

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, January 30, 2023 at Duncan Elementary School at 100 S. Danzler Road, Duncan, SC at 5:45 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
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.

At 5:45 pm, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 8-0.

2. **Executive Session:**
 - a. Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations

3. Return to Public Session:

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to end Executive Session and return to Public Session at 6:34 pm. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved unanimously 8-0.

- 4. Open Meeting with Prayer:** Mr. Scott Clement led the opening prayer. Following the prayer, Chairman Boland called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Johnathan Angelini, fourth grade student at Reidville Elementary, and Mr. Jerry Rice, former employee and volunteer, who both recently passed away.

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
 - b. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the November 21, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.
- 6. Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, recognized Mrs. Gail Hughes, president of the SCSBA, who presented the Champions of Public Education Award to Ms. Haley Grau and Middle Tyger Community Center staff.

Mrs. Robinette then presented Dr. Ashley Williams with an award for winning the SC Association of School Administrators Middle Level Assistant Principal of the Year award. Mrs. Robinette also presented an award to teachers Amber Neyman and Amanda Harper, for winning the Distinguished Teacher of Literacy Award from the Spartanburg County Palmetto State Literacy Association.

Chairman Boland was then recognized and presented with a certificate and pin for achieving Level 2 of the SCSBA Boardmanship Institute.

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.

Following board recognition, Chairman Boland recognized Mr. David Hayes in celebration of his retirement and presented him with a card from the school board. Chairman Boland thanked him for his many years of service and dedication to the district. He then called for a short recess for Special Recognition photos.

Following the recess, Mr. Boland called the meeting back to order.

7. Action:

- a. Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** Mrs. Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the teacher and administrative contracts for the 2023-2024 school year as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously 8-0.

Mrs. Gergley also made a motion to report Employees A and B to the State Department of Education for Breach of Contract as presented in Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 8-0.

- b. Consider Approval of 2023-2024 School Year Calendar:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the proposed 2023-2024 school year calendar. Dr. Rogers informed the board that all Spartanburg County Districts will share the same calendar being presented. He reviewed several key dates and informed the board that the draft had been shared with staff members for feedback. Dr. Rogers stated it was the recommendation of the administration to adopt the calendar as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton.

Following questions, the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

- c. Authorizing Board Chair to Vote at Spartanburg County Education Oversight Committee:** Dr. Randall Gary provided information to the board about a proposed teacher salary increase beginning the 2023-2024 school year if approved.

Dr. Gary reminded the board that the Spartanburg County districts joined together in creating the Teacher Equalization fund in 2021 to help make salaries more competitive. The new salary schedule being presented helps eliminate the existing salary gap currently at the upper end of the salary scale, as compared to neighboring districts.

Following his presentation, Dr. Gary stated it was the recommendation of the administration for the board to approve the proposal by allowing the board chair to vote in support of this plan at the Spartanburg County Education Oversight Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to authorize the Board Chair to vote in support of the teacher salary adjustments as presented, as he represents our board at the Spartanburg County Education Oversight Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Being none, the motion was approved unanimously 8-0.

8. Reports:

- a. Personnel Timeline:** Mrs. Heather Lister, Director of Personnel, provided the timeline for the personnel process for the 2023-2024 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 27 board meeting.

- b. Budget Calender:** Mr. David Hayes provided the tentative budget timeline for the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Hayes reported that tentative budget work sessions have been scheduled for April 17, May 15, and June 12, if needed. The board will vote on the final budget at the regular meeting on June 26.
- c. Quarterly Financial Report:** Ms. Penny Dininny presented the quarterly financial report through December 31, 2022. Ms. Dininny reviewed the year to date revenue and expenditures and reminded the board that the current deficit in the fund balance is normal operating procedures for this time of year, as the majority of revenue comes in during January and February when tax money is received. Ms. Dininny also reported that the budget presented reflects an annual projected surplus of \$10 million at the end of the fiscal year, due to increases in the local and state revenues being more than budgeted.
- d. Minority Business Report:** Mrs. Kacey Austin, Director of Procurement, presented the mid-year Minority Business Enterprise Plan report, as required by the District's procurement code. Mrs. Austin reported that the district's goal is to spend 10% of its controllable dollars with minority owned businesses. The district surpassed that goal by spending 14% of total eligible procurements with minority-owned businesses in the first six months. Mrs. Austin's report also included bid data for that time period.
- e. Facilities Update:** Dr. Greg Wood provided a facilities update on the construction projects taking place across the district. His report included updates on the following:

 - Byrnes High School Phase 2: upcoming work includes completion of excavation; continue steel erection; and begin footings and forms
 - Beech Springs: access to soccer fields will begin February 1; will not have summer access but will be ready to continue in August; upcoming to include steel erection; footers and foundation pours; and continued storm drain installation
 - Berry Shoals: final inspection to be held February 1, 2023
 - Tyger River Elementary School: all rock has been blasted and lower drive should be ready soon
 - Reidville Elementary addition: upcoming work includes completion of classroom wing trusses and decking; wall framing begins January 30; kindergarten wing trusses and decking to begin
 - New Wellford Academy: Porter Street closure completed on January 26; grading and sewer line installation upcoming; groundbreaking to be held March 3
 - Abner Creek Middle School: upcoming projects include: drywall and overhead utilities installation in classroom wings; primer and paint in office, fine arts areas, and cafeteria; right of way acquisition ongoing

Following Dr. Wood's report, the floor was opened for questions. Board members asked if there had been any concerns with the portables or the budget, and the status of the

construction worker who was injured in the construction accident at Tyger River Elementary School. Administration was also asked to look into the safety of student access to athletic fields during the excavation at Beech Springs, ensuring there is EMS access, and inquired about arranging a site visit of the construction sites.

- 9. Candidate Forum:** Chairman Boland introduced the candidates who submitted applications for the vacant 5-3 board seat due to the passing of former board member, Mr. Ott Sizemore. He thanked each candidate for attending, and provided a brief explanation of the format of the forum. Each of the ten candidates had three minutes to present to the board.

Following the presentations, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion at 8:24 pm to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing board candidates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 8-0.

10. Executive Session

a) Discussion of Board Candidates

11. Return to Public Session:

a) Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 9:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 8-0.

In open session, a motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to recommend Mr. Alex Perez to serve as the board trustee for our open seat which expires in November of 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode. The motion passed 7-1, with Mr. Derek Watchorn voting against.

Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by:
Mrs. April Peel