

The District Five Board of Trustees had a called meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025 at 100 N. Danzler Road, Duncan, SC at 8:00 a.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Jeff Boland  
Mr. Scott Clement  
Mr. Mark Cleveland  
Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Mr. Kevin Goode (via phone call)  
Dr. Millie Malone  
Mr. Alex Perez  
Mrs. Sherri Watchorn  
Mr. Derek Watchorn

1. **Call to Order and Notice to Media:** Mr. Jeff Boland, Chairman, called the meeting to order and read the Notice to Media:

Spartanburg County School District Five has complied with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act in notification of the media and other interested parties and organizations and posting of the agenda.

2. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

3. **Action Items:**

- a. **Consideration of a Resolution ordering a Referendum in School District No. 5 of Spartanburg County, SC to submit to the electors of the School District the question of whether the School District shall be authorized to issue not exceeding \$200,000,000 General Obligation Bonds in one or more series, in one or more years; providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing for all other matters necessary to submit the aforesaid question:** Dr. Randall Gary, Superintendent, and Ms. Penny Dininny, Chief Financial Officer, provided details and information on addressing growth in the district, and requested approval for a Bond Referendum to be placed on the November 4, 2025 election ballot.

Dr. Gary reminded the board that a new growth study was completed in 2025 in addition to earlier studies in 2019 and 2021. The latest data projects that District Five will experience a 16% increase in student enrollment over the next five years and will exceed 14,000 students by 2034. He emphasized the importance

of preparing for this growth and highlighted that the district is already taking proactive steps by funding the construction of a new elementary school and transportation hub using existing funds. He addressed the need for the following: building a new middle school on the southern end of the district, rebuilding Duncan Elementary School of the Arts, rebuilding Byrnes Freshman Academy. A new middle school is needed on the southern end of the district in order to relieve capacity concerns at Florence Chapel and Abner Creek Middle Schools. Duncan Elementary School of the Arts is currently the oldest elementary school and will be rebuilt to increase capacity and address the aging building core. The new school will be built on property on Danzler Road previously purchased by the district. Byrnes Freshman Academy will be rebuilt at the location where Duncan Elementary School of the Arts is located. This will address the aging building that was built in 1973. Dr. Gary explained that the cost for these projects would not exceed \$200,000,000 and would require no tax increase. Ms. Dininny informed the board that the Resolution presented had been prepared by the bond attorneys working with the Spartanburg Election Commission. As required, notice will be published in the newspaper three times. In addition, the Resolution authorizes the Superintendent, Board Chair, and Board Secretary to execute such documents and instruments necessary with regard to the Referendum.

Following the discussion, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve a Resolution ordering a Referendum in School District No. 5 of Spartanburg County, SC to submit to the electors of the School District the question of whether the School District shall be authorized to issue not exceeding \$200,000,000 General Obligation Bonds in one or more series, in one or more years; providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing for all other matters necessary to submit the aforesaid question.

The motion was seconded by Mark Cleveland. Dr. Gary answered questions from the board in reference to the timeline and confirmation that there would be no millage increase. After addressing these questions, the motion was approved unanimously 9-0.

There being no further business, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the called board meeting at 8:27 AM. The motion was seconded by Alex Perez and approved unanimously 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel