

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, November 25, 2019 at Duncan Elementary School at 100 S. Danzler Road, Duncan, SC at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Steve Brockman
Mr. Mark Cleveland
Mrs. Dawn Deck
Mr. Rick Eitel
Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Mr. Phil McIntyre
Mrs. Julie McMakin
Mr. Jeff Proper

1. **Call to Order and Notice to Media:** Mr. Rick Eitel, 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. Steve Brockman 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 28, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, recognized the principals of the following schools for receiving the 2018 Palmetto Gold Award (Dr. Glenda Bigby with River Ridge Elementary and Mr. Michael Powell with Berry Shoals Intermediate) and the 2018 Palmetto Silver School Winner (Mr. Taylor Deal with Beech Springs Intermediate) and Dr. Tim Henson with Lyman Elementary School for receiving the 2019 Palmetto Silver Award. She also recognized the students who received perfect scores on the SC PASS and SC Ready assessments, as well as the winner of the Holiday Card Contest. Mr. Tony Gillespie, Athletic

Director, recognized the fall sports award recipients for middle and high school athletics including: football, volleyball, lady golf, swim, cross country, competition cheer, and lady tennis (see attachment for complete list of names).

5. Action:

- a) **SC Department of Education Online Testing Waiver:** Dr. Randall Gary recognized Dr. Ashley Atkinson, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, who informed the board of issues and concerns that have taken place with the online assessments on SCREADY over the past few years. The administration is seeking approval to request a waiver to administer the writing and reading portions of the SCREADY assessment for third and fourth grade students in paper/pencil format in lieu of online testing.

In addition, the administration is seeking approval to administer the Access Assessment for English Language Learners trying to acquire English skills in paper/pencil format in lieu of online testing.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (8-0) to approve the requests for the online testing waivers for SCREADY and Access assessments for the 2019-2020 school year, as presented by the administration.

6. Reports:

- a) **District Audit 2018-2019:** Mr. Barry Reese, Director of Procurement, presented the annual procurement report for the 2018-2019 school year, as required by the District's Procurement Code. Mr. Reese briefed the board on the district's nine Sole Source Procurements, four Emergency Procurements, and the Minority Business Enterprise Plan. Mr. Reese provided the definitions and goals of the Minority Business Enterprise Plan and how the Vendor Activity Report was used to determine the percentage of procurements involving minority owned companies. The district reported 2.5% of total eligible procurements involved minority-owned businesses. Mr. Reese also explained that had we been able to eliminate the \$19,319,289 paid to Harper Construction Corporation, the total procurements with minority owned business would have increased to 19%, which would have been well over the district's goal of 10 percent.

Mr. Reese also reported that the audit summary provided by McAbee, Schwartz, Halliday & Co. now contains a detailed list of findings and the district provides a response. The four findings for the district pertained to procurement card usage. The district responded with procedures to eliminate these issues in the future.

In addition, Mr. David Hayes, Director of Finance, provided the 2018-2019 District Audit Report, as presented to the finance committee on Monday, November 18 where seven of the nine board members attended. His report included documentation to show that the audit firm, McAbee, Schwartz, Halliday 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, 2019. Mr. Hayes also informed the board that there were no audit findings reported.

Included in the audit report was the Management's Discussion and Analysis which outlined the following financial highlights: general operating fund balance increased \$1,272,561 over last year; general fund state revenue received was \$1,995,903 more than budgeted due to the significant number of students enrolled; general fund local revenue had a favorable variance of \$4,403,717 due to insurance proceeds for damaged roofs and an increase in fee-in-lieu of taxes; there was a favorable expenditure variance of \$1,023,314 mainly due to an over-estimate of employee fringe benefits; the district was able to transfer \$8,575,000 to the Capital Projects Fund; the General Fund unassigned balance was \$17,892,235 which is 19.2% of the total budgeted General Fund expenditures, falling in line with the board policy requiring 15-20%.

Mr. Hayes also reported that the district issued \$4 million in General Obligation Bonds for capital projects to help fund the Abner Creek Academy expansion and the Byrnes High School parking lot and new baseball field expansion projects.

- b) **Facility Update:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Operations, presented facility updates throughout the district. Dr. Wood's report included an update on the expansion at Abner Creek Academy which is scheduled for completion in early May; the construction progress of the new baseball field at Byrnes High School, which is currently running a little ahead of schedule; new sidewalks to be installed in downtown Reidville in February 2020, which will tie into the existing sidewalk from the old school, as well as the installation of the monument once the sidewalks are completed; the completion of the roof project at Byrnes Freshman Academy; and the timeline of the expansion of Beech Springs Intermediate School. Dr. Wood reported that the Beech Springs project should be in the design phase in December 2019, awarded in May 2020, with construction to begin in June of 2020 and be completed in March 2021.
- c) **Spartanburg County Oversight Committee Update:** Mr. Rick Eitel, Board Chairman, provided an update on the Minimum County Foundation distribution for the 2019-2020 school year, as presented at the county superintendent's meeting on November 12, 2019.

Mr. Eitel reported that the distribution is based on the effective weighted student population. The Oversight Committee voted to propose an amendment to allow an increase to the Minimum County Foundation on an annual basis by the Consumer Price Index and the population of the state. The purpose of the recommendation is to continue to fund competitive teacher salaries relative to surrounding counties to attract and retain talented teachers.

The proposal will be presented to the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation for consideration during the upcoming legislative session.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously (8-0) to move into Executive Session for the purpose of Act 207/155 Diploma Requests and Discussion of Contractual Matters.

7. Executive Session

- a) **Act 207/155 Diploma Requests:**
- b) **Discussion of Contractual Matters:**

8. Return to Public Session:

- a. **Act 207/155 Diploma Requests:** In open session, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (8-0) to grant the petitions of two former students who requested to receive a high school diploma due to the passing of ACT 207/155.
- b. **Contractual Matters:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (8-0) to authorize the District Five Superintendent, Dr. Randall Gary, to execute the presented contract for the prospective property purchase discussed on November 25, 2019 on behalf of the District Five Schools Board of Trustees.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil McIntyre
Secretary