

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, April 27, 2026 at Duncan Elementary School at 100 S. Danzler Road, Duncan, SC at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Scott Clement
Mr. Mark Cleveland
Mrs. Amy Faulkner
Dr. Caroline Ford
Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Mr. Kevin Goode
Dr. Millie Malone
Mr. Derek Watchorn

1. **Call to Order and Notice to Media:** Dr. Millie Malone, Board Chair, 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. Mark Cleveland led the opening prayer.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the March 13, 2026 and March 23, 2026 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Dr. Malone, Board Chair, introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Public Relations Director. Mrs. Robinette introduced Ms. Anna MacKay from the Palmetto Council of Scouting America. Ms. MacKay, on behalf of the Palmetto Council, presented the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award to Mr. Tommy Peak, teacher at Byrnes High School, for his dedication to student success.

Mrs. Kaci Cotter, Director of Fine Arts, presented awards to students who received state-wide honors in the following categories: SCMEA Elementary Honor Choir, SCBDA All State Band, SCMEA All State Orchestra, ACDA All State Choir, ACDA Honor Choir, SCMEA All State Choir, SCSTA Theatre, Converse Emerging Young Artist Show, and Focus on Youth Juried Art Exhibit. Mrs. Cotter also recognized staff members for their participation in Music for All Southeastern Concert and SCMEA Featured Performances.

Following the recognition, Dr. Malone congratulated the students and teachers on their achievements. She then called for a brief recess, following which she called the meeting back to order.

5. Action Items:

- a) **Consideration of Guaranteed Maximum Price #2 for the Transportation Depot Building:** Mr. Ryan Cloonan, Chief of Operations, accompanied by architect Alex Lay from GMC, and Trevin Thompson and Sharp Turner, from Thompson Turner Construction, presented the second and final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the South Transportation Hub building. It was noted that GMP Number One, approved in the prior month, covered on-site work and the pre-engineered metal building shell. GMP Number Two addresses the remaining scope, which includes Department of Transportation recommended road improvements, landscaping, irrigation, fencing, and the completion of the building interior.

The total cost for GMP Number Two was presented as \$3,673,667, which includes \$437,528 for DOT roadwork, \$272,604 for landscaping and fencing, \$2,772,839 for the remainder of the building, and a 5% contingency of \$200,696. This brings the total project cost to \$6,882,639. In response to a query, it was confirmed that the DOT roadwork includes turn lanes but does not currently require a traffic signal.

Administration recommended approval of the GMP No. 2 for the South Transportation Hub.

Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price Number 2 for the Transportation Depot, not to exceed \$3,673,667, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Amy Faulkner and approved unanimously 8-0.

- b) **Consideration of Strategic Plan Renewal:** Dr. Scott Smith, Director of Accountability and Assessment, presented the annual update to the District Strategic Plan (year four of five), highlighting student achievement, College and Career Readiness, MTSS implementation, and school climate data. Reading and math growth showed continued progress, with performance remaining above state and national averages. Updates also included improvements in safety perceptions, family engagement trends, and new tools to support student services. The administration recommended approval of the 2025–2026 strategic plan update.

Following the presentation, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan Renewal, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland. After questions and discussion, the motion was approved unanimously 8-0.

6. Reports:

- a) **R.D. Anderson Update:** Mrs. Erin Greenway, principal of Byrnes High School, provided information highlighting the impact of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, including a student testimonial from a Byrnes High School senior, Noah Baker, who shared his experience at R.D. Anderson Applied Technology Center. The student presented the car he made for his Capstone project, and described how hands-on learning in machine tool technology enhanced his academic success, prepared him for engineering studies, and provided valuable real-world skills.
- b) **Naming of New Elementary School and New Middle School:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette provided an informational update on the naming process for the new elementary and middle schools, scheduled to open in 2028–2029. A committee of parents, teachers, and administrators reviewed board policy and developed name recommendations based on location and community input. The top recommendations are Lightwood Crossing Elementary School and Sharon Grove Middle School, with Pine Grove Elementary and Reidville Road Middle School as alternate options. The item will return to the board for action at the May 18 meeting.
- c) **Quarterly Financial Report:** The board received the general fund financial report for the quarter ending March 31, 2026. Revenues are tracking slightly above prior year levels at 82% collected, with projections indicating revenues will exceed budget by approximately \$2.37 million. Expenditures are generally in line with the budget, though transportation costs are expected to exceed projections. Due to higher-than-anticipated debt service revenue, a planned transfer will instead be redirected to the building fund. Overall, the district projects revenues to exceed expenditures by approximately \$2.37 million by year-end.
- d) **Facilities Update:** Mr. Ryan Cloonan, Chief of Operations, provided a construction update on current district projects, including progress on Phase 3 at Byrnes High School and the South Transportation Hub.

Work at the high school remains on schedule and within budget, with key milestones such as interior finishes, HVAC startup, and outdoor learning spaces underway. Plans were also outlined for the temporary closure of the front drive to accommodate summer construction, including adjusted traffic flow and visitor access.

Additionally, site clearing has begun for the transportation hub, with further work

pending permit approval.

Following Mr. Cloonan's report, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion at 7:56 pm to go into executive session for the purposes of a student discipline appeal and discussion of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 8-0.

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 Mr. Kevin Goode to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 10:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 8-0.

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** Mr. Goode made a motion to deny the appeal of Student A and uphold the school's recommendation for alternative placement at Byrnes Rebel Academy. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 8-0.

Mr. Kevin Goode then made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the new hires, promotions, and resignations as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 8-0.

There being no further business, Mr. Goode made a motion to adjourn from the April board meeting at 10:03 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kevin Goode
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel