

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, September 22, 2025 at Duncan Elementary School at 100 S. Danzler Road, Duncan, SC at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Jeff Boland  
Mr. Scott Clement  
Mr. Mark Cleveland  
Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Mr. Kevin Goode  
Dr. Millie Malone  
Mr. Alex Perez  
Mrs. Sherri Taunton  
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. **Open Meeting with Prayer:** Mr. Alex Perez led the opening prayer.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the August 25, 2025 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Public Relations Director and Mr. Freddie Coan, teacher at Berry Shoals Elementary, recognized 12 District Five schools that earned the designation of *America's Healthiest Schools* by the Alliance

for a Healthier Generation. This national recognition highlights schools that promote whole-child wellness through physical activity, healthy eating, staff well-being, and social-emotional support. Principals and wellness team representatives from each of the twelve schools who received the award were presented banners celebrating this achievement.

## **5. Action Items:**

- a) Consider Approval for BHS Project Lead the Way Field Trip to Greece and Italy:** Ms. Marie Bracken provided information for a field trip for Byrnes High School Project Lead the Way biomedical science students to Greece and Italy, June 3–17, 2027. The trip will provide hands-on, curriculum-related experiences in the history and origins of medicine, along with cultural and academic enrichment. The cost per student is approximately \$5,600, with fundraising opportunities available.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the Byrnes High School Project Lead the Way Field Trip to Greece and Italy as presented by the administration.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Alex Perez and approved unanimously 9-0.

## **6. Reports:**

- a) Project Lead the Way Highlight:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Dr. Heather Gordon, and Mrs. Angie Showalter provided an update on the K–12 implementation of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program at Byrnes High School and across District Five. PLTW offers hands-on, project-based learning in STEM through the Launch program at the elementary level, Gateway to Technology at middle school, and specialized pathways in Biomedical Science, Engineering, and Computer Science at the high school. The program is designed to foster collaboration, problem-solving, and college- and career-ready skills. Enrollment includes 143 students in Biomedical Science, 113 in Engineering, and 107 in Computer Science. The district recently hosted the Southeastern Regional PLTW training and will welcome additional districts for observation in October to showcase its systemic K–12 implementation.
- b) Facilities Update:** Mr. Ryan Cloonan, Chief of Operations, provided an update on ongoing construction projects, including Byrnes High School Phase 3 and stadium improvements. Updates were also provided on the cafeteria addition, track and spring sports projects, with final inspections passed and punch list items in progress.

Following the report, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion at 7:15 pm to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion of pending litigation and contractual matters in reference to potential property purchase. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and passed unanimously 9-0.

## **7. Executive Session**

- a) **Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations:**

## **8. Return to Public Session:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 9:06 pm. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved unanimously 9-0.

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to authorize the Superintendent through December 31, 2027 to negotiate the terms of purchase for real properties within the school district, including but not limited to the real property discussed in executive session and to execute any instrument necessary to consummate such purchases (including but not limited to letters of intent, option agreements and purchase and sale agreements), subject to Board approval of final purchase and sale agreements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the September board meeting at 9:11 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel