

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, October 6, 2020
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Sanders Lee, Chair
Ms. Sharon Porter, Secretary
Mr. Vernon Beatty
Mrs. Meg Clayton
Mr. Rick Gray
Mr. Andy Hayes
Mr. Jeff Mason
Mr. Kenneth Myers

MEMBER (S) ABSENT: Mr. Clay Mahaffey

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 Spartanburg NAACP

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mr. Lee.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Myers to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Mason. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed 8-0.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** (Excluded)
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** There were no citizens comments.
- V. ACTION ITEMS:**
 - A. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Myers. The motion passed 8-0.
 - B. Approval of Policy Committee Recommendation to change language of Policy BE School Board Meetings:** Mr. Gray brought forth a recommendation from the Board Policy Committee to approve a change to replace "a majority of members" with a "one-third majority of the board" may call a special meeting of the full board. Mr. Lee opened the discussion to direct board members to Policy BE School Board Meetings. In addition, a letter written by Attorney Vernie L. Williams of Halligan Mahoney Williams, was provided to each board member citing South Carolina Law 51-1-340. Mr. Williams addressed the board to confirm the current policy captures the language from State law. Specifically, regarding special meetings, §59-1-340 provides, "[a]ny board may hold a special meeting when it is considered necessary either by the

chairman or a majority of the board members.” The motion to replace “a majority of members” with “a one-third majority” in Policy BE failed with a 4-4 vote. Those members voting for were: Mr. Beatty, Mr. Gray, Mr. Myers, and Ms. Porter. Those members voting against were: Board Chair Mr. Lee, Mrs. Clayton, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Mason.

C. Approval of Policy Committee Recommendation to Amend the language of Administrative Rule AR BD-R Organization of the School Board: Mr. Gray brought forth a recommendation from the Board Policy Committee to approve a change to Administrative rule AR BD-R Organization of the School Board to replace “The Chairman has the right, as other board members have, to offer resolutions, discuss questions, and vote”, to state “the Board Chair will remain neutral and vote only to break a tie. The motion to change “Chairman has the right, as other board members have, to offer resolutions, discuss questions and vote” to “the Board Chair will remain neutral and vote only to break a tie” failed with a 4-4 vote. Those members voting in favor were: Mr. Beatty, Mr. Gray, Mr. Myers, and Ms. Porter. Those members voting against were: Board Chair Mr. Lee, Mrs. Clayton, Mr. Hayes, and Mr. Mason.

VI. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Academics: Dr. Terry Pruitt, Chief Academic Officer, provided an update on District 7 early college students. In addition, details were shared on the Synchronous Teaching via Webcam, as well as an update on the virtual school for elementary, middle, and high school.

Communications: Ms. Beth Lancaster, Chief Communications Officer, provided a summary of the communications projects, media coverage and upcoming events across District 7.

Diversity & Inclusion: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, provided an update on recently completed training events, upcoming Profession Development opportunities, the District 7 Alliance inaugural book club, The Table, reading selection (*Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*). Dr. Redish completed her update highlighting events related to National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Finance: Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on the General Fund Expenses/Budget.

Operations & Technology: Dr. Eric Levitt, Chief Operations & Technology Officer, provided the board with an update on the second wave of free Wi-Fi hotspots now available.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Mr. Stevens’ was joined by Joylyn Robinson for a COVID-19 update. Ms. Robinson shared information on current cases, updated practices for contact tracing, procedures for sanitizing and addressed specific questions from board members. Mr. Stevens continued his update mentioning the planned complete policy

manual update in conjunction with the South Carolina School Boards Association. The board agreed this was a necessary step to update our policies as the last full review was done around 2008. Mr. Stevens continued his update providing information on the upcoming Drive-Thru Flu Vaccine clinic, elementary schools hybrid students return to five days of face-to-face learning, signage for naming of the District 7 Fine Arts Center Atrium, and a community event he will participate in on October 13. He finished his remarks noting the next board meeting would be November 10 due to November 3 is election day and schools will be closed.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr. Lee presented the draft agenda for the November 10th regular meeting. Board members were invited to provide general comments.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was no Executive Session.

X. ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 7:29 pm a motion was made by Mr. Gray to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

SUBMITTED BY: _____