

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, March 25, 2024 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. Scott Clement
Mr. Mark Cleveland
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:** Dr. Millie Malone led the opening prayer.

3. **Consent Agenda:**

- a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the February 26, 2024 meeting were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Chairman Jeff Boland introduced Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, for the Special Recognition portion of the meeting. Mrs. Robinette recognized members of the Palmetto Council Boy Scouts of America, who presented the

Elbert K. Fretwell Award to Ms. Lynn Goodson, teacher at Byrnes High School. Mrs. Robinette then introduced Russ and Andrea Howard, Athletic Directors, who recognized middle and high school student athletes and coaches from wrestling, basketball, cheer, football, and volleyball for their awards and accomplishments. See attached for a complete list of names.

Following the recognition, Chairman Boland called for a brief recess, and then called the meeting back to order.

5. Reports:

- a) **Facilities Update:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, provided an update on current construction and facility projects taking place throughout the district.

Included in Dr. Wood's reports were updates on the following: Byrnes Phase 2; Beech Springs Gym; Athletic Fields at Beech Springs; Danzler Road improvements; Tyger River Elementary; and Wellford Academy. Dr. Wood also provided information about furniture deliveries for new schools, timeline for upcoming GMPs for Byrnes Phase 3, Duncan roof replacement project, and updates at Berry Shoals Elementary.

Following the presentation, board members inquired about the completion timeline for the Wellford Academy project, which is currently running on schedule.

- b) **Athletic Facility Update:** Dr. Greg Wood introduced Mr. Ryan Cloonan, architect with McMillan, Pazdan, Smith, to present renderings of a new Byrnes High School Football Stadium. Mr. Cloonan reported that he had met on several occasions with administration, athletic and band directors, coaches and stakeholders to review the proposed plan and ask how they meet programming needs.

Mr. Cloonan recapped the site plan and presented images of the stadium and surrounding areas.

Following the presentation, the Board Chairman asked if any money would be used from the 2021 Bond Referendum to help fund the stadium. Administration confirmed that as promised, no money from the referendum would be used towards the new Byrnes High School stadium. Dr. Gary reported that Referendum funds are strictly prohibited from being spent on anything other than the specific schools designated in the referendum, or future land purchases.

Board members also inquired about what changes coaching and band staff suggested during their meeting with the architect; reserved seating possibilities; ensuring adequate handicap access with proper signage; safety and security concerns with crowd control; playing field dimensions; the timeline for completion to ensure that the district would only be without fields for one complete season; concerns about using artificial turf, and

how many additional parking spaces would be added.

6. **Executive Session:** A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations.

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

7. **Return to Public Session:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to end Executive Session and return to Public Session at 8:43 pm. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved unanimously 9-0.

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

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the employee contracts as presented for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously 9-0.

In compliance with Board Policy BCB – Board Member Conflict of Interest, the following board members abstained from voting on the contracts of their family members.

Mr. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Wendy Bralley as presented for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Kevin Goode abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Lori Goode as presented for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Kevin Goode abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Nick Johnson as presented for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Derek Watchorn abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Elaine Ready, as presented for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Alex Perez abstained from voting).

Mrs. Gergley moved to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the contract for Katie Watchorn as presented for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved 8-0-1 (Mr. Derek Watchorn abstained from voting).

There being no further business, Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to adjourn the March board meeting at 8:50 pm. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton and approved unanimously 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Secretary

Submitted by: Mrs. April Peel