

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, April 25, 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. 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.

Following the prayer, Chairman Boland asked for a moment of silence in memory of the Wellford Academy Teacher Assistant, and her daughter who was a student there, who recently lost their lives in a car accident.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the March 28, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Public Comment:** Chairman Jeff Boland introduced Ms. Rosie Dirton, who made a request to address the board in advance of the meeting. Ms. Dirton requested that the board seek assistance from the County Delegation to consider redistricting of the Board of Trustees, so that districts are drawn to provide a more representative picture of the community. Mr. Dirton expressed her concerns that the current structure does not provide a fair representation of the district, and is petitioning for single member districts for all of District Five. Mrs. Dirton reported that she was aware that redistricting is handled by the Spartanburg Co. Legislative Delegation, and that the West Spartanburg Branch of the NAACP plans to address the Delegation at their meeting on May 2, 2022.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Boland thanked Ms. Dirton for her time in presenting to the board.

5. **Action Items:**

- a) **Consideration of Name of New Middle School:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, presented information to the board about the naming of the new middle school near Abner Creek Academy. Mrs. Robinette reviewed the report from last month's meeting, where she outlined the process used when the school board named Abner Creek Elementary School in 2006. She also provided important key points from board policy FF - Naming Facilities. At the conclusion of her presentation, Mrs. Robinette reported that in consideration of the board policy, and the elementary campus next door, district administration is recommending the name Abner Creek Middle School for board approval.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the naming of our newest middle school to be Abner Creek Middle School. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Mr. Mark Cleveland thanked the board for their work in agreeing on the name of the new middle school.

Mr. Boland asked the board to vote on the motion. The motion was approved unanimously 9-0.

- b) **Consideration of Adoption of New Social Studies Textbooks:** Dr. Jeff Rogers and Mr. Matt Wofford presented information to the board pertaining to the adoption of new Social Studies textbooks.

Matt Wofford provided an explanation of the textbook adoption process, reporting that the SC Board of Education adopts instructional materials for schools. The State Board of Education appointed a review panel in September to scrutinize the materials and make sure they reflect the state standards, and are age appropriate. The materials were then put out for a 30 day public review in November. Generally, after the review of public comments, formal recommendations are made to the State

Board of Education in December. This year, however, a secondary three-month review for the Social Studies adoption was held prior to the March release.

Dr. Rogers then explained the district's policy and procedures for review and adoption of new instructional materials. Vendors provided samples, which were distributed to teachers for review. Per district policy, textbook committees were formed to assist in the selection process, and recommendations for the administration and committee were submitted for local board approval.

After reviewing the titles of the new instructional materials, Dr. Rogers made a recommendation that the board approve the new social studies materials, as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the social studies textbooks for the grades and subjects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode.

The question was asked by a board member if there were any teacher objections to the textbooks. Dr. Rogers explained that there was actually an overwhelming majority in favor of the books.

Chairman Boland asked the board for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

- c) **Consideration of Adoption of New Science Textbooks:** Dr. Rogers then presented the titles of the new science materials for grades K-5 and 6-8, and made a recommendation to adopt the new Science textbooks as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the science textbooks as presented for grades kindergarten through eight. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode.

There being no further questions, Chairman Boland asked for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously 9-0.

6. Reports:

- a) **Construction / Facilities Updates:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, provided an update on current construction and facility projects taking place throughout the district. Included in Dr. Wood's report were the following updates:

- Portables at Beech Springs Intermediate School: portables have been delivered and set up, and canopy and ramps have been installed. Fencing will be installed soon for security measures.

- Portables at Berry Shoals Intermediate School: An eight classroom pod has been delivered and set up. Plumbing is currently in process. Plan is to move the 5th grade classrooms into the pod.
- Reidville Elementary School: Five single units should be delivered in June.
- Byrnes High School: one eight-classroom pod, and two single unit pods to be delivered in June.
- Highway 296 and Pine Street Traffic Signal in Reidville: Approval to proceed was received from SCDOT in March. The DOT is allowing use of the traffic study that was performed when the new Reidville Elementary School was built. Harper Construction Co. will serve as the project's general contractor. Permitting and installation process should begin soon. If all goes smoothly, the process is estimated to take approximately nine months.
- BHS Video Board: The new video board has been installed and is operational. Maintenance is working to repair the fields where the installers messed up the field during installation. The field will be ready for graduation and the fall season of athletics.
- Abner Creek Middle School: Dr. Wood provided aerial views of the construction site. Foundation work is continuing, with mass grading and underground utility work ongoing. Gin House Road right-of-way acquisition is in progress.
- New Elementary School on Highway 29: Currently in the design and development phase. Working on sewer easement also. Comments from SCDOT have been received and the engineers are responding. At this point, there does not seem to be any major concerns. Waiting on Duke Power for a response to the plan.
- Byrnes High School Phase II: Utility rerouting work is currently underway. This will allow for internet and utility connectivity during the construction phase. The design development phase is ongoing. There will be an auction on May 21 at Byrnes from 9 AM to 2 PM for the district's unused instructional materials, furnishings, and equipment to be sold, per the procurement code. The Guaranteed Maximum Price will be presented at the June 27 regular board meeting. Demo should begin on June 1 when students are out of the building.
- Beech Springs Renovations: To begin June 1 when the building is vacated for summer. Summer School will take place in areas of the building that aren't affected by construction. The Guaranteed Maximum price will be presented at the June 27 board meeting, with construction to begin in July.
- Wellford Academy: Currently in the early schematic design phase. There has been a lot of conversations with Duke Energy about the relocation of power lines. The Guaranteed Maximum Price is expected to be presented in November 2022.

Board members asked questions pertaining to the timeline for Reidville Elementary renovations, whether there would be road widening at Berry Shoals and Florence Chapel, transmission lines at Wellford Academy, what grade level will be in portables at Reidville Elementary, who pays for the traffic signal at Hwy. 296 and Pine Street, and if there was a reported cost yet for the signal. Per district administration, a definite cost has not been provided, but is expected to cost around \$300,000 for the installation of the

signal.

- b) **Quarterly Financial Report:** Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, provided the detailed quarterly General Fund financial report through March 31, 2022. Mr. Hayes reported a year-to-date positive cash flow of \$20.8 million, due to the majority of local property taxes being received in January and February. Dr. Hayes reported that this is the normal cash flow for the school district for this time of year.

Overall, the projected local and state revenues received are expected to be more than budgeted. The local increase is mainly due to the increase in property tax assessments, while the increase in state revenue is mostly due to the number of students enrolled, approximately 670 more students than the previous year.

Mr. Hayes reported that expenditures are lower than budgeted, due to the amendments to address pay increases for non-certified positions. The pay raise didn't become effective until January 1, leading to the expenditures being less than budgeted.

As reported, revenue is projected to exceed expenditures by \$8.3 million at the end of the fiscal year. This will allow for an increase in the fund balance, to align with the district's board policy of 15-20 percent, with the remainder being transferred for capital projects.

At the conclusion of Mr. Hayes' presentation, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to move into executive session to discuss employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland 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 Open Session at 8:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley, seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland, and approved unanimously (9-0) to accept the recommendation of the administration and offer contracts to the employees as presented in executive session.

There being no further business, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the meeting at 8:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel