

**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, January 19, 2021

6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Sanders Lee, Chair  
Mr. Clay Mahaffey, Vice Chair  
Ms. Sharon Porter  
Mr. Vernon Beatty  
Mr. Jeff Mason  
Mr. Kenneth Myers

**MEMBER (S) VIA  
REMOTE ACCESS:** Mrs. Meg Clayton  
Mr. Rick Gray  
Mr. Andy Hayes

**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:** Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order and gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Hayes joined the meeting remotely at 6:04 p.m.

**II. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS:** As provided for in board policy, the Superintendent called on the board officer nominating committee chair, Ms. Meg Clayton, to preside over the election of officers' portion of the agenda. Ms. Clayton placed the names of Sanders Lee as Chair, Clay Mahaffey as Vice Chair, and Sharon Porter as Secretary. Coming from the nominating committee no second was required. Mr. Beatty requested to nominate Mr. Rick Gray as Vice-Chair. Mr. Myers seconded the motion for Mr. Gray as Vice Chair. Mr. Mahaffey was elected Vice Chair with a vote of 5-4. The recommendation from the nominating committee for Mr. Lee as Chair and Sharon Porter as Secretary was addressed next. The motion passed 9-0.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Mahaffey to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Porter. The motion pass unanimously.

After multiple attempts to join and participate in the meeting virtually, Mr. Hayes' accessed dropped at 6:20 p.m. and he did not participate with the remainder of the meeting.

- IV. SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH-PROCLAMATION:** Mr. Stevens recognized and thanked the Board of Trustees for their contributions to the academic success of all of our students. He read the Governor’s Proclamation to the Board.
- V. SCSBA ETHICAL PRINCIPLES SIGNING:** Mr. Stevens lead the board members through the SCSBA Code of Ethics asking each board member to familiarize themselves with and pledge their support of the School Board Member Code of Ethics.
- VI. CITIZENS’ COMMENTS:** Ms. Tania McDuffie addressed the board to voice her concerns on COVID and face-to-face learning.
- VII. ACTION ITEMS:**
- A. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Mr. Mahaffey to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Ms. Porter. The motion passed 8-0.
- B. APPROVAL OF CITY OF SPARTANBURG’S RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO A 2018 AMENDMENT OF THE SAINT JOHN – DANIEL MORGAN TAX INCREMENT FINANCING REDEVELOPMENT PLAN:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the City of Spartanburg’s Resolution Consenting to a 2018 Amendment of the Saint John – Daniel Morgan Tax Increment Financing Redevelopment Plan, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. The motion passed 8-0.
- VIII. FY20 EXTERNAL AUDIT:** Mr. Quincy Halliday of Halliday, Schwartz & Co. shared the results of the FY20 audit.
- IX. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:**

**Academics:** Dr. Terry Pruitt, Chief Academic Officer, shared the Spring Registration plan for the District which will be done electronically in PowerSchool. In addition, he provide updates on the restart of Boys & Girls Clubs, the Virtual School, plans to implement the Responsive Classroom districtwide, updates to our Comprehensive Health Curriculum in order to reflect new state standards and openings for our Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Committee (CHEAC).

**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 the monthly update from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion. Ms. Nicole Thompson, Principal, and Ms. Maggie Deckard, Special Education Teacher for Carver Middle School joined the meeting. Ms. Deckard provided a presentation to the board of trustees on the Culturally Relevant Pedagogy as incorporated in her 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Special Education classroom.

**Finance:** Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Financial Reports for November 2020.

**Operations & Technology:** Dr. Eric Levitt, Chief Operations & Technology Officer, provided an update on plexiglass dividers installed in schools to provide an additional layer of personal protective equipment (PPE) for students and staff.

## **X. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**2020-2021 Academic Calendar:** Mr. Stevens provided the Board with a copy of the 2021-2022 academic calendar.

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual 2021 Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Week:** Mr. Stevens shared dates of relevance for City of Spartanburg MLK Celebration.

**SCSBA Annual Conference:** Mr. Stevens reminded the Board that the South Carolina School Board Association Annual Convention was scheduled to take place in Hilton Head South Carolina from February 18-21. Attendance for the conference is limited to 300 attendees due to the ongoing pandemic. Our District has three attendees on the waitlist.

Mr. Stevens completed his remarks covering the following areas: 1) a reminder on the filing deadline for the Statement of Economic Interests, 2) information on the changes for second semester related to Virtual and in-person instruction, 3) updated COVID information from our District website, 4) Country SRO incidents from prior school years in response to an inquiry from Mr. Myers 5) information on BianxNow COVID-19 Testing and 6) a reminder of upcoming board meeting dates.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** A draft copy of the February 2, 2021 Board agenda was provided. In response to Mr. Myers’ inquiry regarding school board member salaries, Mr. Lee provided a response from the District’s attorney, Mr. Ken Darr along with information relating to South Carolina school board members receiving a salary. Mr. Darr referred to South Carolina state law, specially, “Article X, Section 8 of the SC Constitution provides: “Money shall be drawn from the treasury of the State or the treasury of any of its political subdivisions only in pursuance of appropriations made by law.”. He continued sharing, local legislation does not permit paying a salary to Spartanburg County school board members.

At the request of the board, Mr. Darr will research local law permitting nearby Districts, such as Cherokee and Greenville County School Districts, to pay a salary to their school board members.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At approximately 8:20 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Porter to go into Executive Session for the discussion of both a contractual matter and personnel matters related to the 2021-22 school year. Seconded by Mr. Mason, all were in favor of the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

**OPEN SESSION:** At approximately 9:40 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Myers to return to Open Session, seconded by Mr. Mason. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**XII. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At approximately 9:42 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Mahaffey to authorize Mr. Stevens to continue discussions with Wofford College pertaining to access for the athletic fields at McCracken Middle School. The motion passed 8-0.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 9:44 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Mason to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Myers. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

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**Submitted by: Debbie Scharff**