

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, January 27, 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:** Dr. Millie Malone led the opening prayer.

Following the prayer, Chairman Boland called for a Moment of Silence in memory of a former Byrnes High School student who passed away in December.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the November 25, 2024 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 board members in honor of School Board Appreciation Month. Each board member received a book from a school, and a copy of the same book will be placed in the school's media center.

Mrs. Robinette also reported that the school board members had each signed the Ethical Principles poster that was provided by the SC School Boards Association.

Chairman Jeff Boland was recognized with a District Five pin, for his five years of service on the school board. Mr. Mark Cleveland was also recognized with a District Five pin for ten years of service on the school board, as well as a certificate and pin from the SCSBA for his service.

Following Special Recognition, Chairman Boland called for a brief recess. The meeting was called back to order.

5. Action Items:

- a) Consideration of R.D. Anderson Bond Resolution:** Ms. Penny Dininny, Chief Financial Officer, provided details about the R.D. Anderson Bond Resolution being presented. If approved, R.D. Anderson would authorize the issuance of bonds for \$25 million. The cost will be allocated among Spartanburg Districts Four, Five, and Six on a pro-rata share formula. The funds would be used toward the expansion and improvements at the Career Center, to be able to accommodate more students as the area has grown quickly and they are unable to serve all interested students.

Mrs. Dininny reported that it was the recommendation of the administration to approve the bond resolution as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the R.D. Anderson Bond Resolution, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 9-0.

- b) Consideration of the 2025-2026 School Year Calendar:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the draft of the 2025-2026 school year calendar. Dr. Rogers informed the board that all Spartanburg County Districts will share the same calendar being presented. Dr. Rogers pointed out important key dates and explained that September 24 and February 11 have been designated as Student Early Release days.

After his presentation, Dr. Rogers, on behalf of the administration, recommended that the board approve the 2025-2026 school year calendar as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to approve the 2025-2026 School Year

Calendar, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

6. Reports:

- a) **2023-2024 Procurement Audit:** Mrs. Kacey Austin, Director of Procurement, provided the 2023-2024 District Procurement Audit. Mrs. Austin informed the board that Halliday, Schwartz & Co. had performed the audit and she was pleased to report there were no findings for the 2023-2024 school year.
- b) **2025 Mid-Year Procurement Report:** Mrs. Austin also provided the 2025 mid-year Procurement Report. She reported that the district had 13 sole source procurements and one emergency procurement.

Mrs. Austin also provided the Minority Business Enterprise Plan update. Per the procurement code, the district has a goal of spending at least 10% of controllable procurements with minority owned businesses. At the time of this report, the district had 76% of total eligible procurements involving minority owned businesses from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

- c) **Budget Calendar:** Ms. Dininny presented the budget calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Dininny reported that tentative budget work sessions would be held on April 18, May 16, and June 9, if needed. On June 23, 2025 there will be a public hearing, then the board will vote on the final budget at the regular monthly meeting.
- d) **Quarterly Financial Report:** Ms. Dininny also presented the quarterly financial report through December 31, 2024. Ms. Dininny reviewed the year to date revenue and expenditures and reminded the board that the expenditures exceeding revenue is normal for this time of year, as the majority of local revenue comes in during February and March when tax money is received. Ms. Dininny also reported that support services expenditures were tracking higher than budgeted, caused by overtime pay for bus drivers due to a driver shortage.

Ms. Dininny reported that she projects revenue exceeding expenses by \$2.6 million above what was originally budgeted.

- e) **Personnel Timeline:** Mrs. Heather Lister, Chief of Staff, provided the timeline for the personnel process for the 2025-2026 school year. Mrs. Lister reviewed the list of dates, and informed the board that they would vote on personnel recommendations and contracts at the March 24 board meeting.
- f) **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.

Following Mr. Cloonan's report, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion at 7:21 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 Dr. Millie Malone 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 8:32 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland 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.

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the January board meeting at 8:38 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alex Perez and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel