

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, November 22, 2021 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  
Mrs. Dawn Deck  
Mr. Rick Eitel  
Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Dr. Millie Malone  
Mr. Phil McIntyre  
Mrs. Julie McMakin

1. **Call to Order and Notice to Media:** Mrs. Julie McMakin, 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 25, 2021 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Public Comment:** Mrs. Julie McMakin, Chairman, introduced Mr. Mike Pavlick, who submitted a written request to speak to the board. Mr. Pavlick expressed his concerns about who the board should select to fill the unexpired 5-3 board seat.

5. **Candidate Forum:** Mrs. Julie McMakin, Chairman, introduced the board applicants who have applied for the 5-2 board vacancy, and the 5-3 board vacancy to fulfill a remaining two-

year term due to the passing of a board member. Each candidate was provided three minutes to address the board as to why they wish to be appointed. The following candidates spoke: Mr. Kevin Goode, Mr. Steve Hisker, Mr. Thomas McNamara, Mr. Tim Smith, Mr. Heath Anderson, Mr. Bill Cureton, Mrs. Dawn Deck, Mr. Rick Eitel, Ms. Wanda Fowler, Mr. Kevin Goldsmith, Ms. Nadine Trimble, Mr. Derek Watchorn, and Mr. Joseph Wilson.

**6. Executive Session:**

- a) Discussion of Board Candidates: A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland, seconded by Mr. Jeff Boland, and approved unanimously (8-0) to move into Executive Session for the discussion of board candidate appointments.

**7. Return to Public Session**

**8. Action:**

- a) **Appointment of Board Candidate:** In Open Session, a motion was made from Mr. Mark Cleveland to recommend Mr. Kevin Goode to fill the board vacancy in District 5-2. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phil McIntyre and approved unanimously 8-0.

A motion was then made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to recommend Mr. Derek Watchorn for the board vacancy in District 5-3. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved 5-1. Mrs. Julie McMakin did not vote.

There was a short recess before returning to the action items.

- b) **Consideration of a Resolution Declaring the Bond Referendum Results:** Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, presented a Resolution Declaring the Bond Referendum Results of the November 2 election. The Resolution was prepared by the district's bond attorneys and reads as follows: A resolution declaring the results of a referendum held on November 2, 2021, on the question of the issuance of not exceeding \$295,000,000 General Obligation Bonds of School District No. 5 of Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Mr. Hayes also reported that the official results will be filed with the Office of Clerk of Court.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to approve the Resolution declaring the Bond Referendum results as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Boland and approved unanimously 8-0.

- c) **Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds Related to the Referendum Approved by the Voters:** Mr. David Hayes presented a Resolution to authorize the issuance of Bonds related to the Referendum approved by the voters on November 2, 2021. The Resolution was also prepared by the district's bond attorneys and reads as follows: A resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$295,000,000 General Obligation Bonds, in one or more series, of School District No. 5 of Spartanburg County, South Carolina, fixing the

form and certain details of the bonds; authorizing the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees or the Superintendent of the School District to determine certain matters relating to the bonds; providing for the payment of the bonds and the disposition of the proceeds thereof; authorizing the issuance of General Obligation bond anticipation notes, in one or more series, pending the issuance of the bonds; and other matters relating thereto.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to approve the Resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds related to the referendum approved by the voters, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck and approved unanimously 8-0.

- d) **Consideration to Authorize Participation in the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool:** Mr. Hayes also presented information requesting the board to authorize the district to participate in the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool, as recommended by the financial advisor. If approved, the Board of Trustees authorizes participation of School District No. 5 in the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool for the purpose of investment and authorizes its Treasurer to do all things necessary in order to participate in said Pool.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to authorize participation in the South Carolina Local Government Investment Pool, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 8-0.

- e) **Consideration of Guaranteed Maximum Price for Proposed Middle Schools:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, presented details to the board about the Guaranteed Maximum Price to build the new middle school on Gin House Road. Mr. Hootie Solesbee, with Harper Construction, was also in attendance to answer questions as needed.

Dr. Wood's presentation included renderings of the entire campus, as well as exterior drawings and floorplan of the new middle school. Dr. Wood reported that LS3P is the architect designing the school and Harper Construction is the general contractor. Dr. Wood reported that the guaranteed maximum price for the project is \$52,111,279.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price for the proposed middle school, as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 8-0.

- f) **SC Department of Education Waiver for Paper/Pencil Testing:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, made a request to the board for approval to submit a waiver to the State Department of Education to allow for paper/pencil testing in lieu of online testing for the ELA portion of the SC Ready test in grades 3 and 4.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to approve the administration's request for a paper/pencil testing waiver from the SC Department of Education. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck and approved unanimously 8-0.

- g) **Consideration of Budget Amendments for the Purpose of Increasing Pay for Certain Non-Certified Positions:** Mr. David Hayes reported that administration has been working for a while to review salary schedules for certain positions, as compared to the neighboring districts. The finance committee met to receive the comparison information and recommended an increase to the salary schedules for the following positions: substitute teachers, part time and full time custodians, teacher assistants, bus drivers, and nurses. If approved, the increases would take effect in January 2022.

Mr. Hayes reported that the budget amendment would cost an additional \$765,600 for the salary increases, and that the district has more than enough to cover the increase without a tax increase or a negative effect to the budget. Mr. Hayes also provided the updated salary schedules for review.

A motion was made by Mr. Rick Eitel, on behalf of the Finance Committee, to approve the budget amendments for the purpose of increasing pay for certain non-certified positions, as presented by the administration. No second was required and the motion passed unanimously 8-0.

## 9. Reports:

- a) **District Audit Report 2020-2021:** Mr. David Hayes provided the 2020-2021 District Audit Report, as presented to the finance committee on Monday, November 15, 2021. 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, 2021. Mr. Hayes also informed the board that there were no audit findings reported for this year or the previous year.

Mr. Hayes reported that the general operating fund balance increased \$1,869,873 over last year, which puts the district at the top range of our board policy requiring a fund balance of 15-20%. The total combined revenue for the district was reported at \$141,517,540, and the total combined expenditures was reported at \$127,909,583.

Following Mr. Hayes' report, a motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to move into Executive Session for personnel to discuss new hires, promotions, and resignations and to discuss contractual matters in reference to property search. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rick Eitel and approved unanimously (8-0).

## 10. Executive Session

- a) **Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations:**
- b) **Discussion of Contractual Matters in reference to Property Search:**

## 11. Return to Public Session:

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

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland that the board direct the superintendent to purchase seven properties for a combined tract of 141 acres, as discussed in executive session, for \$7,885,582.50, pending all due diligence approvals. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck and approved unanimously 8-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to direct the superintendent to negotiate the purchase of the property as presented, not to exceed \$1,000,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 8-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to approve the recommendation of the administration and enter into a contract with IkeCo Construction, Inc. to offer consulting services for new construction projects. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously 8-0.

There being no further business, Mr. Mark Cleveland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Meredith Gergley and approved unanimously (8-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Cleveland  
Secretary

Submitted by:  
Mrs. April Peel