

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, October 17, 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  
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. 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 September 26, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Public Comment:** Chairman Boland welcomed Reidville Town Council members to the meeting, and introduced Mrs. Amy Reid Gore, Town Representative, who addressed the board about Reidville Town Center updates. She reported that Covid had put the project on hold, but the current council is preparing to move forward. Mrs. Gore reported that sections of the remaining school building, originally planned for the Town Hall, library, and other

public uses, do not meet code. Estimates from several construction companies have estimated the cost to repair issues at over \$1 million. Therefore, the Town would like to demolish what remains of the existing building. Mrs. Gore reported that the Town has been working with Triad Construction and an architecture firm on the town center project, and vertical structures are scheduled for 2023. Mrs. Gore thanked the school board for their attention to this matter, and asked them to consider approving the addendum to the original MOU in order for the Town to move forward with the Town Center Project.

**5. Action:**

- a) Election of Delegates to SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference:** Chairman Jeff Boland informed the board of the need to elect voting delegates and alternates for the 2022 SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Meeting being held December 3-4, 2022 in Charleston. After a brief explanation of the purpose of the SCSBA business meeting, Mr. Boland nominated himself, as the School Board Chair, to be the voting delegate and Mr. Mark Cleveland, as the School Board Vice Chair, to be the alternate.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the nomination of our board chair, Jeff Boland, as Spartanburg Five's delegate at the SCSBA's South Carolina Legislative Conference and our vice-chair, Mr. Mark Cleveland, as our alternate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions/discussion. Being none, he asked the board for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

- b) Consideration of Guaranteed Maximum Price for Wellford Academy Early Site Plan:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent for Operations, introduced Mr. Jaime Henderson with LS3P Architecture, and Mr. Trevin Thompson, Mr. Harold Turner, and Mr. Ryan David with Thompson Turner Construction, to present the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Wellford Academy Site Plan.

Mr. Henderson reviewed the early site plan, to include renderings of the current plan, parent and bus loop drop off and entry, as well as the floorplans for the first and second floors. Mr. Henderson reported the gross square footage of the new building to be 124,326 with a day one capacity of 880 and a core capacity of 900.

Mr. Turner then presented the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Wellford Academy Early Site Plan of \$8,498,287, with an unsuitable/rock allowance of \$800,000, and 2% contingency of \$174,943 for a total early site plan GMP of \$9,473,230.

Dr. Greg Wood, on behalf of the administration, made the recommendation that the board approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the early site plan for Wellford Academy not to exceed \$9,473,230.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the proposed Early Site Work at Wellford Academy as presented by the

administration, not to exceed \$9,473,230. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions.

Questions were asked pertaining to the bus and parent car loops, square footage as compared to the new school on Highway 29, the scope of work included in the GMP being presented, and how closely administration is monitoring the budget to ensure schools aren't over-budget from original projections.

Dr. Wood reported that a traffic study is currently being conducted to assist with the installation of a traffic signal at Tucapau Road.

Following questions, Chairman Boland asked for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously 8-0.

## 6. Reports:

- a) **Naming of New and Renovated Schools:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, presented information pertaining to the naming of the new elementary school on Highway 29, as well as renaming of Beech Springs and Berry Shoals Intermediates. Mrs. Robinette reported that Berry Shoals and Beech Springs were being renovated as part of the district's growth plan. The administration will recommend that Beech Springs Intermediate be renamed Beech Springs Middle School, and Berry Shoals Intermediate be renamed Berry Shoals Elementary School.

Mrs. Robinette also reviewed the board policy on naming of facilities, and reported that the district gathered input from stakeholders at a meeting on October 11 for the naming of the new elementary school on Highway 29. Attendees were from Duncan and Lyman Elementary Schools, to include parents, teachers, and administrators.

At the conclusion of that meeting, the group presented their top choices for the name of the new elementary school on Highway 29 and those choices are being recommended to the board. The first choice was Tyger River Elementary School, and the second choice was Pine Ridge Elementary School.

Mrs. Robinette reported that the board would be voting on the names at the November 21 board meeting.

Following the presentation, board members inquired about the origin of the names selected, how the committee felt overall about the suggestions, were there other schools with these names in our area, and how committee members were selected.

- b) **Quarterly Financial Report:** Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, provided the board with the quarterly financial report through September 30, 2022.

Mr. Hayes reported that there was a typo on the document presented, which stated the budget was amended. He reported that this was not an amended budget. The correction will be made and filed with the minutes.

Mr. Hayes reported the actual year to date revenue at \$12,883,313 and the actual year to date expenditures at \$20,613,414 which creates a cash flow deficit of approximately \$7.7 million. Mr. Hayes assured the board that this is typical of the general fund budget this time of year and will turn around when taxes are received in January and February.

**c) 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: continuing installation of building pads and footings; sanitary sewer lines; and utility relocation
- Beech Springs: continuing tree removal; retention pond to begin Nov. 17; preparing site for grading; discussed scheduling effects and loss of athletic fields after December 1.
- Berry Shoals: Classroom Wing: discussed progress on classroom wing and kindergarten wing pertaining to electrical, mechanical, ductwork, ceiling and lights, and paint
- New Elementary School on Highway 29: upcoming projects to include: fencing and gate install, building pad and parking lot grading, DOT road work to begin Nov. 7, foundations to begin Nov. 7, and continue boulder removal (storm drains)
- Reidville Elementary addition: continuing work on foundation, slabs, and preparing halls for new wing tie in
- New Wellford Academy: continue site boring and hazardous materials testing; acquiring permit; building GMP to be presented Nov. 21
- Abner Creek Middle School: admin and kitchen slabs to be poured, above ceiling utilities and framing interior walls continuing, exterior walls in admin and classroom wings upcoming, starting exterior brick at gym

Following Dr. Wood's report, the floor was opened for questions. Board members inquired about: changes that were made causing the loss of athletic fields and the timeline for being able to access the fields; whether the district has received parent complaints; and asked administration to ensure the issue of safety with subcontractors.

**7. Discussion of Potential Athletic Facility Upgrades:** Dr. Greg Wood reminded the board that the district completed a facilities study in November of 2020. As a result, they have asked McMillan, Pazdan, Smith Architecture Firm to provide the board with conceptual options to consider pertaining to updates at Nixon Field.

Mr. Ryan Cloonan, with McMillan, Pazdan, Smith, provided details of three possible options for stadium upgrades, keeping in mind the needs of Byrnes High School, student safety,

capacity, and the possibility of including other sports.

Following the presentation, Chairman Boland made the following statement: Last year, our board asked the taxpayers of District Five to approve a \$295MM referendum to help us build new schools and add additional classrooms to keep up with the explosive growth in our area. We are thankful for the public's overwhelming support of the referendum plan and excited to see this money at work. During referendum discussions, it was our promise to our constituents that referendum money would be used strictly towards building new schools and expanding current schools and not used towards athletics. This is a promise we made and intend to honor.

Tonight you heard a presentation on athletic facilities. Our board and administration is committed to a long range plan to improve the athletic facilities in District Five. Although we are at least 2-3 years out, due to the challenging environment that we are currently in with inflation, costs, and supply chain issues, we have begun the discussion so that we can prepare and budget for these athletic facilities. We are excited about the early discussions about athletic facilities and look forward to hearing more on future plans.

Chairman Boland then opened the floor for questions. Board members inquired about the terrain at the Danzler Road site and what all could be built there, turf field installation before other work is done, options for other practice fields, and price estimate comparisons between two of the options.

At 7:53 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; contractual matters in reference to potential property purchase; contractual matters in reference to a land use agreement; and the superintendent's evaluation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 8-0.

## **8. Executive Session**

- a) Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations:**
- b) Discussion of Contractual Matters in Reference to Potential Property Purchase:**
- c) Discussion of Contractual Matter in Reference to a Land Usage Agreement**
- d) Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 10:20 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 8-0.

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

a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** In open session, a motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 8-0.

Mrs. Gergley made a motion to report Employees A, B, and C to the State Department of Education for Breach of Contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 8-0.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the addendum to the previously approved land usage agreement as presented and discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved 7-0. Mr. Scott Clement did not recuse himself from the discussion, but did not participate in it. Mr. Clement did, however, recuse himself from the vote.

Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and passed unanimously 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Secretary

Submitted by:  
Mrs. April Peel