

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, February 24, 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. Mark Cleveland
Mrs. Meredith Gergley
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:** Mrs. Meredith Gergley led the opening prayer.
3. **Consent Agenda**
 - a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
 - b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 27, 2025 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Special Recognition:** Chairman Jeff Boland introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. Mrs. Robinette recognized the Junior Scholars from all four middle schools. Spartanburg Five had 70 students out of the 216 students in the county participating. Mrs. Robinette also recognized Jireh Hipilito for the top math score in Spartanburg County on the PSAT. Mrs. Robinette

then introduced Dr. Russ Howard, Athletic Director, who recognized high school student athletes from football for their awards and accomplishments.

Following the recognition, Chairman Boland congratulated the students on their achievements. He called for a brief recess, following which he called the meeting back to order.

5. Reports:

- a) **ESports Program Update at Beech Springs Middle School:** Dr. Ashley Williams, Principal at Beech Springs Middle School, provided an overview of the eSports Program. The program originated from the Madden Club from last year. Twenty three percent of the student body is enrolled in the course. Dr. Williams explained the academic and wellness benefits of the program, and emphasized that the program is preparing students for the future with options in college and careers in technology.

Board members inquired about competitions for the program. Dr. Williams explained that Beech Springs competed in the first ever competition today. They won one match and lost one match.

- b) **Facilities Update:** Mr. Ryan Cloonan, Chief of Operations, provided the monthly construction and facilities update for the ongoing projects at Byrnes High School Phase 3 and the Byrnes Athletic Stadium.

Board members inquired about whether or not the projects were still on track with the completion timeline.

Following Mr. Cloonan'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.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and passed unanimously 7-0.

6. Executive Session

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

7. Return to Public Session:

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 8:49 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 7-0.

- 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 7-0.

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the February board meeting at 8:54 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel

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