

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, November 25, 2024 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. Derek Watchorn led the opening prayer.
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
 - b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the October 28, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Special Recognition:** Chairman Boland introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. Mrs. Robinette recognized Yana Tsyvd, student from River Ridge Elementary, for winning the 2024 Holiday Art Card award.

Mr. Matt Wofford, Director of Fine Arts, recognized the Rebel Regiment Marching Band for their outstanding season and for winning the State Championship.

Middle School coaches recognized students who received outstanding awards in football and volleyball. Dr. Russ Howard then recognized high school students who received awards in swimming, golf, cheer, and volleyball.

Following the presentation, Chairman Boland thanked everyone for being there, and congratulated the students on their accomplishments. He called for a brief recess, and then called the meeting back to order.

5. Action Items:

- a) **Consideration of Local Board Approved Courses:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, provided details of the 2025-2026 Local Board Approved Courses. Dr. Rogers explained that the courses are approved annually, and briefly reviewed the new course that was added to the list. Dr. Rogers, on behalf of the administration, recommended that the board approve the 2025-2026 Local Approved Courses as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the Local Board Approved Courses as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 9-0.

6. Reports:

- a) **Facilities Update:** Mr. Ryan Cloonan, Chief of Operations, provided the monthly facilities update. His presentation included details about the Byrnes High School Phase 3 demolition project and the new Byrnes High School Stadium updates. Mr. Cloonan reported that the stadium is progressing nicely.

District Audit Report 2023-2024: Ms. Penny Dininny, Chief Financial Officer, provided details of the 2023-2024 Financial Audit Report, which was previously presented to the board at the Finance Committee Meeting held on November 22, 2024. The report included documentation to show that the audit firm, Halliday, Schwartz and Co., provided an unmodified, clean opinion and reported that the financial statements present fairly the respective financial position of the district as of June 30, 2024. Ms. Dininny also informed the board that there were no audit findings reported for last year or this year.

Ms. Dininny then briefed the board on several financial highlights included in the audit report.

Following her report, board members inquired about when the bonds would be rolling

off. Dr. Gary informed the board that the information would be shared at the upcoming board work session in January.

Following Ms. Dininny's report, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion at 7:24 pm to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations; discussion of proposed sale or purchase of property; update on pending litigation; and the Superintendent's evaluation and contract.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and passed unanimously 9-0.

7. Executive Session

- a) Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations**
- b) Discussion of Proposed Sale or Purchase of Property**
- c) Update of Pending Litigation**
- d) Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract**

8. Return to Public Session:

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 8:43 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

- a) Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** A motion was made by Mrs. Gergley to approve the new hires, promotions, and resignations as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Gergley also made a motion to report the breach of contract of Employee A to the State Department of Education as presented and discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Gergley made another motion that the Board authorize the administration, in consultation with legal counsel, to proceed with the condemnation of the properties in connection with the road widening project at Beech Springs Middle School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Gergley made a motion to approve the amendment to the superintendent's contract as discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the November board meeting at 8:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel

DRAFT