

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, November 20, 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. 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:** 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 October 23, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Chairman Jeff Boland introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. Mrs. Robinette recognized Andrew Fisher, student at Beech Springs Intermediate, who was the Holiday Art winner for 2023.

Mrs. Robinette then introduced Dr. Russ Howard, Athletic Director, who recognized students

and coaches for outstanding awards received in Swimming, Cross Country, Girls Golf, Girls Volleyball, Boys Volleyball, and Girls Tennis. See attached for a complete list of names.

Following Special Recognition, Chairman Boland called for a brief recess and then called the meeting back to order.

5. **Candidate Forum:** Chairman Boland reported that there were two candidates who applied for the vacant 5-2 board seat. He introduced both Mrs. Meredith Gergley and Mr. Marshall McCravy, who were each given three minutes to present their reasons for wanting to serve on the board.
6. **Executive Session:**
  - a) **Discussion of Candidates:** Following the presentations, Mr. Mark Cleveland made a motion to move into executive session to discuss the open board seat appointment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved 8-0-1. Mrs. Meredith Gergley abstained from the vote and did not participate in the executive session discussions.
7. **Return to Public Session:** Mr. Mark Cleveland made a motion to end Executive Session and return to Public Session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved 8-0-1. Mrs. Meredith Gergley abstained from the vote.
8. **Action:**
  - a) **Appointment of Board Member for 5-2 Vacancy:** Mr. Mark Cleveland made a motion to recommend Mrs. Meredith Gergley for the open board seat in District 5-2 for the next four year term. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved 8-0-1. Mrs. Gergley abstained from the vote.

Chairman Boland thanked Mr. McCravy for applying, and then called for a brief recess.

9. **Reports:**
  - a) **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; Wellford Academy, and Abner Creek Middle. Dr. Wood also provided the scheduled completion date for each project.
  - b) **District Audit Report:** Ms. Penny Dininny, Chief Financial Officer, provided details of the 2022-2023 Financial Audit Report, which was previously presented to the board at the Finance Committee Meeting held on November 10, 2023. The report included

documentation to show that the audit firm, Halliday, Schwartz and Co., provided an unmodified, clean opinion and reported that the financial statements present fairly the respective financial position of the district as of June 30, 2023. Ms. Dininny also informed the board that there were no audit findings reported for the year.

Ms. Dininny then briefed the board on several financial highlights included in the audit report.

Following Ms. Dininny's report, Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion at 7:35 pm to enter into executive session for the discussion of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations; potential property transfer; and the Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and passed unanimously 9-0.

**10. Executive Session:**

- a) Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations
- b) Discussion of Potential Property Transfer
- c) Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract

**11. Return to Public Session:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to end Executive Session and return to Public Session at 9:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 9-0.

a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:**

Mrs. Gergley made a motion to approve the amendment to the superintendent's contract to extend it through June of 2027. 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 November board meeting at 9:57 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel