

MINUTES
CARO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 8, 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

Absent: None

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

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

1. Approval of Minutes:

Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the November 10, 2025 minutes, as written.

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

Motion carried.

2. Approval of Bills:

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

Payroll: \$1,123,775.62

General Fund: \$599,977.17

Food Service: \$109,349.14

Total: \$1,833,101.93

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

Motion carried.

III. GOOD THINGS:

Board members shared good things.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Shirley Schaefer – Staff Comment

Fawn Niedrich – Staff Comment

V. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. MTSS Recognition:

Tuscola Intermediate School District Assistant Superintendent, Jill Ball presented banners of recognition to each of the buildings for their Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) achievements.

2. 2024 Bond Update – Series II Bond Sale:

The bond project financial plan of bonds, sold in two series, was discussed as the Series II Bonds were scheduled to be sold in 2026. An authorizing resolution developed by the district financial manager and attorney was provided for the Board to review and consider.

3. Grade Realignment:

Superintendent Rierson presented on the grade realignment and building consolidation process, outlining how the consideration began and summarized meetings held with administrators, staff across all buildings, and the Building and Grounds Committee. He also highlighted surveys distributed to staff and families, as well as the goals and projected timeline for the next phases of the process.

VI. TOPICS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND/OR ACTION:

1. Moved by McComb, supported by Curtis, to approve the resolution authorizing Caro Community Schools to issue and sell 2026 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

2. Moved by Curtis, supported by Hart, to approve the hire of Kreg Loney as Varsity Girls Soccer Coach for the 2025-26 season.

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

Motion carried.

VII. BUILDING REPORTS:

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

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Rierson shared a brief update on the bond project with Phase 2 work paused as the district considers different models for consolidation to a single campus on Hooper Street. Plans for tennis courts continue to move forward for work planned for the summer of 2026. High school science teachers have proposed adding a greenhouse outside of the high school 300 wing. They have applied for a USDA Grant that would cover 75% of the cost of construction leaving the district or other grant funding to contribute the remaining 25%. He also shared that several Tuscola county superintendents met with legislative representatives recently and plan to continue monthly meetings in the future to discuss current legislative topics.

IX. BOARD COMMENTS:

None

X. CLOSED SESSION IN PURSUANT TO OMA SECTION 8(1(h)) - ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE:

Moved by Curtis, supported by McComb, to go into closed session at 7:02 PM for two separate items in pursuant of OMA Section 8(1(h)) – attorney client privilege.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by Curtis, supported by Sawyer, to return to open session at 8:23 PM in the Middle School Media Center.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Holder, to approve the December 8, 2025 closed session minutes.

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

Motion carried.

Moved by McComb, supported by Hart, to approve the resolution for the State School Aid Act Section 31aa authorizing Superintendent Rierson and/or a designee to rescind the opt in if the litigation is unsuccessful and the privilege-waiver requirement remains in effect by the deadline, as presented.

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

Motion carried.

XI. OTHER:

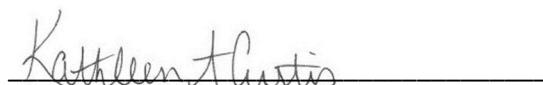
Special Board of Education Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 5:30pm in the Middle School Media Center.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Curtis, supported by Hart to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM.

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

Motion carried.



Kathleen Curtis, Secretary