

**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, September 6, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Julie Lonon  
Ms. Sharon Porter  
Mr. Sanders Lee  
Mr. Vernon Beatty  
Mrs. Meg Clayton  
Mr. Andy Hayes  
Mr. Clay Mahaffey

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Mr. Rick Gray  
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

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Julie Lonon called the meeting to order. Mr. Lee gave the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Dr. Booker requested to amend the agenda and add a Field Trip for Pine Street School to Barrier Island, October 3-5, 2016. A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** There were no Citizens' Comments
- IV. GOOD NEWS:** Dr. Russell Booker recognized Deputy Superintendent Terry Pruitt for serving on the Leader in Me Quality and Academic Advisory Board. This past June, Dr. Pruitt spent time in Salt City with other key members of the Advisory Board garnering ideas and suggestions on things to improve the Leader In Me program. Leigh Turmel was honored for receiving a \$15,000 Reading Recovery Teacher Leader Scholarship made possible by the The Hameray Publishing Group/Yuen Family Foundation. Leigh has 26 years of experience in education as a teacher, Literacy Coach, TAP Books Master Teacher, and Early Childhood Grant Coordinator. She is currently the Response to Intervention & English Language Arts Coordinator for the District. This Teacher Leader Scholarship will enable Leigh to attend Clemson University for a year as part of training as a Reading Recovery teacher leader. Leigh was one of only four award winners nationwide. Thirteen

outstanding teachers were formally recognized as 2016-2017 Teachers of the Year from their respective schools: Callie Sandifer, Jesse Boyd Elementary; William Neely, Chapman Elementary; Sherrie Jeffries, Houston Elementary; Elnora Anderson, Mary H. Wright Elementary; Angi Powell, Pine Street Elementary; Jessica Biershenk, E.P. Todd School; Patrick Donnelly, Carver Middle; Karen Copley, McCracken Middle; Michelle Gray, SHS Freshman Academy; Mary Brito, Spartanburg High School; Marjo Chappell, McCarthy Teszler School; Kimberly Savage, Whitlock Flexible Learning Center, and LaTyphany Littlejohn, The Cleveland Academy of Leadership and District 7's. All will represent their schools, motivate and inspire fellow educators, and champion the positive contributions of the teaching profession. LaTyphani as the District Teacher of the Year will represent the school district as the nominee for the South Carolina Teacher of the Year program. In District 7 4 students achieved perfect scores on the SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) test. The tests are given yearly to public school students in grades three through eight, and cover math, science, social studies, writing and English language arts, and are designed to measure how well students have mastered state academic standards. The students are: EP Todd's Rachel Scruggs with a Perfect PASS Science; Pine Street's Ingrid Marsh with a Perfect PASS in Social Studies, and McCracken Middle School's Evan Davis with a Perfect PASS on Science and Aidan Lazenby with a Perfect PASS in Social Studies. Students from Laura Brooks French Class at McCracken were honored for receiving accolades in the National French Exam Contest, Le Grand Concours, a national competition sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Nine students earned certificates of honorable mention: Ty Baker, Katelyn Bouye, Marlee Cauthen, Bethany Clary, Madison Diaz, Abigail Ellett, Sarah Kennedy, Elle Naylor, and Julie Rodrick; Sarah Cribb and William Long earned bronze medals; and Theo Delorme and Thomas Shealy earned silver medals.

**V. ACTION ITEMS:**

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

**B. Approval for Rick Gray and Ernest White to attend the NABSE Conference, November 15-21, 2016 in Tampa, FL:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the travel, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**VI. NORTHSIDE UPDATE:** Bill Barnet and his team from the Northside Development Group provided an update on the Northside of Spartanburg. The NDC has received funding as part of the South Carolina State Housing Finance and Development Authority's Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP) to help stabilize communities through the elimination of slummed and blighted properties. NDG has been responsible for the purchasing, asbestos abatement, and demolition of homes to

prepare sites for redevelopment. NDG and the City have been working to identify the priority sites that will help to alleviate the most blight and improve surrounding parcels. Mr. Barnett said the City of Spartanburg had taken possession of the Oakview property. As part of the Northside Redevelopment Plan, the Oakview Apartments had been identified as the future site for the Dr. TK Gregg Community Center. The City is now managing the property through the Vista Capital Management Group, and will continue to operate the Oakview Apartments as a multifamily site through the end of the year. He said the Northside Voyagers and NDG team members continue to work with residents one-on-one to give each household individual attention to define what support they will need to move forward. Many residents have secured new housing through vouchers and also enrolled in free college courses through Spartanburg Community College. Phase 2 of the Brawley Street housing development has been completed. A nonprofit affordable housing developer has built 8 new units of mixed income rental housing that will serve families earning 50%-120% of the area median income. They expect to offer rents from \$575-\$895 for the 3 bedroom 2 bathroom units. There is already a waiting list for these properties. A piped water source that runs from Cleveland to VCOM will soon be opened up and renamed The Butterfly Branch to include landscaping and seating areas. Molly Talbot Metz discussed plans for the new state of the art child development center, which will open on the Northside and serve that community along with other residents of Spartanburg.

## **VI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:**

**Human Resources:** Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report. Dr. Redish said the District was working in partnership with the University of South Carolina Upstate to implement a Call Me MiSTER Program. The mission of the Call Me MiSTER® (acronym for Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) Initiative is to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader more diverse background particularly among the State's lowest performing elementary schools. She said, student participants are largely selected from under-served, socio-economically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities. Pending funding, the target goal for implementation is the fall of 2017.

**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. She noted this summer, the communications team introduced parents in the District to a new digital platform called Peachjar. By way of Peachjar, our families now receive digital flyers via their smartphones and computers.

**Instruction:** Dr. Terry Pruitt, Deputy Superintendent, shared with the board information about the 10-year anniversary of *7Reads*, on Tuesday, September 12. This year's event is being used as an opportunity to re-brand the initiative to provide a means for the District to convey the many programs and outreach services that fall

under the broader umbrella of the District's commitment to promote literacy. Dr. Pruitt also said Meeting Street Academy was off to a great start and students started school August 27 with 36 District 7 three year olds with a total student body of 181 in grades 3K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

**Student Services:** Sonia Leverette, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, provided an InfoSnap update. She said as of August 29, 2016, 5325 returning students and 831 new students had completed online registrations. For those families who had not utilized the online system, the District provided hard copies of the registration forms for students whose parents had not registered as of the 15<sup>th</sup> day of school. Dr. Leverette said the District was entering a partnership with the Books with Barbers Reading Program, which was founded by a Columbia, SC educator, Jasmine Mix. She said this agreement recognizes the importance of incorporating a reading program that allows children to read in a diverse atmosphere, maintain essential reading skills, and promote literacy awareness for students in the District. She said fifteen barbershops had been identified, and an informational luncheon would be hosted at the county library on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Financial Report:** There was no report given. Mrs. Campbell provided information on the Upcoming Rating Agency Presentation. She noted that in late September she and Dr. Booker would travel to New York for presentations to the Rating Agencies of Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services with the purpose of seeking a ratings upgrade. She said with the continued growth in the economic conditions and a series of bond sales related to the referendum would help with the District's positioning.

**Planning & Operations:** Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations, recapped the proactive steps the District was taking as it related to keeping our athletes safe, especially in football. He noted all District Seven coaches are required to be Accredited Interscholastic Coaches, which is administered by the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). Also in conjunction with the NFHS and the USA Football Heads Up Program, District 7 football coaches are Heads Up Certified, which includes instruction for proper blocking, tackling techniques as well as fitting of helmets and shoulder pads. The Herald Journal also recently reported District 7 had the highest rated helmets available.

**Technology Report:** Dr. Eric Levitt, Chief Communications Officer, said David Beyer, Director of Technology, and his staff had been very busy assisting schools with the distribution of MacBook Airs and iPads. He said Spartanburg High School student devices were distributed during the first week of school, MacBook distribution at Carver, McCracken and EP Todd was completed during the second week of school, and elementary iPads were also ready and distributed during the second week of school. Dr. Levitt said the summer brought about several new software packages that supported the technology department in terms of implementation and staff training: iStation (reading), Dreambox (math), Schoology

(learning management system), and EdInsight (student performance data management). The District email was also successfully migrated to Office 365 with benefits to hosting our email in the cloud include reduced maintenance, increased storage, and complete integration with all of Office 365's online collaboration features.

**VII. SUPERINTENDENTSREPORT:**

**10-Day Enrollment Counts:** Dr. Booker said the enrollment for K5-12 grade on the 10<sup>th</sup> day was 7,037 students. This represents an increase of 237 students from the previous year's enrollment of 6,800 students. Total enrollment for the district (inclusive of PreK) was 7,366 students, which represented an increase of 356 students over last year's 7,010 students.

**Board Updates:** Dr. Booker notified the Board that they should have received a board update from the Communication's Office in early August and it was his hope that this bi-monthly electronic update would keep them in the loop as it related to the many events taking place within the district.

**City of Spartanburg Annexation Petition:** Dr. Booker said the new Spartanburg High School is to be located at 2252 East Main Street. The Lan-Yair site is subject to various water and sanitary sewer agreements, which will require the site to be annexed prior to any (permanent or temporary) water or sanitary sewer services being made available to the site. He said he would like to conclude the annexation process as soon as possible in order to avoid any delays as we begin construction. Dr. Booker said all Petitions for Annexation are subject to City Council approval and presented to Council with a supporting Ordinance.

**Highland Crossing:** Dr. Booker reminded the board that Cammie Claggett Courts had closed its operations over a year ago. He said Highland Crossing, the new housing complex located in the Highland community was slated to open in the middle to late fall time frame. He said 72 units were currently under construction and the District had been informed that there were over 350 applicants for those 72 units. Dr. Booker said it was not yet known what the impact on enrollment would be, but he would be sure to keep the board posted.

**VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** A copy of the draft Agenda for October 4, 2016 Board Meeting was provided.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At approximately 7:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lee to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Contractual Matter, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**OPEN SESSION:** At approximately 8:19 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Porter to return to Open Session, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

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

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 8:20 p.m. a motion was made by Ms. Porter to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Lee. 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**