

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, February 27, 2023 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. Alex Perez  
Mrs. Sherri Taunton  
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:** Mrs. Sherri Taunton 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 30, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Swearing-In of New Board Member:** Mr. Alex Perez, newly appointed board member, was sworn in and repeated the Oath of Office. Dr. Randall Gary, Superintendent, presided over the oath.
5. **Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, recognized Mr. Matt Wofford, Mr. Bryan Bone, and other band staff to be recognized for awards the Rebel Regiment received during the 2022 Competition Season. The following Rebel Regiment student leaders received certificates (Karis Abrams, Faith Eckard, Madelyn Pace, Ayden Barnett, Nyla Pinckney, Alayna Phillips, Michael McDonald, Dominique Quinonez, Kalyn Baxter, Anabelle Ly, Kendall Montgomery, Grant Goode, and Nathan Jones).

Mrs. Robinette then called Mr. Ryan Cothran, Director of Public Safety, who recognized the district's thirteen Student Resource Officers [Christian Ruiz (ACA), Rob Castillo (LES), Mark Hayes (DES), John Wright (WA), Roland McAbee (RRES), Bill Fowler (RES), Brandon Clement (BSIS), Tommie Brooks (BRSH), JT Parris (DRH), Teresa Ferguson (FCMS), Kelsy Ledford (BFA); Derek Roper and Sheryl Higgins (BHS)]. Each officer was presented with an award. Following the presentation, Chairman Boland also recognized Mr. Cothran and thanked the officers for their service.

Chairman Boland called the family of Mr. Ott Sizemore to be recognized in honor of Mr. Sizemore's service to the board. The family was presented with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

6. **Action:**

- a. **Selection of Audit Firm:** Dr. Millie Malone, Chair of the Board Finance Committee, reported that the finance committee met on Friday, February 10 to review the top three firms who submitted proposals for auditor services. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Dr. Malone made a motion that the district award the contract for auditor services to Halliday, Schwartz & Co. for fiscal years 2023-2027.

The motion, not requiring a second, was approved unanimously 9-0.

- b. **Consideration of Adoption of New Science Textbooks:** Dr. Jeff Rogers and Mr. Matt Wofford presented information on new Science textbooks that are being recommended for adoption. Mr. Wofford reviewed the procedures that had taken place in selecting the books being presented.

Following the presentation, Dr. Rogers reported that it was the recommendation of the administration to adopt the Biology 1; Biology 1 Honors; and Biology AP textbooks as presented.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to approve the science textbooks as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously 9-0.

## 7. Reports:

- a. **Board Redistricting Proposal:** Mr. Will Roberts, with the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation General Assembly, presented two proposals for possible redistricting. Mr. Roberts explained that the General Assembly is the ultimate authority on redistricting, and wanted to provide the information for the board and public's review. He asked that feedback be provided to the local delegation, and reported that Mr. Max Hyde is the local delegation chair.

Mr. Roberts presented the district's current configuration based on the 2020 census information. Mr. Roberts explained the process used in determining the lines to accommodate the district's population growth while maintaining a less than 10% demographic deviation.

Two options were then presented. One option keeps the same format of a 1-2-6 member district, as the district currently has. A second option of nine single member districts was also presented.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Several board members expressed concern about the possibility of some districts not having any applicants for representation if a change is made to the nine single member districts. Concern was also expressed about not having delegates in attendance for the presentation, the possibility of a major board turnover resulting from a change to a nine single member redistricting, and a concern about having to continue to appoint board members versus the public having the opportunity to elect them.

- b. **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: Basement excavation is complete; installation of basement footing and form retaining walls; soil stabilization ongoing and steel erection continuing
  - Beech Springs: upcoming work includes administration area and interior framing; gym footers and foundation pours; lab and overhead utilities installation; block walls, retaining walls and football fields ongoing
  - Berry Shoals: new kindergarten wing demolition complete; kindergarten wing final inspection to be held March 6; plumbing and electrical installation ongoing
  - Tyger River Elementary School: sewer and main storm lines complete; upcoming includes curbing, stone and paving, foundation footings
  - Reidville Elementary addition: exterior brick ongoing; upcoming ice and water roof shield began February 27; wall framing near completion; overhead utilities ongoing; traffic signal to begin in March
  - New Wellford Academy: sewer connection complete; grading continuing; former drain field removed; new parent loop and ponds complete August 2023

- Abner Creek Middle School: transformer set and will power up March 6; sheetrock, exterior doors, ceiling painting and right of way acquisition ongoing

Following Dr. Wood's report, the floor was opened for questions. Board members inquired about the reasoning behind the size of the expansion of the new wings at Reidville Elementary, and if there were traffic issues anticipated at the new Wellford Academy.

At 7:52 pm, a motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to move into Executive Session for the discussion of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions and resignations, and contractual matters in reference to potential land transfers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 9-0.

## **8. Executive Session**

- a) Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations**
- b) Discussion of Contractual Matters in Reference to Potential Land Transfers**

## **9. Return to Public Session:**

### **a) Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to leave Executive Session and return to Public Session at 9:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

In public session, a motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the new hires, promotions, and resignations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley  
Secretary

Submitted by:  
Mrs. April Peel