

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, January 22, 2024 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. Meredith Gergley
Mr. Kevin Goode
Dr. Millie Malone
Mr. Alex Perez
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:** Mrs. Sherri Taunton 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 20, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Swearing-In of Board Members:** Newly re-elected and re-appointed board members, Jeff Boland, Mark Cleveland, Meredith Gergley, and Derek Watchorn repeated the Oath of Office as required before serving their next term. Dr. Randall Gary, Superintendent, presided over the oath.

- 5. Special Recognition:** Chairman Jeff Boland introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. Mrs. Melissa Robinette 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 reported that the school board members had each signed the Ethical Principles poster that was provided by the SC School Boards Association.

Following Special Recognition, Chairman Boland called for a brief recess. The meeting was called back to order at 7:00 pm.

6. Action:

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

Dr. Millie Malone made a motion to nominate Mr. Jeff Boland for the office of Chairman for a consecutive two year term. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Alex Perez. There were no other nominations made and the motion passed unanimously 9-0.

Mr. Kevin Goode then made a motion to nominate Mr. Mark Cleveland for the office of Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn. There were no other nominations made and the motion passed 9-0.

Mrs. Sherri Taunton made a motion to nominate Mrs. Meredith Gergley for the office of Secretary. Mr. Kevin Goode seconded the motion. There were no other nominations made and the motion passed 9-0.

- b) Board Committee Appointments:** Mr. Boland 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 (Chair), Derek Watchorn, Jeff Boland

Curriculum Committee: Kevin Goode (Chair), Scott Clement, Alex Perez

Policy Committee: Meredith Gergley (Chair), Sherri Taunton, 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 continue serving on the R.D. Anderson Board.

- d) Consider Approval of Field Trip to Europe:** Ms. Kelly Jewett and Ms. Marie Bracken, Biomedical Science teachers at Byrnes High School, presented details on a proposed

field trip to Europe. Ms. Jewett and Ms. Bracken reported that they would like to take Biomedical students on a healthcare related trip to Europe July 14-24, 2025.

Following the presentation, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the field trip to Europe as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode.

Board members inquired about the cost of the trip, how many students were eligible to attend, what percentage of those students were going, and how many chaperones would be attending.

Following questions, the motion was approved unanimously 9-0.

- e) **Consider Approval of 2024-2025 School Year Calendar:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the draft of the 2024-2025 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 2 and February 26 have been designated as Student Early Release days.

After his presentation, Dr. Rogers, on behalf of the administration, recommended that the board approve the 2024-2025 school year calendar as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland.

Board members inquired about starting school on a day later in the week to ease into the schedule; the possibility of adding President's day to align with all Federal holidays and adding a fall break; whether any feedback was received on Early Release Days; and what matrix was for calculating absences on Early Release Days.

Following questions and discussion, the motion was approved unanimously 9-0.

7. Reports:

- a) **Personnel Timeline:** Mrs. Heather Lister, Director of Personnel, provided the timeline for the personnel process for the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Lister reviewed the list of dates, and informed the board that they would vote on personnel recommendations and contracts at the March 25 board meeting.
- b) **Budget Calendar:** Ms. Penny Dininny provided the tentative budget calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Dininny reported that tentative budget work sessions have been scheduled for April 15, May 13, and June 10. The board will vote on the final budget at the regular meeting on June 24.
- c) **Quarterly Financial Report:** Ms. Penny Dininny presented the quarterly financial report through December 31, 2023. Ms. Dininny reviewed the year to date revenue and expenditures and reminded the board that the expenditures exceeding revenue is normal for this time of year, as the majority of revenue comes in during February and March when tax money is received. Ms. Dininny also reported that support services expenditures were tracking higher than budgeted, caused by overtime pay for bus drivers due to a driver shortage. Ms. Dininny reported that she projects expenditures will be within budget by the end of the fiscal year.
- d) **Facilities Update:** 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 reports were updates on the following: Byrnes Phase 2; Beech Springs Gym; Tyger River Elementary; Abner Creek Middle, and Wellford Academy. Dr. Wood reported that the scheduled completion date for Byrnes Phase 2 and Wellford are August 1, 2024, creating a tight move in schedule.

Board members inquired about what back up plans are if the completion dates are not met, and when the athletic fields would be ready for use at Beech Springs.

- e) **Presentation of Mascots for Tyger River Elementary, Berry Shoals Elementary, Abner Creek Middle, and Beech Springs Middle Schools:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, presented the newly created mascots for Tyger River Elementary School, Berry Shoals Elementary School, Abner Creek Middle School, and Beech Springs Middle School. Mrs. Robinette reviewed the history of the bond referendum details and outlined the process used to create the new mascots: Abner Creek Wolves, Tyger River Terriers, Beech Springs Panthers, and Berry Shoals Bees.

- 8. **Executive Session:** At 8:05 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to move into Executive Session for the purposes of: Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations, and an Update on Legal Issues

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

9. Return to Public Session:

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to end Executive Session and return to Public Session at 10:04 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

a) Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the new hires, promotions, and resignations as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to adjourn the January board meeting at 10:09 pm. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel