are pleased to award the Seal of Biliteracy to 19 students.

**Bronze:** Luis Arzeno Jr. (SP), Charles Bratton (SP), McKenna Bruce (French), Illenia Capasso (French), Nur Jacic (French), Briana Molina (SP), Monica Rashell Monge Montero (SP), Suseth Rodriguez (SP), and Manuael Summers (SP)

**Silver:** Viridiana Barragan-Flores (SP), Viviana Capasso (French), Zoila Escalante (SP), Jenifer Lozano Salas (SP), Lizbeth Nava Dimas (SP), Jonathan Quiroz Rodriguez (SP), and Natalia Redshaw (SP)

**Gold:** Viviana Capasso (Italian), receiving her second seal, Nur Jacic (Bosnian), and Boonyanuch Saexiong (Thai)

**Kayley Spitzer, Charlie Bratton, CHS Air Force JROTC**

Congratulations to the Clover High School Air Force JROTC program for another stellar year. The program was notified once again that they received a distinguished unit award for their commitment to excellence. This marks the 19th consecutive year that the program has received this distinction from the United States Air Force. Additionally, earlier this year the CHS Marksmanship team won the 2023 Air Force JROTC National Championship. This is the third time the program has claimed this title after winning in 2017 and 2020 as well. The team finished with an overall team score of 4,237. **Charlie Bratton** led the team as the top overall individual finisher with a score of 1,106, while **Taelor Velose** finished fourth overall with a score of 1,056. The team is coached by Senior Master Sergeant Clarence Woodham.

Finally, we recognize Clover High School junior cadet, **Kayley Spitzer**. Spitzer was recently named the AFJROTC and AFA Cadet of the Year! This is the only individual cadet award granted by HQ AFJROTC. Kayley was selected from nearly 900 units and 31,000 junior cadets for this award. Clover High School's unit became the first school to have cadets from the same school selected to receive the award in back-to-back years. Congratulations to Kayley!

**Clover High School Percussion Ensemble**

Led by Associate Director of Bands and Director of Percussion Ryan Hall, The Clover High School Percussion Ensemble won its second consecutive WGI World Championship in April in Dayton, Ohio. The Ensemble performed a piece titled "Nevermore" inspired by the work of Edgar Allan Poe. After leading throughout the preliminary and semifinal rounds, the team posted a stunning score of 97.863 while dazzling the spectators in attendance. This was a major accomplishment as the program stepped up to a high skill level bracket after winning the competition last year.

**Boys Lacrosse**

Next, we congratulate members of the Clover High School Boys Lacrosse program who earned postseason honors. **Ryan Nicely** was named the Upper State Defender of the Year and earned 1st team all-state accolades. Joining Ryan with 1st team honors is **Jake Nicely**, who was selected as a 1st team midfielder. Ryan also was selected to play in the annual North/South All-Star game along with senior **Dustin Sampers**.

### Girls Lacrosse

The Clover High School Girls Lacrosse team was led by **Annabelle Kiefer** and **Mackenzie Linn**. Annabelle is an attacker and Mackenzie plays midfield. The two helped lead the team to a 6-2 record in region play which earned them selection to the North/South All-Star game. Congratulations to Annabelle and Mackenzie.

### Boys Soccer

Next we welcome the Clover High School Boys Soccer team, led by Coach Graham Stafford. The Blue Eagles finished the season with an overall record of 20-5-1, won the Upper State Championship and represented Clover in the State title game. Seniors **Gavin Egan** and **Andy Young** were also both selected to participate in the Clash of the Carolina All-Star Game.

### Girls Soccer

The Clover High School girls soccer team recently completed another strong season. Two key contributors to the teams 14-5-1 overall record were juniors **Marilia Nieves** and **Elizabeth McAllister**. Nieves and McAllister both earned All-State honors for the Blue Eagles.

Talented players don't reach these heights without the leadership of coaches. Recently, girls soccer Head Coach, **Kelsey Black**, passed 200 career wins as a head coach.

### Clover Softball

A pair of softball players recently earned postseason honors after leading the Blue Eagles softball program to a 20-7 overall record, a region championship, and a district championship. **Emily Wodecki** and **Logan MacNeil** have been selected to compete in the North/South All-Star game. Wodecki was also selected as a member of the All-State team.

### Clover Baseball

Clover Baseball also had two seniors selected to participate in postseason all-star games. Infielders **Cooper Zohner** and **Nico Bartolotti** will represent the Blue Eagles at the North/South All-Star game. Junior Pitcher **Cade Pilgrim** was honored with a selection to the 5A all-state team. Congratulations to Cade, Cooper, and Nico.

### Clover Track

Senior **Joe Boyd** finished a stellar multi-sport high school career by earning the title of Upper State Champion in Track & Field in the discus event. Boyd's toss at the Upper State meet that earned him this title went 161 feet and 2 inches. He wrapped up his season this past weekend in the track & field state meet where he finished 5th overall. Congratulations, Joe.

### SCNSPRA Medallion Award

Last, but not least, we want to recognize **Bryan Dillon**, PIO and **Stephanie Knott**, Director of Marketing for receiving the SCNSPRA Medallion Award at the organizations' annual rewards for Excellence Program. The award for excellence recognizes with pride Clover School District for a successful 2022 District Bond Campaign. Thanks to Bryan and Stephanie for all your hard work.

**PUBLIC FORUM - NONE**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION SUIT – MR. ROD RUTH, PRINCIPAL, CHS**

Mr. Ruth presented the class action litigation involving a lawsuit against social media giants Tik Tok, Snapchat and YouTube. The suit contends that social media companies create addictive products that can cause eating disorders, anxiety, depression, suicide, and other problems for students as part of what has become a mental health crisis. Fort Mill School District and other school districts across the nation join Clover in the litigation that aims to achieve meaningful recoveries for the plaintiffs and changes to how social media companies operate to safeguard children and adolescents. Mr. Ruth requested approval to enter the litigation with other school districts and for the superintendent or her designee to sign any paperwork related to the litigation. ***The board unanimously approved the request to enter into litigation with other school districts as requested. The board also unanimously approved the request for the superintendent or her designee to sign any paperwork related to the litigation on behalf of the district.***

**2023-2024 BUDGET PRESENTATION – MR. KEN LOVE, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

Mr. Love presented the 2023-2024 proposed operating budget for CSD for approval. He reminded the board the proposed budget is a people focused budget with 84% of the budget going to salaries and fringe increases. The entire budget is geared towards staff. The aim of the district is to become a 'Destination District' for educators and support staff. The proposed budget reflects a 7.9% or \$8.8mil increase over last year's budget and includes:

- 23 new positions for student growth
- \$5million in new state education funding
- \$1.3 million in budget cuts
- \$3,000 raise for teachers and step increase for all employees
- Targeted adjustments to the pay scale for several groups
- 14.5% tax mills levy

Mr. Love recommended approval of the proposed balanced budget of \$120,288,730.00 and the 14.5mill tax increase for a total operating levy of 214.5 mills. ***Mr. Ballard made motion to approve the proposed budget of \$120,288,730.00 and the 14.5mill tax increase for a total operating levy of 214.5 mills as presented. Mr. Meeks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

The full budget presentation can be viewed by following this [link](#).

**FINANCE REPORT – MR. KEN LOVE, CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

Mr. Love reported that the district is in line with expectations and should have some carryover at year end. He also reported the rating agency has recently evaluated the district and has upgraded the district's credit rating from Aa3 to Aa2.

The following requests for approvals were made:

- Approval to declare list of old unused property as surplus. ***The board unanimously approved the liquidation of surplus items as requested.***

- A request to purchase the Crawford Property adjacent to the Ninth Grade Campus. An agreement has been reached with the family to purchase the property for \$310,000.00 plus appropriate closing fees. ***The board unanimously approved the request to purchase the Crawford Property adjacent to the Ninth Grade Campus for \$310, 000.00 plus closing fees as requested.*** Closing: end of July.
- Request the superintendent or her designee be given the authority to sign the official documents on behalf of the school district. ***The board unanimously approved the request for the superintendent, or her designee be given the authority to sign the official documents on behalf of the school district as requested.***
- ***The board also approved \$1000 to be held in escrow towards the purchase of the Crawford Property.***

There were no additional concerns or discussions. ***Mrs. Stiff made a motion to adjourn the Open Session at 8:10p.m. Mrs. Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

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Rob Wallace, Chairperson

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Mike Ballard

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Ginger Marr, Vice Chairperson

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Matt Burris

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Jessica Cody, Secretary

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Keron Meeks

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Tracy Stiff

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL MEETING INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT:**

[www.boarddocs.com/sc/clover/Board.nsf/Public](http://www.boarddocs.com/sc/clover/Board.nsf/Public)

**The live-stream of this meeting is available at:**

<https://youtube.com/live/iNoBUXWwzQI?feature=share>

**Board minutes recorded by:**

**Marlene Spencer, Board Clerk**