

**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, April 11, 2017  
6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Sharon Porter  
Mr. Vernon Beatty  
Mrs. Meg Clayton  
Mr. Rick Gray  
Mr. Andy Hayes  
Mr. Clay Mahaffey  
Ms. Sharon Porter

**MEMBER (S) ABSENT:** Mrs. Julie Lonon  
Dr. Ernest White

**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, AND NAACP

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Ms. Sharon Porter called the meeting to order. Mr. Mahaffey gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** Sally Hammond, Chief Communication Officer, recognized seven students who won highest honors in this year's second WordMasters Challenge for grades 3-8. Each of the following students earned perfect scores (20/20) in the Gold Division WordMasters Challenge #2 where nationwide only 54 fourth graders, 22 fifth graders, and 33 seventh graders did the same. Approximately 3000 students participate nationally in the WordMasters Challenge in each of the elementary grades, and there are approximately 2000 students participating in each of the middle school grades. The ODYSSEY students earning perfect scores were coached by Cynthia Edge, Meg Lee, Anne McChesney, Anne Martin, and Kathryn Reichwald and Kelly Bomar. The students are: Maggie Akridge, Knox Eaton, Colin Mills-Winkler, Nick Rhoden, Anna Wang, Ingrid Marsh, and Jessie Arrington. Competing in the Gold Division of the WordMasters Challenge, a District 7 seventh grade team placed fifth in the nation, and an eighth grade team tied for fourth in the nation. Ms.

Hammond recognized students who won awards during the Junior Lego League Expo recently held at the Chapman Cultural Center. On March 18 students from Chapman and EP Todd School competed along with 30 other teams in the 5th Annual Junior First Lego League Expo. From Chapman the student winners included: Carter Williams, Ezekiel Bell-Boyd, Isaiah Roseburgh, Hayven Yath, Kadien Johnson, Robby Dubois, Travis Hill, Dorian George, Vinessa Sok, Khloe Buth, Luciana Gallegos-Torres, Zaniyah Davis, Amaia Ferretiz-Chavez, Kassie McCraw, Belinda Zuniga, Sherly Escalante, Logann Dendy, Nyasia Collins, AJ McClintock, Curtis McCraw, Fernando Arellano-Gallegos, Darrion Palmer, Jayden Anderson, Cameron Gallegos, Aaliyah Hinson-Catloe, Carlos Estrada, Ulysses Soto, Tyyanna Bailey, Tyon Bailey, Travis Steadman, Alivia Jefferson, John Sainvil, Aa'Shiya Moss; and from EP Todd: Kendal Kelly, Hailey Moore, Connor Parrott, and Tristan Pendergraph, Nicholas Bankhead, Jordan Goode, Samuel Markley, and Mekhi Murphy.

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** There were no Citizens' Comments

**V. ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**B. Approval of Special General Obligation Bond Resolution:** Mr. Lee brought for a recommendation from the Business Services Committee to authorize the issuance and sale of not exceeding \$19,000,000 in Special Obligation Bonds, for the purpose of providing funds inclusive of technology equipment acquisition and other capital projects along with the costs of issuance. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**C. Approval of Cleveland Academy of Leadership Calendar:** A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the Cleveland Academy of Leadership 2017-2018 extended Calendar pending approval of the State Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**D. Approval of Meeting Street Academy Spartanburg Calendar:** A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the 2017-2018 Meeting Street Academy Spartanburg Calendar pending approval of the State Board of Education, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**VI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:**

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

**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.

**Instruction:** Dr. Terry Pruitt, Deputy Superintendent, provided an update and overview of the first four years of the Viking Early College with an emphasis on the inaugural graduating Class of 2017. He shared with the board that 11 students would be graduating on May 4 from Spartanburg Community College with an Associated Degree and that these students had earned 658 college credits. He said the total program has 1228 total credits earned. The average GPA of the graduating class is 3.764 and all 11 have been accepted to one or more college and universities. He also noted that two of the 11 had scored Gold on the WorkKeys test and nine Silver. Dr. Pruitt also noted that three students in the program had been invited to join the prestigious Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. He said that the interview process had begun for the next class and currently 59 students had applied.

**Student Services:** Dr. Sonia Leverette, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, noted that on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, a group of approximately 15 Spartanburg High School students who live within the Northside Community would tour the area with Bill Barnet, CEO, Board Chair, and Tammy Hoy Hawkins, Program Manager, to learn more about the development of the community in which they live. She said this would be the fourth meeting of this group over the past two years, and students would have an opportunity to give input and provide feedback on the development. Dr. Booker said students would be dining at the Monarch Café and Fresh Food Store prior to the tour and he invited the board members to attend.

**Financial Report:** Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, presented the financial reports for January 2017. She noted comparing February 2016 year-to-date activity to February 2017 that revenue was down (2.3%). The difference she said was based primarily on the timing of local revenue receipts from one year to the next. She stated she believes it is due to the lateness of property tax notices being distributed in the fall. Even so, she noted, the District had contacted County Officials to assist with research related to assessing the value validation. She noted our expenditures are within target ranges and consistent with percentages from the prior year.

**Planning & Operations:** Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations, provided updates on the progress for the new elementary and new high school projects. He said both sites were in final stages of tree removal and grading and that the next phase would be pouring foundation and erecting steel. On the elementary site, Dr. White said, that some of the concrete footing for the building pad had already been laid and that at the beginning of May steel would begin to go up. For the SHS site, he said, the steel drawings were out and HVAC and plumbing specifications were out being reviewed. Foundation and steel work would begin

early summer. When questioned, Dr. White noted that two of the main athletic fields would be made of synthetic turf and that a prefabricated synthetic rubber track much like what exists now at SHS would be installed.

**Technology Report:** There was no report given.

## **VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

**SC Department of Education Financial Risk Assessment:** Dr Booker reminded the board that District 7 was a recipient of numerous federal awards and grants and that the South Carolina Department of Education is required, as a pass-through entity for specific federal programs to award, administer, and monitor each sub-award to districts. He said as such, the SCDE conducted annual risk assessments of school districts based on overall financial and programmatic performance as demonstrated through 10 criteria: required reporting, experience of key personnel, programmatic compliance, fiscal compliance, performance, frequency and need of technical assistance, financial stability, quality of internal financial controls, timeliness of annual financial audit submission and other miscellaneous criteria. He said, overall risk scores of less than 18 indicate the district is a “low risk” entity for financial non-compliance. These scores are now important as federal awarding agencies such as Title I, IDEA, etc will review district’s risk score prior to federal awards. Dr. Booker said he was pleased to announce that the district received an overall risk score of “10” which is considered very low risk. The lowest risk score available is a “9.”

**135 Day Enrollment:** Dr. Booker shared the District’s 135th day enrollment figures for the district from 2000-2017. He said total enrollment in K3-12 was 7,387 students a growth of 209 students over the previous year.

**Excellence in Financial Reporting Awards:** Dr. Booker said the District’s had recently received two awards that honor the “gold standard” in financial reporting - the Government Finance Officers Association’s Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. He said both awards were the highest honor a district could receive in financial reporting and shared that earning these nationally recognized certificates of excellence shows a community that the district is committed to fiscal integrity, can help achieve a better bond rating, and demonstrates a district’s transparency as you share financial information above and beyond what is required.

**Budget Update:** Dr. Booker reminded the board of the series of budget meetings planned over the course of the next several weeks.

**State of the District:** Dr. Booker noted the District’s 6th State of the District on March 30, 2017 at the Chapman Cultural Center had been a success and that the

feedback he had received was very positive, as was the media coverage. He also noted that attendance was at an all time high and our students did an exceptional job.

**2 Days at the Capital (2 DAC):** Dr. Booker encouraged board members to attend 2DAC on Tuesday, April 25, the two day event sponsored by the SCSBA during the legislative session for board members, superintendents and other public school advocates. He said during the meeting, members would spend time at the State House meeting with legislators, attending legislative committee meetings, and increasing the visibility and voice of local school boards.

**Association for Learning Environments (A4LE):** Dr. Booker told the board that the Southeast Region / South Carolina Chapter Annual Association for Learning Environments Conference: "Construction to Instruction – Building a Plan for Student Success held its regional conference in Greenville, South Carolina on April 3-4. He said national experts from the highest educational offices in the Southeast were on hand to share their ideas about the future of learning spaces. He wanted board members to be aware that our very own, Dr. Thomas White was serving as the South Carolina Chapter President, and that Spartanburg School District Seven along with Greenville County Schools served as the host for the regional conference. Dr. Booker publically thanked Dr. White for his efforts in coordinating the event, the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal and the experience to help the association pave our way into the future.

**Children’s Museum:** Dr. Booker said plans were underway to open a Children’s Museum of the Upstate satellite program in Downtown Spartanburg and noted the great potential for such an educational attraction for the children of Spartanburg County and especially Spartanburg School District Seven. He said the District would explore partnership opportunities for the museum moving forward, and he would keep them apprised of its progress.

**Student Services Committee (Compassionate Schools):** Dr. Booker said he would like to schedule a meeting of the Student Services Committee in the coming weeks to discuss our Compassionate Schools efforts along with priorities for the coming year to ensure the wellbeing of our students.

**VIII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** A copy of the draft Agenda for May 2, 2017 Board Meeting was provided.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At approximately 7:14 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gray to go into Executive Session for discussion of Personnel, Legal and Contractual matters, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION:** At approximately 8:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gray to return to Open Session, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**X. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no action taken.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 8:00 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.

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**SUPERINTENDENT**

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY**

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**MINUTES APPROVED**