

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, May 22, 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. Meredith Gergley led the opening prayer.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
- b. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the April 24, 2023 and May 15, 2023 meetings were approved as presented.

4. **Special Recognition:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, recognized the following students who received the Superintendent's Citizenship Award: Oliver Rosilla (ACA), Isaac Parlow (DES), Alexis Lang (LES), Charlee Grace Watson (RES), Travis Cureton (RRES), Rachel Rozvodovskyy (WA), Anna Canfield (BSIS), Brandt Vanderwarker (BRSH), Ella Deal (RH), Griffin Keels (FCMS), Benjamin Kevin Yakhontov (BFA), and Tim

Sulton (BHS).

Mrs. Robinette then introduced Coach Reggie Shaw, who presented certificates to the spring athletic award recipients. Certificates were presented for Girls and Boys Soccer, Boys Tennis, Girls and Boys Lacrosse, and Track. See attached for the complete list of names.

Following recognition, Chairman Boland congratulated the students for their honors and then called a brief recess for photos.

## 5. Action Items:

- a. **Consideration of Locally Approved Courses:** Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, provided details of the 2023-2024 Local Board Approved Courses. Dr. Rogers explained that the courses are approved annually, and briefly reviewed the list of courses. Dr. Rogers, on behalf of the administration, recommended that the board approve the 2023-2024 Local Approved Courses as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the Locally Approved Courses for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

- b. **Consideration of School Openings, Closings and Grade Configuration Timeline:** Dr. Jeff Rogers provided an overview of the school openings, closings, and grade configurations for the 2024-2025 school year. In order to receive School Identification Numbers for each school to move forward in PowerSchool, the state requires the board to vote on the opening and closing dates of schools. Dr. Rogers informed the board that Beech Springs and Berry Shoals Intermediate Schools will be closing on June 30, 2024, and Tyger River Elementary, Berry Shoals Elementary, Abner Creek Middle and Beech Springs Middle Schools will be opening July 1, 2024. Dr. Rogers informed the board that the grade configurations would also change, eliminating the intermediate level in 2024-2025. After reviewing the dates, Dr. Rogers made the recommendation that the board approve the opening and closing dates as presented.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the school openings, closings, and grade configurations as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott Clement and approved unanimously 9-0.

- c. **Consideration of Proposed Attendance Lines 2024-2025 School Year:** Chairman Boland thanked the community members who came to the May 15 meeting to address their concerns over the proposed attendance lines. He then introduced Mr. Ryan Cothran, Director of Safety and Emergency Services, to provide an overview of

the 2024-2025 proposed attendance line changes. He briefly reviewed the goals, obstacles and challenges, enrollment numbers, information on grandfathering students, and limited school choice details. He also informed the board of the school choice deadline, which will run October 2 - November 21.

Following the presentation, Mrs. Gergley made a motion to approve the proposed attendance line changes beginning the 2024-2025 school year as presented by the administration. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Sherri Taunton.

Chairman Boland asked for confirmation that school choice will be offered at all District Five schools beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Cothran confirmed that school choice would be offered at all District Five Schools beginning in the 2024-2025 school year.

Board members also inquired about how the administration reviewed the concerns from Anderson Grant and Heatherbrook, and asked if there were any other options. Administration reported that due to the large number of homes scheduled to be built near Reidville Elementary School, many within walking distance, there are no other surrounding neighborhoods that have the large number of elementary aged students that Anderson Grant does. Therefore, the district really had no other option for that area.

Following questions, the motion was approved unanimously 9-0.

**d. Consideration of Owner Allowance for Gin House Road and Utility Relocation**

**Project:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, introduced Mr. David Wise, President of Harper General Contractors, to provide details about the need for utility relocation and road improvements on Gin House Road at the construction site of Abner Creek Middle School.

Mr. Wise provided the details of the project to include the Gin House Road improvements and traffic signal work to be performed. He also provided the cost and scheduling information. The Right of Way procurement is scheduled for June 2023 with utility relocation taking 60 days and roadway construction taking 155 days.

Harper didn't have significant information at the time of the original allowance in November 2021, which was approved for \$1,000,000. The adjustment to the allowance is \$269,354 for a total of \$1,269,354.

Dr. Wood then reported that \$69,000 would be taken out of the current contingency, and the administration is requesting approval of an additional \$200,000.

Mrs. Meredith Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and approve the Owners Allowance for the Gin House Road and

Utility Relocation Project, not to exceed \$200,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Board members inquired about when the project would be complete, how much Right of Way was being purchased, widening of the bridge on Gin House Road, and who would be responsible for utility relocation work.

Following questions, the motion was approved 9-0.

## **6. Reports:**

- a. Facilities Update:** Dr. Greg Wood, Assistant Superintendent of Operations, provided a facilities update on the construction projects taking place across the district. His report included updates on the following:

Gym Floor refinishing at Byrnes Freshman Academy; Byrnes High School Phase 2; Beech Springs Intermediate School; Berry Shoals Intermediate School; Tyger River Elementary School; Reidville Elementary School; Highway 296 Traffic Signal; Abner Creek Middle School; and the New Wellford Academy.

Chairman Boland opened the floor for questions. Board members inquired about all projects being on schedule, issues with the slow installation of the traffic signal, and if there were any cost concerns on any other projects.

A motion was made at 7:45 pm by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing: employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions and resignations; contractual matters in reference to Right of Way Attorney, and contractual matters in reference to a potential property transfer. The motion was seconded by Mr. Derek Watchorn and approved unanimously 9-0.

## **7. Executive Session**

- a) Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations**
- b) Discussion of Contractual Matters in Reference to Right of Way Attorney**
- c) Discussion of Contractual Matters in Reference to Potential Property Transfer**

## **8. 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 8:58 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Meredith Gergley to accept the recommendation of the administration and offer contracts to the employees as presented and discussed in executive session. The motion was seconded by Dr. Millie Malone and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Gergley made a motion to accept the recommendation of the administration and hire Mr. Ryan McCarty to represent the district as our Right of Way Attorney. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mark Cleveland and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Gergley also made a motion to authorize the superintendent to continue contract negotiations as discussed in executive session and execute a final contract in consultation with our legal counsel, Allen Smith. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Goode and approved unanimously 9-0.

Mrs. Gergley then made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 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