

SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7
Minutes of Special Called Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Charles H. Humphries, Jr., Administration Building
Spartanburg, South Carolina
Wednesday, August 16, 2017
5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Julie Lonon, Chair
Mr. Sanders Lee, Vice-Chair
Mr. Vernon Beatty
Mrs. Meg Clayton
Mr. Rick Gray
Mr. Andy Hayes
Mr. Clay Mahaffey
Ms. Sharon Porter
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. Lonon called the meeting to order.

II. DISCUSSION OF NAMING OF THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: Dr. Booker gave a presentation about how past trustees and other boards have named schools. He reviewed Board policies in SC. Following Dr. Booker's presentation Mrs. Lonon stated the methodology of the naming of the school has been helpful and the Board has had ample opportunity to think about the matter – and most especially to listen to constituents. She then gave each board member the opportunity to give their comments. Dr. White stated it would be most helpful if the name would support cultural inclusion. Mr. Hayes stated he drove around the Drayton area and noted all the visible signs: The Lofts at Drayton Mills Market Place, The Drayton Post Office, The Drayton Fire Department, The Drayton Baptist Church, The United Methodist Church – the Drayton Memorial Fellowship Hall. He said all these entities represent a cross-section of private, public and religious – all these groups have such a sense of pride and they clearly represent a community, these are ties that bind and nothing more. Mrs. Clayton stated Drayton Mills puts an emphasis on the community, and not a person. Ms. Porter suggested the name Eastside Elementary School. Mr. Gray stated he served in the Skylyn Community as a healthcare provider and he has notice much signage that relates to Skylyn. He would cast his vote for Skylyn. Mr. Beatty stated his concerns come from a historical perspective –

there were no black people involved naming the mill, churches, or the fire station. He believes there is historical information that shouldn't be overlooked and his vote is for a name that is racially and culturally inclusive. Mr. Beatty thought the Drayton name had been exhausted October, 2016 due to its ties to slavery and is disappointed the Board would bring it up again. He felt it was disrespectful to the black Board members. Mr. Mahaffey stated he thinks the Board has a unique opportunity to partner with a community that is taking off. He sees this as a partnership that is beneficial to both the district and the community. He also believes by adding the word Mill, the name perceived of a person is taken out of the equation. Mr. Lee stated he was impressed by the degree of economic development being pumped into the Drayton community. He believes at this time, it's probably one of the most significant areas of investment in the state of SC. He went on to talk about the success of the Lofts that are 100 percent occupied. He said there's a sense of vitality that we can be a part of. He also stated that working class people of all races worked in the mill. Mrs. Lonon then stated she had initially been in favor of Lawson's Fork, but said, "This isn't about me – I love Lawson's Fork but I have heard from people who resoundingly want the school named after their community." Mr. Beatty then stressed that 4 black members of the board are not in favor of the name and cautioned the rest of the board to be more sensitive. He stated he maintained this vote would not be met with acceptance or unity. Mr. Gray then stated the name is not something we want to support our community. He said he wouldn't support it and neither would his constituents. He added that the actions of the Board (the white Board members) were insulting. Dr. White proposed the vote be postponed. Mrs. Lonon moved the Board forward to a vote.

III. APPROVAL OF NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAME: A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve naming the new school Drayton Mills Elementary School, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All in favor of the motion were: Meg Clayton, Andy Hayes, Sanders Lee, Julie Lonon and Clay Mahaffey. Opposed were: Vernon Beatty, Rick Gray, Sharon Porter, and Ernest White. The motion passed.

V. ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 6:25 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