

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, November 23, 2020 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. Steve Brockman (via Zoom)
Mr. Mark Cleveland
Mrs. Dawn Deck
Mr. Rick Eitel
Mrs. Meredith Gergley
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. Rick Eitel 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 26, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

Chairman McMakin thanked Dr. Gary and the administration for their work in implementing the Roadmap to Recovery. She reported that the board stands behind him and his staff as they work to make very difficult decisions regarding bringing students back to school safely.

4. **Action Items:**

- a) SC Department of Education Waiver for Paper/Pencil Testing: Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, informed the board that the

administration is seeking approval to request a waiver from the State Department of Education to administer the ELA section of the SCREADY assessment for third and fourth grade students in paper/pencil format in lieu of online testing. Dr. Rogers reported that the district has made this same request for the last two years.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to approve the administration's request to seek a waiver from the South Carolina Department of Education to test paper/pencil for grades three and four for SCReady. The motion, seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck, was approved unanimously (8-0).

- b) Consideration of Employee Bonuses: Dr. Randall Gary thanked the District Five staff for their extremely hard work over the last few months, as they worked during the pandemic, without receiving a step increase or a raise. The administration made a request that the board approve a one-time bonus for all full time employees in the amount of \$800.00, and reported that part-time staff would receive the appropriate amount based proportionally to their employment status. Dr. Gary reported that the total amount to the district would be \$984,000 and that revenue is projected to be more than budgeted and will cover the cost of the bonus.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to approve the employee bonus as presented by Dr. Randall Gary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rick Eitel and approved unanimously (8-0).

Mr. Eitel thanked Dr. Gary and Mr. David Hayes for bringing this request before the board. He also expressed his appreciation for how the staff has gone above and beyond during these difficult months, without an increase in pay.

5. Reports:

District Audit Report 2019-2020: Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, provided the 2019-2020 District Audit Report, as presented to the finance committee on Monday, November 16 where seven of the nine board members attended. 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, 2020. Mr. Hayes also informed the board that there were no audit findings reported for this year or the previous year.

Included in the audit report was the Management's Discussion and Analysis which outlined the following financial highlights: general operating fund balance increased \$1,538,995 over last year; general fund state revenue received was \$2,701,438 more than budgeted; general fund local revenue had a favorable variance of \$6,299,082 mainly due to fee-in-lieu of taxes collections being more than budgeted; there was a favorable expenditure variance of \$1,752,220 mainly due to an over-estimate of employee fringe benefits; the district was able to transfer \$9,500,000 more than budgeted to the Capital Projects Fund; the General Fund unassigned

balance was \$19,436,595 which is 20% of the total budgeted General Fund expenditures for fiscal year 2020-21, falling in line with the board policy requiring 15-20%.

Mr. Hayes also provided details of the statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the 2019-2020 year.

- a) **End of Course Scoring Update:** Dr. Jeff Rogers informed the board that the SC Department of Education has filed a waiver to remove the Federal Accountability measures in place, including End of Course testing. The district plans to amend the 20 percent weighting of the End of Course exam and use it as a test grade in the quarter in which it was taken. Teachers will administer their own, teacher-created exam, as the 20% exam grade in lieu of the End of Course exam.
- b) **2020 Outdoor Athletic Facilities Assessment:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Operations, introduced Mr. Ryan Cloonan, with McMillan, Pazdan, Smith. Mr. Cloonan provided a report of the 2020 Outdoor Athletic Facilities Assessment. Mr. Cloonan also provided a report for each board member which contained details of their findings.

Mr. Cloonan's report included information about the assessment process, condition classifications, prioritized list of athletic facility improvements, and assessment findings for athletic facilities at Beech Springs Intermediate School, D.R. Hill Middle School, Florence Chapel Middle School, Byrnes Freshman Academy, and Byrnes High School.

Specifically, Mr. Cloonan provided details about the softball complex at Beech Springs, track and soccer complex at Byrnes High School, tennis complex at Beech Springs, and the football stadium at Byrnes High School.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland to move into Executive Session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Rick Eitel, passed unanimously (8-0).

6. Executive Session:

- a) Discussion of Contractual Matters :

7. Return to Public Session:

- a) Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session: No action was taken.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland, and seconded by Mr. Rick Eitel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously (8-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Cleveland

Secretary

Submitted by: April Peel