

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, November 1, 2016

6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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: Mrs. Julie Lonon

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:** Ms. Sharon Porter called the meeting to order. Dr. White gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** Ms. Libby Waldrep spoke to the board regarding naming the new elementary school.
- IV. GOOD NEWS:** Sally Hammond recognized Dr. Gloria Close, Guidance Counselor for the Viking Early College, for being chosen for the prestigious Annual Women of Distinction Award honor from the Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands. The award honored Gloria for exemplifying excellence in service, leadership, community visibility, and professionalism. Numerous students were recognized for winning art awards at the Piedmont and State Fairs. At the Piedmont Fair - Lylah Bishop, Riley Durham, Viviann Harrill, Khalell Maple, Ansley Hunt, Kareem Lipscomb, Bryson Hoover, Natali Servando, Wallace Lynch, Molly Bryant, Zoe Townsend, Brandi Wylie, Abby Ellett, Ellen Fields, Tony Lam, Aliah Shuford, Mia Easler, Ellen Fields, Catherine Chapman, Celia Dominick, Caroline Altman, Daniel Newman, Caitlin Ronan, Hava Liebowitz, Nemiah Miller, Carleton

Boyd, and Catherine Chapman. In the build a “Build a Scarecrow” Contest the SHS National Art Honor Society received 3rd place and students from Mary H Wright placed first. State Fair Art Winners included:Clarissa Vereen, Jaxon Gardner, Kaytlin McJimpsey, Samuel Strickland, Atrianna King, Bridgit Hinson, Ja’shya Futrell, Caitlyn Volk, Mia Easler, Mary Traxler, Gabby Gecan, Claire Ellis, and Erin Jones.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

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

VI. FY16 EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT: External auditors from the firm of McAbee, Schwartz, Halliday & Company presented their review of District Seven’s compliance with its procurement code process and regulations in accordance with procedures set out in the State of South Carolina Budget and Control Board Audit Program. The review covered transactions from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, and consisted of required communications and disclosures and included highlights from our financial position. District Seven was granted an “unmodified” opinion, which is the highest opinion possible for our financial statements and operations. Highlights of the report included the addition of approximately \$657,000 to our general fund balance and a continued strong fund balance of a little over 17% in the general fund. McCarthy Teszler and Spartanburg County Alternative School also finished strong and both fund balances increased.

VII. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Human Resources: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report. Dr. Redish shared information regarding the dates for the free flu shots.

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: There was no report given.

Student Services: Dr. Sonia Leverette shared information on the Compassionate Schools Program, a national behavioral health initiative that aims to help educators work more effectively with children, especially those who have experienced trauma. She said a group of 25 District staff members had been trained on the Compassionate Schools Initiative through the Center for Child Advocacy Studies at USC Upstate this past summer. Dr. Leverette provided an update on the Books with Barbers program. She said to date, the District had collected nearly \$5000, and 10 local

barber shops had signed up for the program. She said the Building Construction Class at Daniel Morgan Technology was constructing ten bookshelves, and each would display a plate listing the sponsors for that shop. She further noted her team would continue to seek sponsors and to recruit interested barbers within our attendance zone.

Financial Report: Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer mentioned the third annual MWBE Vendor Fair on October 20 had been a success. She said 30 vendors attended the event across the area. In addition to the audit, Ms. Campbell presented the Annual Procurement Report for 2015-2016. This report is presented each fall and covers information on minority expenditures for the previous school year. This year, she said, the District's minority and women owned business expenditures increased to 8.6% of our total expenditures, an increase over last year's mark of 6%. Mrs. Campbell said her office continues to seek ways to engage our minority and women owned businesses to enhance a partnership with the District.

Planning & Operations: Ron Smith with McMillian Pazdan Smith presented an design overview of the new high school. Mr. Smith noted making use of natural light in classrooms and collaborative spaces was a priority. He also noted the connection of indoor environments to the outdoors by easy access doors so that outdoor areas could be used in the curriculum. A special features of the new design will be the collaborative spaces or innovation labs where students will have the opportunity to make, program, design, produce and build in spaces with cutting edge technologies, resources and materials designed to inspire creativity and collaboration. The school will also feature a 1,000-seat theater and also an outdoor panoramic viewing area over the football stadium.

Technology Report: Dr. Levitt, Chief Technology Officer, said implementation of Schoology, our new 6-12 learning management system, was going well. Teachers have been trained and will receive ongoing support to transition to Schoology during the second 9-weeks. He also said his entire department was working closely with the technology design consultant retained by Mcmillan Pazdan Smith on the technology infrastructure for the new elementary school. The goal, he said, was to install a network that not only will support all of our current technology, but would be built with the capacity for expansion and future technologies.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Groundbreaking: Dr. Booker thanked the board for attending groundbreaking ceremony for the new elementary school. He said approximately 120 guests had attended and that the program afforded the District a wonderful opportunity to thank the community for its ongoing support and to celebrate the advancing plans for new construction.

Reminder of Election Day: Dr. Booker reminded the board the 2016 General Election would take place on November 8, and that this day would also serve as a holiday for all district employees.

Enrollment update from the 45th day of school: Dr. Booker provided an update on enrollment for K5-12 grade. He said on the 45th day enrollment was 6,972 students. This represents an increase of 138 students from the previous year's enrollment of 6,834 students. He said total enrollment for the district (inclusive of PreK) was 7,322 students - an increase of 224 students over last year's 7,098 students.

Realtor Meeting: Dr. Booker shared with the board that on Tuesday, October 25 he had the pleasure of meeting with approximately 25 realtors from Coldwell Banker. During the meeting, he shared information with brokers pertaining to the progress being made in District Seven. He said the meeting was very productive, and he believed realtors in the area are now armed with the right information to "sell" our district to prospective homebuyers.

League of Innovative Schools: Dr. Booker stated Digital Promise would host its fall League of Innovative Schools event on November 2-4 in Baltimore, Maryland. He said participants would have the opportunity to visit the Baltimore County Public School system and partner organizations with the opportunity to collaborate on shared priorities as it relates to technology and innovation. Dr. Booker said Dr. Terry Pruitt and Dr. Eric Levitt would accompany him on this trip.

Office of Ed Tech and the Alliance for Excellent Education: Dr. Booker shared with the board that the District had received an invitation recently from the US Department of Education's Office of Ed Tech and the Alliance for Excellent Education to attend a meeting with a small group of superintendents from around the country. He said as a "Future Ready" District we are given the opportunity to connect with other leaders, share resources, learn about new tools and frameworks, and provide feedback and suggestions to other participants. US Secretary of Education, John King would be at the meeting. Dr. Booker said unfortunately, we had to turn the invitation down due to our groundbreaking ceremony on the 28 however; we were very honored to be included and to have received an invitation.

IX. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: A copy of the draft Agenda for January 3, 2017 Board Meeting was provided.

X. APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR BOARD OFFICERS: In accordance with board policy BD Organization of the School Board, the chair will appoint a nominating committee during the November meeting. This nominating committee will be responsible for submitting the slate of officers to the board to act upon at its next regular scheduled meeting. A chair will also be appointed to oversee the nominating committee process. The slate of officers will

include the chair, vice-chair, and secretary. The following board members have been appointed, Ernest White, Chair, Meg Clayton, and Andy Hayes.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At approximately 7:14 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Beatty to go into Executive Session for discussion of a contractual matter, seconded, by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

OPEN SESSION: At approximately 7:37 a motion was made by Mr. Hayes to return to Open Session, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

XII. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: A motion was made by Mr. Lee to authorize the superintendent to negotiate an agreement to serve as the contracting entity for the construction of the new child development center to be constructed on the Northside of Spartanburg. A final contract will be subject to the approval of the board of trustees, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 7:40 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Lee to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT

CHAIR

SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED