

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, March 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:** Dr. Millie Malone, 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 23, 2026 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Dr. Millie Malone introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. Mrs. Robinette led the South

Carolina Junior Scholars recognition. She reported that of 4,015 eighth-grade students in Spartanburg County, 243 earned Junior Scholar status, with 63 of those scholars from District Five. Certificates and pins were presented, with students recognized by school: Abner Creek Middle School, Beech Springs Middle School, D. R. Hill Middle School, and Florence Chapel Middle School.

In addition, Dr. Russ Howard, Athletic Director, recognized student-athletes from the winter sports season. Students were presented certificates for accomplishments in both girls and boys basketball and wrestling, for both the middle and high school levels.

Mrs. Robinette also recognized board member, Mr. Mark Cleveland, for achieving Level 4 in the Boardmanship Institute from the South Carolina School Boards Association.

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

## **5. Action Items:**

### **a) Consideration of Board Policy Revisions:**

- DKB: Salary Deductions
- GCB: Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation
- GCC, GCC-R: Professional Staff Leaves and Absences
- GDC, GDC-R: Support Staff Leaves and Absences
- GCD: Professional Staff Vacations and Holidays
- GDD: Professional Staff Vacations and Holidays
- IJND: Artificial Intelligence Responsible Use

Mrs. Meredith Gergley, Chairman of the Policy Committee, reviewed the recommended changes to the board policies listed above. Mrs. Gergley reported that the changes had been previously reviewed by the board at the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 13, 2026.

After review of the amendments, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion to approve the following board policy revisions as presented by the chair of the policy committee: DKB, GCB, GCC, GCC-R, GDC, GDC-R, GCD, GDD, and IJND. No second was required and the motion was approved 9-0.

- ### **b) Consideration of Early Site Package GMP No. 1 for Transportation Depot:** Mr. Ryan Cloonan, Chief of Operations, introduced Mr. Alex Lay with Goodwin Mills Caywood Architects and Mr. Trevin Thompson and Mr. Sharp Turner with Thompson Turner Construction, to provide details on the Early Site Package No. 1 Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the South Transportation Depot. Mr. Lay provided information about the location of the new hub and drawings of the site plan.

Following Mr. Lay's presentation, Mr. Trevin Thompson reported the cost of the Sitework

to be \$2,541,866; the pre-engineered building to be \$523,670, and a 5% contingency of \$143,436 for a total Guaranteed Maximum Price No. 1 of \$3,208,972.

Following the presentation, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion to approve the Early Site Package Guaranteed Maximum Price Number 1 for the Transportation Depot, not to exceed \$3,208,972. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously 9-0.

## 6. Reports:

- a) **Communication and Leadership Report from Abner Creek Academy:** Mrs. Melissa Fowler, principal of Abner Creek Academy, presented the Communication and Leadership Report. The presentation highlighted the school's magnet focus, detailing how communication and leadership skills are integrated into the curriculum. Ms. Fowler explained the implementation of the iLead program, which teaches students six leadership values per year through various methods tailored to different grade levels. The report included video clips demonstrating student activities such as Gator Assemblies, student-led huddles, and the student-run morning show and newspaper.
- b) **District Teacher of the Year:** Mr. Brandon Haskins, 2025-2026 District Teacher of the Year, addressed the board and shared his experiences since receiving the title, including his participation in the South Carolina Teacher Forum. He spoke on the importance of teacher leadership and expressed his commitment to partnering with the board to empower the district's teacher forum and continue advancing the district. The board and administration congratulated Mr. Haskins on his recent appointment to the Palmetto State Teacher's Association board.
- c) **Facilities Update:** Mr. Ryan Cloonan, Chief of Operations, provided the monthly construction and facilities update for the Byrnes High School Phase 3 project. He highlighted the most recent work being completed and reported that the project is on schedule and under budget. Mr. Cloonan also reported that the front drive work is planned for the summer.

Additionally, utility relocation has been completed at the Beech Springs Danzler Road widening project, and the site contractor will resume work this week with final paving and striping expected over spring break, weather permitting.

Following Mr. Cloonan's report, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion at 7:57 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. Meredith Gergley 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 Mr. Kevin Goode to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 8:36 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley 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 Mr. Jeff Boland 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. Goode moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contracts for Wendy Bralley and Lorie Goode as presented for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Kevin Goode abstained from voting).

Mr. Kevin Goode moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contracts for Nick Johnson and Katie Watchorn as presented for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Derek Watchorn abstained from voting).

Mr. Kevin Goode also made a motion to approve Employee A, B, and C for extended leave. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 9-0.

There being no further business, Mr. Kevin Goode made a motion to adjourn from the March board meeting at 8:39 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kevin Goode  
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel