

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, March 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. 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. Scott Clement led the opening prayer.
3. **Consent Agenda**
  - a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
  - b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the February 24, 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 Mr. Jon Henderson, with Palmetto Area Council of Scouting, who presented the Elbert K. Fretwell Outstanding Educator Award to Mr. Trey Bailey.

Mrs. Robinette also recognized teachers Josie Brown and Christy Hewitt, for being named AVID Staff Developers.

Coaches Russ and Andrea Howard then presented the student and coaches awards for middle and high school basketball and wrestling, for both the boys and girls teams. See attached for complete list of names.

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

## 5. Action Items:

- a) **Consider Local Board Approval to Excuse Three Weather Related Days:** Dr. Jeff Rogers presented information to the board outlining the inclement weather days that students missed due to Hurricane Helene, and other weather advisories, for the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Rogers presented the plan for making up days that were built into the calendar, per state requirements. Administration is also requesting that the board of trustees forgive three additional days, as presented.

Mrs. Gergley made a motion to approve to excuse three weather related days, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

- b) **Consider Request for the State Board of Education to Forgive One Weather Related Day:** Dr. Jeff Rogers also reported that the administration would like to submit a request to the State Department of Education to forgive the one remaining make up day for October 7, 2024.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion that we make a request to the State Board of Education to forgive one weather related day, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

- c) **Consider Adoption of New Math, Personal Finance, and CTE Textbooks:** Dr. Jeff Rogers and Mr. Matt Wofford provided information on new instructional materials being presented for adoption. After reviewing the timeline and details of the selection process, the administration made a recommendation to approve the new Math, Personal Finance, and CTE textbooks as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the new Math, Personal Finance, and CTE textbooks, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 9-0.

- d) Consider Approval of Bond Resolution:** Ms. Penny Dininny, Chief Financial Officer, provided details of a bond resolution authorizing the district to issue and sell up to \$15,000,000 in General Obligation Bonds. The bonds will be used to fund improvements, renovations, and additions to Byrnes High School, construction of the new stadium at the high school, acquisition of land for future school sites, renovation of existing school facilities, and any other capital improvements permitted under the SC School Bond Act.

Ms. Dininny reported that this would be the district's only eight percent debt, and made the recommendation that the board approve the bond resolution as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the bond resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds, not exceeding \$15,000,000 as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone.

Board members inquired about the amount of the bonds that were recently paid off, and how long it would take to pay off the bonds being presented.

There being no further questions, the motion was approved unanimously 9-0.

## 6. Reports:

- a) Architectural Selection Process:** Mrs. Kacey Austin, Director of Procurement, provided details about the architectural selection process for the design of a new elementary school, and a second firm for renovations and modifications of current schools.

Mrs. Austin provided the timeline of the selection process, the list of firms who submitted qualifications, the top finalists, and the selection committee rankings. Mrs. Austin reported that Craig Gauden Davis Architects was the top choice for designing the new elementary school, and McMillan Pazdan Smith was the top choice for renovations and modifications of current schools. The administration will move forward with notifying the firms and work toward finalizing their contracts.

- 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.

Mr. Cloonan reported that both projects were currently on schedule.

Board members inquired if the projects were still on track with the budget, and if the stadium would be ready for football season.

Following Mr. Cloonan's report, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion at 7:33 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 Mr. Alex Perez 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 8:36 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alex Perez and approved unanimously 9-0.

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** Mrs. Meredith Gergley 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 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.

In compliance with Board Policy BCB – Board Member Conflict of Interest, the following board members abstained from voting on the contracts of their family members.

Mr. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Wendy Bralley as presented for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Kevin Goode abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Lorie Goode as presented for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Kevin Goode abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Nick Johnson as presented for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Derek Watchorn abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Elaine Ready, as presented for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Alex Perez abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Katie Watchorn as presented for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Derek Watchorn abstained from voting).

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the March board meeting at 8:43 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel