

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, June 26, 2023 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
Mr. Alex Perez
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. Mark Cleveland led the opening prayer.

3. **Consent Agenda**

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

- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the May 22, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Chairman Jeff Boland introduced Mrs. Heather Lister, Director of Personnel, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. Mrs. Lister invited Dr. Russ Howard, Athletic Director, to the podium for Athletic Recognition.

Dr. Howard recognized the softball players and Coach Brandi Aiken for their awards and accomplishments over the past season. Those recognized were: Sierra Maness, Kaylee Hannon, Kara Davis, Ellanie Yarrell, Courtney Dean, Eliza Scott, and Mia Johnson.

Chairman Boland congratulated all of the athletes and thanked them for how they represent District Five both during their athletic events as well as outside of school. He then called for

a brief recess.

5. **Public Comment:** Following the recess, Chairman Boland called the meeting back to order and introduced Mr. Corey Pullen, who requested to speak to the board regarding the district's Food Service program. Mr. Pullen encouraged the district to revise the current food and nutrition program and change to a state run organization, providing his opinion on the benefits of doing so.

6. **Action Items:**

- a) **Consider Approval of the District Five Schools 2023-2024 General Fund and Debt Service Budgets:** Ms. Penny Dininny, Chief Financial Officer, presented the proposed General Fund and Debt Service budgets for the 2023-2024 school year. She began by reviewing the timeline of budget requests that were received, and the process used in creating the budget being presented. She also shared that the budget has not changed since last presented to the board members on June 7. The 23-24 proposed General Fund Budget reflects a balanced budget of \$130,183,150, which is an increase of \$14,683,398 over the current budget, and requires no millage increase.

Ms. Dininny provided key highlights of revenue and expenditures, as well as details on employee pay increases. These include a 15% state mandated increase for eligible bus drivers, 4% increase for eligible administrators, and a 5% increase for all other eligible staff. The budget also includes three additional steps to the salary schedule. The teacher salary schedule increased by \$2,500 on each cell, with increases to the top of the scale, beginning with step 18.

Ms. Dininny's presentation also included details on the Debt Service Fund budget of \$25,684,056, which is an increase of \$8,695,554 over the current year.

Ms. Dininny reported that it was the recommendation of the administration to approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Derek Watchorn, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to approve the 2023-2024 General Fund and Debt Service Budgets as presented. No second was required as the motion was made by the Finance Committee.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions, and confirmed that the administration was presenting a balanced budget with no increase in millage. Ms. Dininny confirmed.

Following a question pertaining to the Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement, the motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

- b) Consider Approval of the Spartanburg County Alternative School Budget:** Ms. Dininny presented the proposed 2023-2024 Spartanburg County Alternative School budget. Ms. Dininny reviewed the highlights of the \$6,150,000 budget and reported that it was the recommendation of the administration to approve the Spartanburg County Alternative School budget as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the Spartanburg County Alternative School budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions and then called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

- c) Consider Approval of the McCarthy-Teszler School Budget:** Ms. Dininny presented the proposed 2023-2024 McCarthy-Teszler School budget. Ms. Dininny highlighted several key points of the \$21,478,500 budget. She then stated that the administration recommends approval of the McCarthy-Teszler School budget as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the McCarthy-Teszler School budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions and then called for a vote. The motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

- d) Consider Approval of the R.D. Anderson Technology Center Budget:** Ms. Dininny also presented the proposed 2023-2024 R. D. Anderson Applied Technology Center Budget. Ms. Dininny highlighted key points of the 8,826,594 budget, which includes the Master Skills Center budget, and reported that it was the recommendation of the administration to approve the budget as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the 2023-2024 R.D. Anderson Applied Technology Center budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Scott Clement and Mr. Mark Cleveland, both currently serving on the Board of R.D. Anderson, commented on the rapid growth of the area and how it is affecting enrollment, as well as plans for adding onto R.D. Anderson in the near future. Mr. Clement informed the board that there will be alternate funding for the construction and is not included in the budget being presented.

Following discussion, the motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

7. Reports:

- a) **Construction Update:** Mr. Don Icenhower provided an update on current construction and facility projects taking place throughout the district.

Included in Mr. Icenhower's report were updates on the following: Byrnes Phase 2; Beech Springs Intermediate; Berry Shoals Intermediate; Tyger River Elementary; Reidville Elementary addition; Highway 296 traffic signal; Abner Creek Middle; Gin House Road Right of Way and utility relocation; and the new Wellford Academy.

Board members asked questions pertaining to fencing at Tyger River and if there were any concerns about timelines or budget on any of the projects.

Following the report, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion at 7:19 pm to enter into executive session for the discussion of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and passed unanimously 7-0.

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 Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 8:02 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 7-0.

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley, seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland, and approved unanimously (7-0) to offer contracts to the employees as presented in executive session.

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley made a motion to adjourn from the June board meeting at 8:07 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel