

SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Spartanburg High School

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

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, AND NAACP

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mrs. Lonon called the meeting to order. Ms. Clayton 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. SPECIAL RECOGNITION – JULIE LONON BOARD SERVICE:** Dr. Booker thanked Ms. Lonon for her eight years of service and presented her with a chair.
- IV. GOOD NEWS:** Sally Hammond recognized Jesse Boyd for being named an Apple Distinguished School. The commendation salutes the school's technology-rich environment and its continuous innovation plans to support integrated learning. Houston Elementary School was honored for being a potential contender for the Palmetto's Finest Award. The highly coveted honor is presented each year to two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school in the state. Houston will receive a visit from the Palmetto's Finest Committee in consideration for the award the first week in December. Peggy Luther with Chartwells awarded Golden Shoe Awards for Walk to School Day efforts. Evaluation criteria included parent, school, and community involvement, school activities incorporated into the events, and ability to use the event as a catalyst to establish sustainable physical activity programs in the school. The Husky's from Houston Elementary School tied for 2nd place and the 1st place winner from the

entire county was Mary H. Wright Elementary, who collaborated with neighborhood associations and community partners to host their “The Wright Team” themed event, a walk to school followed by a pep rally. Special guests included athletes from Wofford College and Spartanburg High School as well as elected officials and Mary H. Wright family and friends. As the top prize winner the school receives \$500, and Safe Kids of Spartanburg will also provide incentives and giveaways for their 2018 Walk to School Day event. SHS celebrated sports accolades – the SC Hall of Fame for Swimming, John Wolfe; State Champion Golfer, Dana Elle Johnson; State Champion Tennis Singles Champion & Runner Up, Maggie Cubitt and Claire Coleman; State Champion Swimmer, Kristi McEnroe; Mr. Football Finalist & Shrine Bowl All Star Game, Connor Shugart; and North South All Star Game participants, Demaja Foster and Reggie Anderson. Students from SHS who led the area as semifinalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship program were honored. Jay Stevens, Ashley Wade, Ethan Durham, Georgia Price, Nan Miles, Louise Franke, Matthew Evans, and DeHaven Dickerson are among 217 students across SC to achieve the national distinction. SHS has more National Merit Semifinalists than any other school, public or private, in the county. Alyssa Dowling, Will Nowatka, and Tucker Shelton were honored as National Merit Commended students for their exceptional academic promise. E.P.Todd’s JV Football Team was honored for winning the championship. They had an undefeated season and this team was the first team in the school’s history to be undefeated. E.P. Todd 3rd grader Jamorrian Riley was honored for taking top honors the District’s Best Singer in the District Contest. He will go on to compete in the state finals on Nov. 19. Runners-up were Jasmine Harrison, a 6th grader at McCracken Middle, and Allana Farmer, an 11th grader at SHS. Arrabella Derrick, a 3rd grader at Meeting Street Academy, was named the winner of the People's Choice Award. Art awards recipients from the Piedmont Fair and the State Fair were recognized: Clarissa Vereen, Eliza Martin, Delancey Lee, Esmeralda Chavez-Perez, Sadie Rubino, Aubrey Chapman, Moses Donahue, Cameron Rout, K’Myia Miller, Zaliyah Vanterpool, Ke’Anthony Long-Coleman, A’Yummi Cheeks-Pearson, Madison Carr, McClean Holmes, Devon Curry, Austin Page, Alexander Tellez, Simone Talley, Taylor Horowitz, Maddox Allen, Emma Boren, Isabella Goodchild-Michelman, Fernando Hernandez-Cruz, Kaki Mitchell, Katie Massey, Mary Katherine Gibbs, Payton Deaton, Alyssa Huff, Noah Thomas, De’Mia Stevenson, Jayliegh Bigelow, Trudy Rogers, Oliver See, Marlies Fritsche, Kenny Liang, and Sydni Williams.

V. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS: James Jones spoke to the board regarding the New Elementary School Name. He requested that the Board consider another option for the name.

VI. ACTION ITEMS:

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

B. Approval of Perpetual Easement Agreement for Recreational Use: Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent of Planning, provided information on an agreement to authorize the superintendent to sign and execute the Perpetual Agreement for Recreational Use, Tax Map Number p/o 7-13-15-115.00, which is an easement agreement for the River Birch Trail, which will follow Lawson Fork Creek alongside the backside of Spartanburg High School's property. Dr. White shared with the board that the Spartanburg City Council and the Spartanburg Partners for Active Living had approved the agreement with the District as part of the extended trails system in Spartanburg County. He noted this agreement had been "in the works" for several years and that the key elements were that the City would provide for liability insurance on the trail, maintenance of the trail, and supervision of the trail, that nothing in the agreement limited the District's right to sell, give or otherwise convey the property or any portion thereof subject to this agreement, that District students, staff, invitees and successors shall have unrestricted access to the trail, the Easement Area and Lawson's Fork Creek, and that if the trail had not been constructed within five years, the Agreement would be void. A motion was made by Mr. Mahaffey to authorize the superintendent to sign and execute the Perpetual Agreement for Recreational Use, Tax Map Number p/o 7-13-15-115.00

VII. FY17 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, 2016 through June 30, 2017, 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 \$330,000 to our general fund balance and a continued strong fund balance of a little over 18% in the general fund. McCarthy Teszler and Spartanburg County Alternative School also finished strong and both fund balances increased.

VIII. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Human Resources: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report and shared that her department had been busy conducting New Teacher Induction Meetings, AP Leadership Training and preparing for the upcoming 7Cares Health and Wellness Fair.

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, announced the District would present *The Addams Family, A New Musical Comedy* at the Chapman Cultural Center on May 24, 26 and 27, 2018. He said this musical comedy is based on the book created by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice and based on the *The Addams Family* characters created by Charles Addams.

Student Services: Dr. Sonia Leverette, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, shared that the District would participate in the Early Development Instrument (EDI) survey again this year along with all districts in the county. She noted District 7 collaborated with the Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM) in last year's EDI survey. The EDI is a population measure of how young children are developing in communities in the United States and measures five areas, or domains, of early childhood development: physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills, and communication skills and general knowledge. Dr. Leverette said all K5 teachers in District 7 would use the instrument to assess their students' kindergarten readiness. Dr. Leverette said the District, in collaboration with Spartanburg School District 3 and SAM, had also applied for competitive grant funds available through the EOC. She said if the grant were awarded, the funds would allow her department to expand its work with Spartanburg County Quality Counts. She reminded the board of the funding it received last year through the block grant program, which provided support for a Technical Assistant from Quality Counts to work with our 4K teachers at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership. Dr. Leverette said the new grant would continue to fund work at Cleveland and to also fund professional learning opportunities for the teachers at the Early Learning Center. Dr. Leverette gave an update on McKinney Vento (MV) data based on the McKinney Vento Act, which provides federal money for homeless individuals, or as defined as those "who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." She said as of October 6, 158 District 7 students had been identified as being doubled up, living in shelters, in motels, unaccompanied, are moving place to place, or have other living situations.

Financial Report: Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Annual Procurement Report for 2016-2017 to cover information on minority expenditures for the previous school year. She said this past year the District's minority and women owned business expenditures (exclusive of construction) totaled \$1,655,456 as compared to \$1,487,113 in 2015-2016. She said her office continued to seek ways to engage minority and women owned businesses to enhance a partnership with the District. She said these efforts increased the District's certified MWBE firms utilized from 100 to 116 firms this past year. Ms. Campbell additionally noted, she was excited to see the MWBE database continue to grow. Ms. Campbell shared information related to a bond anticipation note sale on November 2, 2017. She said as a part of the District's comprehensive facilities funding plan, it competitively sold Bond Anticipation Notes on November 2, 2017. She said it was the third of six planned sales before the debt becomes permanent General Obligation Bonds. Ms. Campbell said the notes were for a total of \$141,250,000 with \$54,646,500 of the

proceeds being utilized to retire the BANS outstanding from last November's sale. She said there were six bidders for the notes whose True Interest Cost (TIC) rates ranged from 1.141% to 1.22%. She said overall she was very pleased with the results of the winning bid to Citigroup. Ms. Campbell noted as part of a competitive debt related sale of notes or bonds there is a rating attached to the District. She said District 7 received Moody's "MIG 1" rating and Standard and Poor's "SP-1+" rating on this issuance, both the highest ratings possible on short-term debt.

Planning & Operations: Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations, provided an update on the Duncan Park Stadium and Pine Street Elementary projects. Team members from Harper Corporation also provided updates on the elementary project and team members from M. B. Kahn on the high school project. Upcoming milestones noted on the horizon was the brick veneer going up on Drayton Mills on December 1 and the first steel beam being erected at SHS on December 11. Both firms noted their projects were on schedule.

Technology Report: No Report Given.

IX. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Four Schools Collaboration: Dr. Booker said Spartanburg School District Seven, Spartanburg School District Six, The Spartanburg Academic Movement, and the United Way of the Piedmont had created a collaborative in support of the four highest poverty schools in Spartanburg County. He said the schools include Mary H. Wright, Cleveland, Jesse Bobo, and Lone Oak Elementary, and noted principals and staff at each of these schools was working to develop a continuous improvement model focused on 3rd grade reading.

Recap of the November 7, 2017 Elections: Dr. Booker congratulated Vernon Beatty, Andy Hayes, Sanders Lee, and Sharon Porter on being re-elected to the board, and extended a warm welcome to Mr. Jeff Mason on his recent election to the board. He shared that the local penny sales tax option passed and a new courthouse/city complex would be constructed. He noted that there would be a run-off for the mayor's race between incumbent Junie White and Todd Horne on Tuesday, November 21, that Max Hyde would be joining City Council, and other council incumbents had been reelected to their seats.

Enrollment update: Dr. Booker said enrollment for K5-12 grade on the 45th day was 7,151 students. He said this represents an increase of 179 students from the previous year's enrollment of 6,972 students. He noted total enrollment for the district (inclusive of PreK) was 7,449 students - an increase of 127 students over last year's 7,151 students.

Pine Street Elementary School's designation to the National Register of Historic Places: Dr. Booker shared that on Thursday, November 9, 2017 Pine Street Elementary School (est. 1929) was celebrated for its designation into the National

Register of Historic Places. He said there are approximately 1,500 buildings in SC on the National Register.

League of Innovative School Update: Dr. Booker notified the board that Digital Promise had hosted its fall League of Innovative Schools event November 1-3 in San Francisco, California. He said participants had the opportunity to collaborate with thought leaders from among the nations 93 schools who are members of the League. He stressed how District Seven is highly regarded within the League.

Visit from HUD Secretary Ben Carson and Senator Tim Scott: Dr. Booker said on November 6, 2017 Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Dr. Ben Carson and US Senator Tim Scott visited several areas within this community that were directly tied to District Seven. He said the visit began with a meeting at the Cleveland Academy of Leadership and a tour of the Northside. He noted following the Northside visit, a tour of the Drayton Mills community was conducted, and then concluded with a visit to Meeting Street Academy in an effort to highlight the public/private partnership between District Seven and Meeting Street Schools.

- X. **CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** A draft copy of the January 9, 2018 Board agenda was provided.
- XI. **APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR BOARD OFFICERS:** Ms. Lonon appointed Andy Hayes as chair, Meg Clayton and Ernest White. The committee will be responsible for submitting a slate of officers to the board to act upon at its next regular scheduled meeting, which will be January 9, 2018.
- XII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no Executive Session.
- XIII. **ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no action taken.
- XIV. **ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 8:15 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