

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, February 23, 2026 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. 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:** 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 November 24, 2025 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Swearing In of Board Members:** Dr. Randall Gary administered the oath of office to newly elected and incumbent board members following the November election. Board members sworn in included Mrs. Amy Faulkner, Dr. Caroline Ford, Mr. Kevin Goode, Mr. Scott

Clement, and Dr. Millie Malone. The board members affirmed their commitment to faithfully discharge the duties of their office and to uphold the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and the United States.

5. **Special Recognition:** Chairman Jeff Boland introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. In honor of School Board Appreciation Month, Mrs. Robinette recognized board members and presented each with a book selected by one of the district's schools. A copy of each book will also be placed in the respective school's media center. The books were presented by students representing each school.

Mrs. Robinette then recognized Director Chris Moss and Drum Majors and Section Captions of the Rebel Regiment Marching Band for several accomplishments. The Rebel Regiment was named the 2025 Upper State Marching Band Champions, and they were invited to march in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in November 2026.

Following the band recognition, Mrs. Robinette introduced Dr. Russ Howard to lead the Athletic Recognition for football. Dr. Howard introduced Coach Reggie Shaw and recognized several students for their Shrine Bowl selection, North/South All Stars, Blitz All Star Game, All-Region 2-5A, and Greer Touchdown Club accomplishments.

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

6. Action Items:

- a) **Board Officer Elections:** Chairman Boland informed the board of the need to elect new board officers for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Jeff Boland nominated Dr. Millie Malone for the office of Chair. Mrs. Meredith Gergley seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, the motion was approved 8-0-1. Dr. Malone abstained from voting.

Mr. Mark Cleveland then nominated Mr. Jeff Boland for the office of Vice Chair. Mr. Derek Watchorn seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, the motion was approved 8-0-1. Mr. Boland abstained from voting.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley then nominated Mr. Kevin Goode for the office of Secretary. Mr. Mark Cleveland seconded the nomination. There being no other nominations, the motion was approved 8-0-1. Mr. Goode abstained from voting.

Following the election of officers, the meeting was turned over to Dr. Malone to preside.

- b) Board Committee Appointments:** Dr. Malone, Chair, reported that per board policy BDE, she has the duty of appointing members to the Board Committees. In doing so, she appointed the following members to the respective committees:
- Finance: Mr. Derek Watchorn (Chair), Mr. Jeff Boland, Dr. Millie Malone
 - Policy: Mrs. Meredith Gergley (Chair), Mr. Scott Clement, Mrs. Amy Faulkner
 - Curriculum and Instruction: Mr. Kevin Goode (Chair), Mr. Mark Cleveland, Dr. Caroline Ford
- c) R.D. Anderson Board Appointments:** Dr. Malone, Chair, then reported that she would be appointing Mr. Mark Cleveland and Mr. Scott Clement to continue serving on the R.D. Anderson Board of Trustees.

7. Reports:

- a) Budget Calendar:** Ms. Penny Dininny, Chief Financial Officer, presented the budget calendar for the 2026-2027 school year. Ms. Dininny reported that tentative budget work sessions would be held on April 24 and May 15. On June 15, 2026 there will be a public hearing, then the board will vote on the final budget at the regular monthly meeting.
- b) Quarterly Financial Report:** Ms. Dininny also presented the financial report for the quarter ending December 31, 2025. At midyear, approximately 29.5% of total revenue had been collected, with local revenue tracking lower than anticipated at this time, and state revenue at approximately 44% of budget. Expenditures for instructional services were tracking as budgeted, while transportation costs were slightly above budget due to overtime expenses. Expenditures currently exceed revenues by \$21,673,381, which is typical for this time of year, and will turn around as tax money is received. The administration anticipates finishing the year within budget and emphasized the importance of maintaining a healthy fund balance to manage cash flow until local property tax revenues are fully received.
- c) Annual Audit Reports:** Ms. Dininny reviewed the Annual Financial Audit Report, which was presented to the finance committee in November. The auditors issued an unmodified (clean) opinion, finding the district's financial statements presented fairly in all material respects. One audit finding was noted related to the implementation of GASB capitalization guidance; the issue was corrected, and procedures have been revised to prevent recurrence.

Ms. Dininny also reported that the general fund balance increased by approximately \$3.47 million to \$31.3 million (19.8% of budgeted expenditures), remaining within board policy. The district's net position increased by \$22 million, and the administration reported continued progress on referendum-related construction projects.

Mrs. Kacey Austin, Procurement Director, provided the board members with a copy of the Annual Procurement Audit report. The audit identified one finding in which a purchase order was dated after the related invoice, contrary to procurement requirements. The transaction occurred during Hurricane Helene's emergency response efforts. The district has revised its procedures to include monthly reviews to ensure purchase orders are issued prior to invoices. No other findings were reported.

- d) **Personnel Timeline:** Mr. Robert Jackson, Director of Human Resources, provided the timeline for the personnel process for the 2026-2027 school year. Mr. Jackson reviewed the list of dates, and informed the board that they would vote on personnel recommendations and contracts at the March 23, 2026 board meeting.
- e) **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, stating the project is currently still on schedule and under budget.

Mr. Cloonan also provided details about the Teacher/Staff access drive at Abner Creek Academy and the Beech Springs road widening project.

Board members inquired about whether or not there were any traffic concerns at the intersection of the new staff drive and the current drive at Abner Creek, and if administration was taking this access drive into account for current and future construction projects.

Following Mr. Cloonan's report, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion at 7:44 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. Jeff Boland and passed unanimously 9-0.

8. Executive Session

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

9. Return to Public Session:

A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Goode to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 8:49 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Amy Faulkner and approved unanimously 9-0.

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** A motion was made by Mr. Kevin Goode to approve the new hires, promotions, and resignations as presented

by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 9-0.

A second motion was made by Mr. Kevin Goode 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 Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mr. Kevin Goode also made a motion to approve an academic leave of absence for Employee B for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Boland and approved unanimously 9-0.

There being no further business, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion to adjourn from the February board meeting at 8:51 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kevin Goode
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel