

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, November 21, 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
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. Kevin Goode led the opening prayer.

Following the prayer, Chairman Boland read a message about the passing of board member, Mr. Ott Sizemore. He then held a moment of silent prayer in Mr. Sizemore's memory.

3. **Consent Agenda**

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

- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the October 17, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, recognized students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Mrs. Robinette recognized Ms. Kadie Culberson for being awarded the SC Induction Teacher of the Year; Mrs. Marie Scott for being named the Spartanburg Co. Continuous Improvement Teacher of the Year; and Ms. Emily Dean on being named the Spartanburg County Continuous Improvement Coach of the Year.

Mrs. Robinette then recognized students for their outstanding academic and athletic

achievements. See attachment for the complete list of names and awards.

Following the recognition, Chairman Boland congratulated everyone for their accomplishments and then called for a brief recess. Following the recess, he called the meeting back to order.

5. Action:

- a) Consideration of International Trip to France and Spain:** Ms. Bethany Poppe presented information about a trip to Spain and France for the Byrnes and Spartanburg Tennis Programs for May 26-June 3, 2023. She presented details about the trip through EF Educational Tours, to include highlights of the trip.

Dr. Gary reminded the board that international field trips were required to have board approval, per board policy.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the Tennis Team's trip to Spain and France as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Being none, the motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

- b) Consideration of Name Change for Beech Springs Intermediate School:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette presented details about the need to change the name of Beech Springs Intermediate School, once the grade level structure changes and it becomes a middle school in the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Robinette reported that it was the recommendation of the administration to change the name to Beech Springs Middle School.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation from the administration and change the name of Beech Springs Intermediate School to Beech Springs Middle School, beginning the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions/discussion. Being none, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

- c) Consideration of Name Change for Berry Shoals Intermediate School:** Mrs. Robinette also reported that the administration recommends changing the name of Berry Shoals Intermediate School to Berry Shoals Elementary School, once the grade structure changes in 2024-2025.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation from the administration and change the name of Berry Shoals Intermediate School to Berry Shoals Elementary School, beginning the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Being none, the motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

- d) Consideration of Name for New Elementary School:** Mrs. Robinette presented information about the naming of the new elementary school on Highway 29 in Duncan. She reviewed the board policy, and reminded the board of the process that had been followed to determine the recommendation of the committee.

Mrs. Robinette made the recommendation on behalf of the administration to name the new school Tyger River Elementary School.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and name our newest elementary school Tyger River Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Being none, the motion passed unanimously 7-0.

- e) Consideration of Board Policy Updates:**

- i. DB - Annual Budget
- ii. DGA - Authorized Signatures
- iii. DK - Payment Procedures
- iv. ILB-R - Test/Assessment Administration
- v. LBA - Shared Services and Staff

Mrs. Meredith Gergley, Chairman of the Policy Committee, provided details of the proposed board policy revisions. Mrs. Gergley reported that the policy committee met on November 11 to review the first reading of the revisions.

Mrs. Gergley then made a motion, as chair of the Policy Committee, to accept the recommendations of the Policy Committee and adopt the following revisions, additions, and deletions as presented:

- DB - Annual Budget
- DGA - Authorized Signatures
- DK - Payment Procedures
- ILB-R - Test/Assessment Administration
- LBA - Shared Services and Staff

The motion, not requiring a second, was approved unanimously 7-0.

- f) Consideration of SC Department of Education Waiver for Paper/Pencil Testing:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, provided information

pertaining to obtaining a testing waiver for paper/pencil testing. Dr. Rogers reported that the instructional team believes students in grades 3 and 4 do better using paper/pencil on the ELA portion of the iReady assessment than they do with online testing.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the administration's request for a paper/pencil testing waiver from the SC Department of Education for grades 3 and 4 ELA. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Being none, the motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

g) Consideration of Guaranteed Maximum Price for New Wellford Academy

Building: Dr. Greg Wood introduced Mr. Jaime Henderson with LS3P Architecture, and Mr. Trevin Thompson, Mr. Harold Turner, and Mr. Ryan Davis, with Thompson Turner Construction, to present the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the new Wellford Academy Building.

Mr. Henderson thanked Dr. Gary and Dr. Wood for their great leadership during the process, and stated that they had been great stewards of the bond referendum money. He then provided details about the new Wellford Academy building, to include details about the car stacking and extended bus loops, and the floorplan of the two story building.

Mr. Turner then reported the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the building of \$39,780,709, for a grand total of \$49,253,939 including the early site package.

Following the presentation, Dr. Wood, on behalf of the administration, made the recommendation that the board approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the new Wellford Academy building of \$39,780,709, along with the early site package previously approved of \$9,473,230, not to exceed \$49,253,939.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the Wellford Academy building of \$39,780,709, to go along with the Early Site Package of \$9,473,230 that has already been approved, for a total project GMP not to exceed \$49,253,939. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Being none, the motion was approved unanimously 7-0.

6. Reports:

a) 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: sanitary sewer lines complete; footings and foundations ongoing; first slab pouring scheduled for November 23; stabilizing bank for footing and foundation scheduled for December 12
- Beech Springs: sitework and retention pond work underway; science lab and foundation pouring upcoming
- Berry Shoals: exterior brick wash, mechanical work on mezzanine, and OSF overhead inspection all complete; upcoming to include fire alarm installation, storefront window installation, paint, new wing and kg wing inspections
- New Elementary School on Highway 29: foundation, concrete pour, SCDOT Prep Work and hydroseed of embankments in progress
- Reidville Elementary addition: underground utilities and storm drains and slab pouring completed; exterior and interior blockwork ongoing
- New Wellford Academy: site boring, safety fence, permit acquisition and traffic study complete (not requiring a traffic light); playground relocation, perimeter tree removal, porter street closure and initial sitework upcoming
- Abner Creek Middle School: ongoing and upcoming projects include: overhead work in admin, gym, cafeteria; metal wall framing in admin, guidance and fine arts; underground utilities and slab pours in classroom wings; and exterior brick at gym and cafeteria

Following Dr. Wood's report, the floor was opened for questions. Board members stressed the importance of safety, especially pertaining to sub contractors, and inquired about when the traffic signal would be installed near Reidville Elementary School.

- b. District Audit Report 2021-2022:** Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, provided details of the 2021-2022 Financial Audit Report. Mr. Hayes reported that this information had been presented to the board at the Finance Committee Meeting on November 11, 2022. His 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, 2022. Mr. Hayes also informed the board that there were no audit findings reported for this year or the previous year.

Mr. Hayes then briefed the board on several highlights of the audit report.

Following Mr. Hayes' report, at 7:59 PM, Mrs. 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 superintendent's evaluation
- The superintendent's contract, and
- The potential appointment of a new board member

The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 7-0.

7. Executive Session

- a) **Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations:**
- b) **Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation:**
- c) **Discussion of Superintendent's Contract**
- d) **Discussion of Potential Appointment of a New Board Member**

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Open Session at 9:26 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 7-0.

8. 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 letters of agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 7-0.

Mrs. Gergley made a motion to report Employees A and B to the State Department of Education for Breach of Contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 7-0.

Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to approve the amendments to the superintendent's contract through June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 7-0.

Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved unanimously 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by:
Mrs. April Peel