

The District Five Board of Trustees met Monday, August 23, 2021 at Duncan Elementary School at 100 S. Danzler Road, Duncan, SC at 6:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. Jeff Boland (via phone call)
Mr. Mark Cleveland
Mrs. Dawn Deck
Mr. Rick Eitel
Mrs. Meredith Gergley
Dr. Millie Malone
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. Rick Eitel led the opening prayer.

3. **Consent Agenda**

- a) **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.
- b) **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the June 28, 2021 and August 2, 2021 meetings were approved as presented.

4. **Action:**

- a) **Consideration of a Resolution ordering a Referendum in School District No. 5 of Spartanburg County, SC, to submit to the electors of the School District the question of whether the School District shall be authorized to issue not exceeding \$295,000,000 General Obligation Bonds in one or more series, in one or more years; providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of**

the referendum; and providing for all other matters necessary to submit the aforesaid question: Dr. Randall Gary, Superintendent, and Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, provided details and information on addressing growth in the district, and requested approval for a Bond Referendum to be placed on the November 2, 2021 election ballot.

Dr. Gary reminded the board that growth studies were done in 2019 and again in 2021. The studies found that District Five is the fastest growing district in Spartanburg County, and one of the fastest growing in the state. The results of the studies also recommended changing the structure of our schools to the following: Elementary (grades K-5), Middle (grades 6-8), Freshman Academy (grade 9), and High (grades 10-12).

Dr. Gary outlined the issues with capacity at our current schools and addressed the need for the following: building a new elementary school on the North side of the district; building a new middle school on the campus of Abner Creek; renovating Beech Springs Intermediate to a middle school; renovating Berry Shoals Intermediate to an elementary school, completing the remaining phases of expansion at Byrnes High School, rebuilding a new Wellford Academy at the current site, and adding onto Reidville Elementary School.

Dr. Gary explained that the cost for these projects would not exceed \$295,000,000 and would require no tax increase. The districts outstanding debt will be paid off in June 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2028, which frees up existing funds to pay principal and interest on the new debt. The new payments would be spread over 25 years, and the growth of assessed taxable property will also help fund future payments.

Mr. Hayes informed the board that the Resolution presented had been prepared by the bond attorneys working with the Spartanburg Election Commission. As required, notice will be published in the Spartanburg Herald Journal on August 27, September 7, and October 9. In addition, the Resolution authorizes the Superintendent, Board Chair, and Board Secretary to execute such documents and instruments necessary with regard to the Referendum.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland, seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck, and approved unanimously (9-0) to approve a Resolution ordering a Referendum in School District No. 5 of Spartanburg County, SC, to submit to the electors of the School District the question of whether the School District shall be authorized to issue not exceeding \$295,000,000 General Obligation Bonds in one or more series, in one or more years; providing for the form of ballot to be used; providing for notice of the referendum; and providing for all other matters necessary to submit the aforesaid question.

- b) **Extension of COVID-19 Related Leave - Administrative Rules GCC-R(2)-Professional Staff and GDC-R(2)-Support Staff:** Mrs. Heather Lister, Director of Personnel, provided details about a request to extend the COVID leave administrative

rule through December 2021. The extension of the administrative rule would allow 10 days of paid leave for staff who have to be absent from work due to COVID, and are unable to work from home. Due to the current rise in COVID cases, the administration recommends approval to extend the dates from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

A motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland that in light of the expiration of the Employee Paid Sick Leave Act (ESPLA) of the Families First Coronavirus Act, the District will continue to grant eligible employees emergency paid sick leave for up to two weeks and extend the deadline through December 31, 2021, as outlined by the EPSLA, and be retroactive to July 1, 2021. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rick Eitel and approved unanimously 9-0.

5. Reports:

- a) **Back to School Update:** Mrs. Melissa Robinette, Director of Public Relations, provided a report on back to school updates throughout the district. Mrs. Robinette reported that enrollment as of the meeting was 9,738 students, which is an increase of 698 from last year. This is the largest single year increase in history. Also of note, there are 1500 students who are brand new to District Five. Mrs. Robinette also reported that the district has 134 new employees, for a total of 1302 staff members.

Mrs. Robinette's report also included information from our Transportation Department, Food Services Department, Virtual School enrollment, COVID infection numbers, issues with traffic, and staffing needs throughout the district.

- b) **COVID Funding and Programming Updates:** Mr. David Hayes, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Jeff Rogers, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, provided information pertaining to COVID funding and programs.

Mr. Hayes' detailed report provided a breakdown on how the Federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) have been used. His report outlined funding from the Coronavirus Relief Funds allocation that expires 9/30/21, ESSER I allocation that expires 9/30/22, ESSER II Funds that expire 9/30/23, and ESSER III funds that expire 9/30/24. To date, the district has received a total of \$18,899,251.07 in federal funds. The state requires that at least 20% of these funds be spent on learning loss. Mr. Hayes reported that District Five has designated 65% of our funds to address learning loss.

Dr. Rogers provided further information about how the district plans to work with AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, to provide professional development for educators to close opportunity gaps and improve college and career readiness for students. Dr. Rogers informed the board that he is working with their executive leadership team to bring trainers to the district to train our staff over the next three years.

Following the presentations, a motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland, seconded

by Mr. Phil McIntyre, and passed unanimously 8-0 (Mr. Jeff Boland left the meeting, via phone, before the Reports began) to move into Executive Session for the purposes of employment matters in reference to new hires, promotions, and resignations and contractual matters in reference to Construction Management at Risk.

6. Executive Session

- a) **Discussion of Employment Matters in Reference to New Hires, Promotions, and Resignations:**
- b) **Discussion of Contractual Matters in reference to Construction Management at Risk (CMAR Firms):**

7. Return to Public Session:

- a) **Action on Items Discussed in Executive Session:** In open session, a motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland, seconded by Mr. Jeff Proper, and approved unanimously 8-0 to approve the recommendation of the administration and offer contracts to the candidates as presented.

In addition, a motion was made by Mr. Mark Cleveland that the board report Employee A to the State Department of Education for Breach of Contract. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck and approved unanimously 8-0.

A motion was also made by Mr. Mark Cleveland, seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck, and approved unanimously 8-0 to approve the award of contracts to the following construction firms, as determined by the District Selection Committee, and that the board authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and sign a contract with them for potential future projects.

1. Thompson Turner Construction Company
2. Harper Corporation

Mr. Mark Cleveland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Dawn Deck and passed unanimously 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Cleveland
Secretary

Submitted by:
Mrs. April Peel