

SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Charles H. Humphries, Jr., Administration Building
Spartanburg, South Carolina
Tuesday, January 5, 2016
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Julie Lonon
Ms. Sharon Porter
Mr. Sanders Lee
Mr. Vernon Beatty
Mrs. Meg Clayton
Mr. Rick Gray
Mr. Andy Hayes
Mr. Clay Mahaffey
Dr. Ernest White

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: None

NOTICE TO MEDIA: In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80, as amended, the following were notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting: THE SPARTANBURG HERALD/JOURNAL, WSPA, WYFF

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Julie Lonon called the meeting to order. The invocation and Pledge of Allegiance were given by Ms. Porter
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** Molly Talbot Metz with the Mary Black Foundation presented the Culture of Health Award to the District. This is a distinction Mary Black shared with a number of its partners and is a tremendous honor for our community. Mr. Fred Logan, Principal of Cleveland and Mrs. Virginia Jones, Assistant Principal, accepted two very generous gifts on behalf of the District and Cleveland Academy. The Board of the Piedmont Interstate Fair Association volunteered to sponsor a very special field trip for every single one of our Cleveland 5th graders. Mr. Wayne Harmon, the President and CEO of the Piedmont Interstate Fair Association, and Mr. WC Bain and Mr. JP Baehr both on the Board presented a check to the school for \$11,000. Another devoted neighbor to Cleveland, the Dellfrio Company, which is located directly across the street from the school, was also recognized. Mr. Marco Gomez, President and CEO, has been a longtime advocate for the many gains taking place at Cleveland, and with a recent gift of \$10,000 to the Northside Development Group, he continues to be one of Cleveland's biggest fans. Ms. Hammond shared the news

of the District earning the prestigious recognition from Apple for the technology initiative launched in 2013 called Seven Ignites. Honored as one only of 300 Apple Distinguished Schools or Programs in the world –Apple honored the district for what they believe are 5 best practices in successfully implementing technology in our schools – including, visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success and the creation of flexible learning environments. The Viking Early College was awarded the Golden Show Award which is presented each year in conjunction with International Walk to School Day and supported by Chartwell’s – the food service provider for District Seven Schools. This is a fun award for our students and a great collaboration with both Chartwells and Partners for Active Living in Spartanburg. Peggy Luther, the District Manager for Chartwells, and Rebecca Parish from Partners for Active Living presented the Golden Shoe Award to Verotta Kennedy and her team. Five teachers were honored for obtaining National Board Certification or Recertification, which is the highest credential in the teaching profession: Mary Beth Doherty from Chapman, Becky Littlefield from Whitlock, Hayley Fust (renewal) from McCracken, Mary Ann Stoddard (renewal) from Pine Street, and Janet Walker (renewal) from SHS. Pine Street media specialist Lee Anne Bailie was honored for going the extra mile by finding an opportunity for a matching grant project with the Capstone book company - she was able to purchase a total of \$1000 in interactive eBooks for Teachers and students in kindergarten, second and fourth grades. Carver Middle School was honored for being named a National Beta Club School of Distinction for their commitment to preparing students for college and career readiness. Miss Nicole Thompson is the Principal at Carver and Antrina Miller is the school’s Beta Club Advisor. Carver has 35 Beta Club members, which is the most they’ve had in 5 years, and their members organized and participated in number of great service projects this year including a recent Thanksgiving food drive for needy families in our community. Assistant Principal Katrina Robinson was also honored for her involvement in reestablishing a Beta Club at Pine Street School, where there are 100 newly inducted members. DeShawn Nesbitt and Gina Khoury, teachers at Carver, were recognized for going the extra mile by writing a grant to implement a Marathon Kids Running Club for a start up team of 30 runners who will each run by years end – 26 miles over the course of the next few months. A number of student athletes were honored. All-State Golfer for 2015 Anna Morgan, a freshman at Spartanburg High, finished the season with 3rd place as an individual golfer with scores of 72 and 76; and Elle Johnson, another freshman member of the Lady Viking’s golf team, earned the title of Region II- 4A Co-Player of the year with 36 scoring and 82 tournament averages. Remy Skerjanz was honored for being named the 4A state champion in the 200-yard freestyle and county champion in the 500 freestyle and Remy was named the Herald-Journal/GoUpstate Preps Boys Swimmer of the Year. Maggie Cubitt was honored for her prowess on the tennis court, she finished the year 15-0 and led the Vikings to the third round of the 4A playoffs and won the 4A/3A singles state championship. She was also named the Herald-Journal Girls Tennis Player of the Year for the third consecutive season and SC Coaches Association of Women’s Sports Class 4A Player of the Year. The Viking Football team was

honored for another thrilling year on the field with their hard work earning them the Regions II 4A Division Championship- and brought some major distinctions for both Coach Miller and his players. The South Carolina Football Coaches Association also named Chris Miller the 2015 Palmetto Champions All-Star Football Coach of the Year; this is his 3rd year as head coach with the Vikings. Quarterback Austin Scott was honored for being named the SC Gatorade Player of the Year, Region II-4A Player of the Year, Palmetto Champions 4A Back of the Year, a finalist for both Parade and MaxPreps National Player of the Year, for being selected to play in the Shrine Bowl, and for being named Spartanburg Herald Journal Offensive Player of the Year. Running back Tavien Feaster was honored for being named South Carolina's 21st Mr. Football, the prestigious honor that recognizes the best football player in the state. He was also honored for playing in the December Shrine Bowl and in the Alamodome for the US Army All American Bowl. Thirty-one District 7 students were applauded for earning the maximum scale score on at least one section of the ACT Aspire test. ACT Aspire was a new test for students in grades 3-8 that was given last year – and replaced the SC Pass test in writing, English, reading and math: Annabelle Allison, Teagan Barnett, Abigail Bright, Ethan Hunt, Lawson Kyle, Lydia Lawrence, Katelyn Shackelford, Chase Staley, DreQuasha Beason, Jonathan Duncan, Taliesin Vaneman, Ethan Button, Jessie Arrington, Anna Becknell, Ellen Fields, Violette Franke, Kennedy Gordon, McCall Hope, Mac Kimbrell, Kirsti McEnroe, Wesley Shelton, Cooper Stone, Gracie Wood, Jason Button, Matilyn Fulmer, Nathan Jones, John Kendrick, William Long, Amy Reith, and Harrison Van Vleet.

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS: Ted Lucktenberg, Julian Newberry and Elizabeth Hull spoke to the board regarding the Capital Improvement Plan.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Mr. Hayes to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

B. Approval of Referendum Resolution: A motion was made by Mr. Beatty ordering a referendum in School District No. 7 of Spartanburg, South Carolina, to submit the question of whether School District No. 7 of Spartanburg County shall issue not exceeding \$185,000,000 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 things necessary to submit the ballot question (attached), seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

C. Approval of MOU Between District 7 and Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg: A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the MOU between District 7 and Meeting Street Academy seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. Mr. Beatty

made a motion to amend Mr. Lee's motion and take this back to the Instructional Services Committee for discussion, seconded by Dr. White. All in favor of Mr. Beatty's motion were: Ms. Porter and Mr. Gray. The motion failed. Mr. Lee then brought the motion back to the table, to approve the MOU between District 7 and Meeting Street Academy-Spartanburg, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Cleveland Calendar: A motion was made by Dr. White to approve an additional 5 weeks to be added to the Cleveland Academy of Leadership School Calendar pending approval from the State Board Of Education for the 2016-2017 school term, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

E. Approval of Mission, Vision, and Values Statements: A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the newly developed Mission, Vision, and Values statements as presented, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

F. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Ernest White to attend the NSBA Advocacy Institute January 23-27, 2016 in Washington, DC: A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the travel, seconded by Mr. Gray. All were in favor to the motion. The motion passed.

G. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Rick Gray and Ernest White to attend the NSBA Annual Conference, April 9-11, 2016: A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the travel, seconded by Ms. Porter. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

VI. Reports from Administration:

Instruction: Dr. Terry Pruitt, Deputy Superintendent, reminded the board that AdvancED was accrediting the school district. He said the last year the self-study involving a diverse group of community and school stakeholders had been completed. Dr. Pruitt said the five-year external review was scheduled for March 13 – 16, 2016. Dr. Pruitt shared that the new state assessment replacing ACT Aspire has been named and in spring of this school year, students in grades 3 – 8 would be administered the English Language Arts (ELA) and math assessment developed by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). Dr. Pruitt shared that the Franklin Covey Organization would hold its annual *Leader in Me* Symposium in our school district on February 17 – 19, 2016 at the Marriott downtown and that the Cleveland Academy of Leadership and Chapman Elementary would be featured schools. He further noted participants attending the conference would visit *Leader in Me* Schools in the Upstate and North Carolina on day two of the symposium which is expected to attract over 600 attendees from throughout the Southeast.

Human Resources: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report.

Student Services: Dr. Sonia Leverette, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, shared that the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) offered influenza (flu) shot clinics to all students in Spartanburg School District Seven. Dr. Leverette noted nearly 550 students signed up for the clinic.

Communications: Ms. Sally Hammond, Chief Communications Officer, provided a copy of the communication's overview and media report along with a list of pertinent dates for the month.

Financial Report: Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Financial Reports for October and November 2015. She said comparing the November 2014 year-to-date activity to November 2015, the District's revenue was down slightly (1.7%) due to state tax collections that were not received and posted until December 2015. She noted vehicle collections and delinquent collections were also down slightly. She concluded her report noting expenditures were within target ranges and consistent with percentages from prior year.

Planning & Operations: Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations, shared that the State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places met on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the SC Archives and History Center in Columbia and approved the nomination of Duncan Park Baseball Stadium. He said the nomination would be forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register at the National Park Service in Washington, DC who will make the final decision about listing the property in the National Register. Dr. White noted the request for Proposals for Construction Manager at Risk was out for bid. He said a mandatory pre-proposal meeting was held on December 1, 2015. Dr. White state advertisement for bids for the Pine Street Elementary Building Envelope/HVAC Project had posted on December 13, 2015 and a pre-bid conference was scheduled for December 18, 2015 with a bid opening is on January 21, 2016. He also stated advertisement for bids for the next phase of upgrades at Duncan Park were scheduled for January 2016 for work that would be accomplished during the spring and summer of 2016.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Referendum Resolution:

Dr. Booker presented the Referendum Resolution that was presented during the Action Item portion of the agenda. The resolution authorizes a referendum in School District No. 7 of Spartanburg County. Notice would hereby be given for a referendum to be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 for the purpose of submitting all persons qualified to vote in the School District, under the Constitution and laws of the State of South Carolina.

MOU Between Meeting Street Academy and District 7:

Dr. Booker presented a copy of the Operating Plan for the proposed Spartanburg School District Seven and Meeting Street Partnership along with a Memorandum of Understanding as presented by Meeting Street Academy and Spartanburg School District Seven.

Mission, Vision, and Values Statements:

Dr. Booker presented a recent draft of our newly developed Vision, Mission, and Values statements. He noted as a part of the District’s five-year strategic planning process, it had engaged its stakeholders in a discussion of our values/beliefs, mission/purpose, and vision. The Vision, Mission, and Values statements, he noted, are being brought as final approval tonight.

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):

Dr. Booker shared that the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** Bill passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate and was signed into law by President Obama on December 10, 2015. Dr. Booker he also shared with the board the following statement issued by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) “ESSA is a significant improvement over current law. It takes the pendulum of federal overreach and prescription—rampant in current law—and returns autonomy and flexibility to the state/local level. With this flexibility comes great responsibility, as state and local education agencies will have a much more explicit say in the structure—and ultimate success—of their accountability workbooks. ESSA is the epitome of compromise, reconciling differences between the very partisan (Republican) House bill and the bi-partisan Senate bill. In reconciling those differences, a very basic way to look at this framework is as ‘somewhere in between a very conservative House bill and the moderate Senate compromise’. As AASA Executive Director Dan Domenech said in his [press release](#) about the framework, “We applaud Congressional leaders for moving such a bipartisan framework. One of the biggest benchmarks of bipartisan legislation may be when everyone is a little unhappy, because nobody got everything they wanted...”

2016-2017 District Seven Calendar:

Dr. Booker provided a copy of the 2016-2017 District/School Calendar. He said it mirrored our current calendar in many aspects, and as was customary, all school districts within the county created this uniform calendar in an effort to ensure consistency from district to district.

2016-2017 Cleveland Academy Calendar:

Dr. Booker provided a copy of the 2016-2017 School Calendar for the Cleveland Academy of Leadership. He said the District was recommending the approval of five additional weeks to be added to the calendar pending approval from the State Board of Education for the 2016-2017 school term.

- VIII. Chairman’s Report:** February 2, 2016 Board Meeting. A copy of the February 2, 2016 Board agenda was provided.
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no Executive Session.
- X. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no action taken.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 7:56 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lee to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT

CHAIR

SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED