

**SPARTANBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 7**

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Spartanburg High School – Media Center  
Spartanburg, South Carolina  
Tuesday, March 6, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Sharon Porter, Chair  
Mr. Sanders Lee, Vice-Chair  
Mrs. Meg Clayton, Secretary  
Mr. Vernon Beatty  
Mr. Rick Gray  
Mr. Andy Hayes  
Mrs. Mr. Clay Mahaffey  
Mr. Jeff Mason  
Dr. Ernest White

**MEMBER (S) ABSENT:** None

**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:** Ms. Porter called the meeting to order. Mr. Hayes gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE 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. GOOD NEWS:** Superintendent Dr. Russell Booker honored teachers who received National Board Certification or had renewed their certification– Rebecca Jones, Science Teacher at Spartanburg High School, Angela Haley, ESOL Teacher from Chapman Elementary School, Donna Howell, Science Teacher - Spartanburg High School, Dr. Kennedy Norungolo, Special Education Teacher - McCracken Middle School, and Christie Summers, First Grade Teacher at EP Todd School. Tommy Washington and his coach, Coach Gerard Gauthier were recognized for Tommy’s individual state title in wrestling for 5A in the 220lb weight class. Dr. Booker recognized Theatre Odyssey students who won awards at the recent Palmetto Dramatic Association/South Carolina Thespians Festival at Winthrop –Brendyn Hyslop received an honorable mention; Noah Goodwin and Dante Stewart received ratings of excellent for their solo musical performances; and Olivia Woodall and Carson Hardigree received ratings of superior for their solo musical performances, which qualify them to participate in the International Thespians Society National convention. Dr. Booker honored the twelve students who recently represented D7 in

the South Carolina Elementary Honor Choir. Being selected to this chorus is the highest honor an elementary child in the state can receive for this choral experience. Congratulations went to: Knox Eaton, Addyson Crocker, Molly McAbee, Nikita Herczynski, Karis Kuykendall, Jada Hall, Hayden Brewington, Reese Crocker, Sidney Davis, Annaka Lyda, Lauren Patterson and Mya Gaines. Students who earned placement at the annual All Region and All State Chorus, Band and Orchestra competitions were honored. The following students auditioned and were accepted to the All State Chorus: Anna Becknell, Alex Becknell, Elise Bright, Jalen Byrd, Hadley Carmichael, Liza Chapman, Ashton Coggins, Shakya Cohen, Ethan Durham, Claire Ellis, Ellie Fulmer, Noah Goodwin, Claire Groover, Carson Hardigree, Ella Hardigree, Emilie Parsons, Macy Petty, Georgia Price, Bryson Rose, Patricia Ryan, Mitt Souththivong, Evelyn Stephens, Dante Stewart, and Alyssa Turner. The following students were selected to Region Band: Tyshee Mann, Ethan Hunt, Anna Becknell, Luke Duncan, Genevieve Boucher, Tally Vaneman, Julia Graham, MunTaiya Dillard, Ellie Vensel, Andy Bogan, Claryn Greenway, Tristen Godfrey, Drew Lawton, Alex Weygandt, Dalton Markley, Will Lawton, Jason Button, Tristan Willcox. And for All State Band, three students qualified - Caroline Shaw, Jack Warren and Ethan Durham, who was first chair flute in South Carolina. The following students in grades 7-12 auditioned and were accepted for Region I Orchestra: Ezra Anderson, Madison Cooksey, John Kuntz, Ilan Falcon, Nadia Ferguson, Hayden Green, Peyton Ravan, Loral Stinson, Sharon George, Sarah Cribb, Ballie Cooksey, Alexandria Steinbach, Trevor Reininger, Natalie Acevedo, Justin Barron, Jalen Byrd, Allana Farmer, Mitt Souththivong, Raven Blackmon, Molly Cribb, Brandon Jeter, Emilie Parsons. Student accepted to All-State Orchestra include: Emilie Parsons, Jalen Byrd, Trevor Reininger, Ezra Anderson, and Ethan Durham. Ethan Durham was honored for successfully auditioning and achieving All-State status for three consecutive years in all three musical groups – Band, Chorus, and Orchestra. This is unprecedented in SHS history.

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** There were no Citizen's Comments.

**V. ACTION ITEMS:**

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

**B. Approval of Cleveland Academy of Leadership Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2018-2019:** A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the Cleveland Academy of Leadership Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2018-2019, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

- C. Approval of Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2018-2019:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the Professional Staff Re-Employment for 2018-2019, seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- D. Approval of Out-of-State Travel for Vernon Beatty and Rick Gray to attend the NSBA Conference in San Antonio, TX, April 6-10, 2018:** A motion was made by Mr. Lee to approve the Out-of-State Travel for Vernon Beatty and Rick Gray to attend the NSBA Conference in San Antonio, TX, April 6-10, 2018, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- E. Approval of Inclement Weather Make-up Days Forgiveness:** Dr. Booker noted that due to the inclement weather experienced on September 11, January 8, January 17, January 18, and January 19, students are scheduled to make the days up on February 19, March 30, and June 4 as designated on the calendar. He stated two additional days were scheduled to be made up on June 5 and June 6, and noted that local school boards had been granted the authority to forgive up to three days after the designated days have been made up. A motion was made by Mr. Mahaffey to forgive the inclement weather days experienced for all students on January 18 and January 19, and additionally for September 12 at Carver Middle School and Mary H. Wright and October 24 at Chapman Elementary for students who were unable to attend school due to power outages. Ms. Clayton seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- F. Approval of Resolution of Remembrance in Honor of Dr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Former Superintendent of School District Seven:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the Resolution of Remembrance in Honor of Dr. C. Tyrone Gilmore, Former Superintendent of School District Seven, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

**XI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:**

**Human Resources:** Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report. She noted the Human Resources Department had been busy conducting New Teacher Induction Meetings, AP Leadership Training and beginning the contract process for the 2018-2019 school year.

