

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, January 24, 2022 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  
Mr. Scott Clement  
Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Mr. Kevin Goode  
Dr. Millie Malone  
Mr. Ott Sizemore  
Mrs. Sherri Taunton  
Mr. Derek Watchorn

1. **Call to Order and Notice to Media:** Mr. Mark Cleveland, Secretary, 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 22, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Public Relations Director, 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 informed the audience that each board member has signed the SCSBA

Ethics poster, as well as board policies BC – Board Member Conduct and BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics.

Following the special recognition, Mr. Cleveland called for a short recess. After the recess, Mr. Cleveland called the meeting back to order.

## **5. Action Items:**

- a) **Board Officer Elections:** Mr. Mark Cleveland, Secretary, informed the board of the need to elect officers. He read a portion of policy BE – Organization of the Board, stating that board members are required to serve on the board for one full year before being eligible to hold office.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to nominate Mr. Jeff Boland for the office of Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone. There were no other nominations made and the motion passed unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley then made a motion to nominate Mr. Mark Cleveland for the office of Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone. There were no other nominations made and the motion passed 8-0-1. Mr. Cleveland abstained from voting.

Mr. Jeff Boland made a motion to nominate Mrs. Meredith Gergley for the office of Secretary. Dr. Millie Malone seconded the motion. There were no other nominations made and the motion passed 8-0-1. Mrs. Gergley abstained from voting.

- b) **Board Committee Appointments:** Mr. Jeff Boland began presiding over the meeting as Board Chair, and reported that he would be appointing board members to board committees, per board policy. He then appointed board members as follows:

Finance Committee: Millie Malone, Derek Watchorn, Jeff Boland

Curriculum Committee: Ott Sizemore, Kevin Goode, Scott Clement

Policy Committee: Sherri Taunton, Meredith Gergley, Mark Cleveland

- c) **R.D. Anderson Board Appointments:** Mr. Boland also informed the board of the need to appoint two board members to fill the two District Five board seats at R.D. Anderson Applied Technology Center. Mr. Boland appointed Mr. Mark Cleveland and Mr. Scott Clement to fill the two vacant seats.
- d) **Consider Approval of 2022-2023 School Year Calendar:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the draft of the 2022-2023 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 informed the board that District Five is approved as an ELearning District through the State Department of Education. This allows the district

to use five days, due to inclement weather, as eLearning days in lieu of making days up at the end of the year. As required, three make-up days are also built into the calendar, should they be needed.

Dr. Rogers also explained that October 5 and March 1 have been designated as Student Early Release days. Students will dismiss after lunch and teacher and staff will have two hours to use for Professional Development.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved unanimously 9-0.

- e) **Consideration of Revised R.D. Anderson Affiliation Agreement:** Dr. Randall Gary presented details to the board about the need to revise the R.D. Anderson Affiliation Agreement. Dr. Gary presented the details of the amendment and stated that the superintendents have been working with attorneys to update the agreement. The proposed changes would assign Spartanburg District Six as the fiscal agent for matters relating to finance, human resources, procurement, and accounting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to approve the revised R.D. Anderson Affiliation Agreement, as recommended by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

- f) **Consideration of Extension of COVID-19 Related Leave – Administrative Rules GCC-R(2) – Professional Staff and GDC-R(2) – Support Staff:** Mrs. Heather Lister presented details about the request to extend the COVID leave policy for district employees from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022. This policy allows employees ten days of paid leave for staff who are absent due to Covid issues and are unable to work from home.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to approve the extension of Covid related leave policies GCC-R(2) and GDC-R(2) as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

## 6. Reports:

- a) **Personnel Timeline:** Mrs. Heather Lister, Director of Personnel, provided the timeline for the personnel process for the 2022-2023 school year. Mrs. Lister informed the board that they would vote on personnel recommendations and contracts at the February 28 board meeting.
- b) **Budget Calendar:** Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, provided the tentative budget timeline for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Hayes also encourage all board members to attend the finance committee meetings. Mr. Hayes reported that tentative budget work sessions have been scheduled for March 14, April 18, May 9,

and June 6, if needed. The public hearing for the proposed budget is scheduled for June 27, and the board will vote on the final budget at the regular meeting on that date.

Mr. Hayes also informed the board that the General Obligation bond sale is scheduled for January 27 at 11:00 AM and invited each board member to attend.

- c) **Quarterly Financial Report:** Mr. Hayes also presented the quarterly financial report through December 31, 2021. Mr. Hayes highlighted a few key points, including that actual expenditures currently exceed revenue by \$18.7 million. Mr. Hayes explained that this is the normal course of business for the school district, as a large portion of property taxes aren't received until January and February. The report also projects approximately \$434,000 more in local revenue and \$385,000 less in expenditures than budgeted.
- d) **Valkyrie Early College Program:** Dr. Jeff Rogers presented information about the Valkyrie Early College Program through Converse University. Dr. Rogers explained that this is an opportunity to partner with Converse for the purpose of developing and recruiting new teachers. Dr. Rogers provided details about the program and provided the required course information and implementation timeline.
- e) **Facility Update:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented information about facility updates taking place throughout the district. Specifically, he provided updates on the new softball stadium, new track at Byrnes High School, new lacrosse wall at Byrnes Freshman Academy, and the new cafeteria furniture at Byrnes High School. Updates on the new middle school on Gin House Road and new elementary school on Highway 29 were also provided. Dr. Wood informed the board that a traffic study will be performed at Pine Street and Reidville Road near the access road at Reidville Elementary School. This is to plan for the installation of a new traffic signal.

At the conclusion of open session, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to move into executive session for the discussion of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations, and the discussion of contractual matters in reference to property transfers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and passed unanimously 9-0.

## **7. Executive Session**

- a) **Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations:**
- b) **Discussion of Contractual Matters in reference to Property:**

## **8. Return to Public Session:**

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** In open session, a motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley, seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode, and approved unanimously (9-0) to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the teacher contracts as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley then made a motion to report Employee A to the State Department of Education for Breach of Contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and passed unanimously 9-0.

In addition, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion that the board deny the Town of Reidville's request to waive the compensation set forth in the deed restrictions and agreement between Spartanburg District Five and the Town of Reidville. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved 8-0. Mr. Scott Clement recused himself from the discussion and vote due to his employer being named in the contract.

There being no further business, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously (9-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Secretary

Submitted by:  
Mrs. April Peel