

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, February 24, 2020 at the District Five Administrative Office at 100 N. Danzler Road, Duncan, SC at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Jeff Boland
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:** 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. Phil McIntyre led the opening prayer.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, recognized Mrs. Jennifer Linkous, teacher from Abner Creek Academy, who is the 2019-20 Spartanburg County Distinguished Literacy Teacher of the Year award winner.

5. Reports:

- a) **Construction Update:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Operations, provided construction updates for several projects taking place within the district. Included in his presentation were updates on the Abner Creek Academy expansion progress. Dr. Wood reported that the project is 42 days behind schedule, but expected to be in line with the original completion date. The expansion should be in the dry by March 6; the Office of School Facilities overhead inspection is expected to take place on April 15; and the HVAC expected start date is May 11.

Dr. Wood also provided photos of the Phase 1 Byrnes High School parking lot and baseball field projects. This project is also 50 days behind schedule due to the excess rain we have had lately, but they are working hard to catch up. The pressbox is expected to be in the dry on March 19; however, the target date of completion is unknown at this time.

In addition, Dr. Wood provided photos of the sidewalk installation at the new Reidville Elementary School, which tied into the existing sidewalks. Dr. Wood also provided photos of the demolition of the old Reidville Elementary School. The sign at the new Reidville Elementary School is also ready for installation once the area dries out from the rain.

- b) **Facilities and Demographics Study:** Dr. Randall Gary, Superintendent, informed the board that M.B. Kahn had been invited back to follow up on the facilities and demographics study that was reported in January. Mr. Bill Cram thanked the board for the opportunity to work on the study. Ms. Maggie Dittmar provided a brief follow-up on the presentation from the study. She again informed the board of the exponential growth the district has experienced to date, and that is expected for the next five years. Ms. Dittmar explained that by 2024-25 the district will have all but two schools over capacity if nothing is done to address the growth and facility needs. Again, Ms. Dittmar commended the district on thinking ahead and planning to prepare for the growth to date. The two options recommended were briefly reviewed again. Option One would be to shift fourth grade to the intermediate schools. Option Two would be to omit the intermediate grade level completely, changing the grade structure to elementary (K-5), middle (6-8), high school (9th grade campus) and (10-12). Both options are expected to cost around \$170-\$180 million.

Ms. Dittmar also reported on other needs within the district that should be considered for the immediate future, but were not part of the last presentation.

Those considerations were: Wellford Academy, which was recommended for complete or partial replacement; Duncan Elementary School of the Arts, which was recommended for renovations; and Byrnes Freshman Academy, which was recommended for complete replacement (not due to capacity, but age of the building and inadequate core spaces, corridor widths, and aging systems). The District Office was also recommended for complete replacement or addition. It has been 23 years since the District Office was renovated, and the district's enrollment has doubled since that time.

Mr. Cram closed the presentation and thanked the board for the opportunity to work with the school district.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously (9-0) to move into Executive Session for the purposes of Act 207/155 Diploma Request, Employment Matters, and Contractual Matters.

6. Executive Session

- a) Act 207/155 Diploma Request
- b) Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires
- c) Discussion of Contractual Matters

7. **Return to Public Session:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (9-0) to move from Executive Session to Open Session.

- a. **Act 207/155 Diploma Request:** In open session, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (9-0) to grant the petition of a former student who requested to receive a high school diploma due to the passing of ACT 207/155.
- b. **Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires:** In open session, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (9-0) to approve the personnel changes as presented.

A motion was also made, seconded, and passed unanimously (9-0) to approve the contract recommendations as presented.

In compliance with Board Policy BCB – Board Member Conflict of Interest, three teacher’s contracts were voted on individually. These teachers have family members who serve on the board. The votes are recorded as follows:

Laura Brockman, Math Interventionist: (8-0-1): Steve Brockman abstained from voting.

Alicia Crutchlow, Florence Chapel Middle School: (8-0-1): Phil McIntyre abstained from voting.

Jennifer Eitel, River Ridge Elementary School: (8-0-1): Rick Eitel abstained from voting.

- c. **Contractual Matters:** In open session, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously (9-0) to fully convey the old Rock Hill School property to Moore’s Chapel Baptist church, to develop or dispose of, without providing first rights of refusal to Spartanburg District Five Schools, as required in the 2005 purchase agreement.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Cleveland
Secretary