**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, provided information that the instructional focus at Drayton Mills Elementary School would be Project Based Learning (PBL) and that training for teachers had been ongoing throughout this school year. Dr. Pruitt shared that The Franklin School – A partnership with the

Northside Development Group, District 7, the City, the Mary Black Foundation and USC Upstate – had a projected opening in January of 2019. He said the center would house four 4-year old classes, which are currently at Cleveland.

**Student Services:** There was no report.

**Financial Report:** Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, provided the Financial Reports for January 2018. She noted comparing January 2017 year-to-date activity to January 2018 that revenue collections were down 2.6% as it related to percent of budget collected. She said even though the District’s overall annual actual revenue collections should exceed the budget based on information they had at this time, it did not appear that the District would fall short of the budget estimate for the local items of ad valorem, vehicles and delinquents.

**Planning & Operations:** Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Operations, introduced Dr. Jerry McKibben with McKibben Demographics who had completed their demographic study review of Spartanburg School District Seven. Mr. McKibben concluded from his extensive study that total district enrollment was forecasted to increase by 479 students, or 6.4%, between 2017-18 and 2022-23.

**Technology Report:** There was no report.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

**School Safety Report:** Dr. Booker provided an update on safety and shared with the board the resources that were currently in place within the District. He highlighted schools being staffed with assistant principals, guidance counselors and school resource officers through the Sherriff’s Office. He also shared the recent finding in the Gallup Student Poll, which measures the wellbeing of our students.

**National School Walkout:** Dr. Booker told the board that on March 14, a National School Walkout was being planned throughout the country, at 10:00 am to last for 17 minutes (one minute for each victim of the shooting in Parkland, Florida). He said members of the student body at Spartanburg High School had expressed a desire to take part in the walkout had approached administration, and acknowledged that many of these students were seeing this as a peaceful way to express their concerns. He noted the school or district could in no way sanction the event. He said the District, however, would allow those students who wished to take part to do so provided they do so in a designated area, as to ensure a safety, with no disruption to the day and educational process.

**Budget Update:** Dr. Booker said the state Superintendent and the House Ways and Means Committee had all submitted budget proposals. He noted the House Ways and Means Committee had proposed a \$0 increase on the base student cost, and that

the budget includes a 2% pay increase for teachers in addition to the mandated step increase.

**Teacher Recruitment Efforts:** Dr. Booker said the Office of Human Resources was busy recruiting teachers for the upcoming school term. In addition to the many recruitment fairs they had been attending, he said they were most excited about a number of innovative new initiatives in place to recruit and retain high quality professionals. He said District Seven had recently entered into a partnership with Furman University called *Teacher to Teacher*. This partnership will afford the district an opportunity to hire teacher interns for a year while they are completing their fifth year in the teacher education program. Upon successful completion of the internship, District Seven would be able to offer these interns positions within the district. He said the District also signed an agreement between Clemson's *Call Me Mister* program, Spartanburg Community College, and the Viking Early College that would afford our young men in the early college interested in teaching elementary school a path to enter the *Call Me Mister* pipeline. Upon successful completion of the program at a four-year institution, these young men would be given priority to teaching positions in the District. He concluded that the District was in the early stages of a potential partnership with Converse College that would afford the opportunity to support our young ladies interested in the teaching profession through a middle college experience at Converse. Through this program there is the potential to provide young ladies a path to the profession through the highly respected teacher education program afforded by Converse College.

**XI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** A draft copy of the April 10, 2018 Board agenda was provided.

**2 Days at the Capital (2 DAC)** 2DAC is a two-day event sponsored by the SCSBA during the legislative session for board members, superintendents and other public school advocates. During the meeting, members will spend time at the State House meeting with legislators, attending legislative committee meetings, and increasing the visibility and voice of local school boards. The first session is March 8. Spartanburg County is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12. Information has been mailed to you by the SCSBA. A flyer is attached.

**State of Economic Interests:** Ms. Porter reminded the board that they are to submit to the South Carolina Ethics Commission their Statement of Economic Interest. These must be filed electronically, and the due date is March 30, 2018.

**Board Retreat:** Ms. Porter thanked everyone for submitting available dates for the upcoming board retreat. The retreat is scheduled for Saturday, April 21. Please mark your calendars. As discussed, arrangements will be made for a dinner on Friday, April 20 as a precursor to the retreat. This will afford us an opportunity to have some time to fellowship together prior to the session on Saturday. She said we

will be working on an agenda with the details. She stated in the meantime, do not hesitate to contact her if you have any questions.

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no Executive Session.

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

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 8:35 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hayes to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. 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**