

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, August 7, 2018

6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBER (S) ABSENT: Mr. Sanders Lee, Vice-Chair

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:** Ms. Porter called the meeting to order and Mr. Gray gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to add two items to the agenda. First, McCracken Middle School and Drayton Mills Elementary School attendance zones. Second, the new District Seven website. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gray. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** Dr. Russell Booker, Superintendent, congratulated Board Member Rick Gray on obtaining Level 3 status during the 2017-2018 school term. As a result of this recognition, Mr. Gray was presented a Certificate of Achievement along with a gold pin from the South Carolina School Boards Association.
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS:** There were no Citizens' Comments
- V. ACTION ITEMS:**
 - A. Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
 - B. Approval of SCAGO GO Bond Resolution:** A motion was made by Dr. White to approve the SCAGO GO Bond Resolution in an amount not to exceed \$6,250,000, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

- C. Approval of Out of State Travel for Vernon Beatty, Rick Gray and Sharon Porter to attend the NABSE 46th Annual Conference, November 6-11 in Baltimore, MD:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the Out of State Travel for Vernon Beatty, Rick Gray and Sharon Porter, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- D. Approval of Membership of Comprehensive Health Advisory Committee (CHEAC), Member Recommendation:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the nomination for CHEAC Committee as presented, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- E. Approval of Lease Agreement with Piedmont Community Action:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to authorize Dr. Booker to execute a lease agreement with Piedmont Community Action for use of the Chapman Elementary School facility as presented, seconded by Dr. White. As Ms. Porter is a board member of Piedmont Community Action, she abstained from the vote. All others were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Human Resources: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report. Dr. Redish also noted the Human Resources Department had successfully processed a total of 95 certified teachers into District 7 for the 2018-2019 school term. We have processed 26 classified employees into the district.

Communications: Mrs. Sally Gregg, Chief Communications Officer, provided a copy of the communication's overview and media report along with a list of pertinent dates for the month. She was pleased to report that the new Website was live and fully functional. She said from a marketing point of view, the navigation channel at the top of the site, titled, "I Am" was a section Board Members could direct stakeholders (students, families, staff, area residents, potential employees) to a wealth of information about our District. This new navigation function allows our various constituents to easily locate key resources and materials. Mr. Beatty raised a question regarding the leadership section within the site, noting there were inconsistencies with some of the descriptions of the superintendent's leadership team. Dr. Booker noted that they would look into it and Sally Gregg thanked the board for bringing it to our attention.

Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Terry Pruitt, Deputy Superintendent, provided an overview of summer reading camps and summer learning opportunities over the summer. The District 7 Summer Reading Camp was held June 6 – 28, 2018 at Houston Elementary School. Students spent the day in literacy workshop models (reading and writing), self-exploration workshop (knowing myself as a learner), and enrichment activities such as STEM/Science, First-Tee Golf, archery and visits to the Humane Society of Spartanburg to read to the dogs (a favorite activity for the

students). 154 rising 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students were invited from our elementary schools and 88 students attended camp. Of the 88 students served, 85 students demonstrated growth by maintaining or increasing reading levels. The Summer Extended Year Program at the District 7 Early Learning Center was held July 11 – July 26, 2018. 70 students were registered, and the average daily attendance was 55 students. Students were provided breakfast, lunch and a snack each day. Teachers planned engaging lessons with themes focusing on Family Traditions, Traveling Around the World, Birds in Nature, Silly Science and Beach Fun – all lessons integrated early literacy and early math skills. Elementary Summer School was held June 11 – July 26, 2018 at Mary H. Wright Elementary School. The average daily attendance was 145 students. The focus for the summer program was literacy, math, science and enrichment activities. Students were selected and recommended for summer school by their respective principal and teachers based on student performance data – students who needed additional instruction for promotion. Middle School Summer School was held June 11 – 28, 2018 at Carver Middle School. 96 students representing the three District 7 middle schools were served in the areas of math, English, science and social studies. Students identified to attend by their home school needed to complete courses for promotion. High School Summer School was held June 13 – July 26 at Spartanburg High School. 70 students were served in one or more of the following courses: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Statistics, English I – IV, personal finance, comprehensive health, sociology, psychology and multicultural studies. 115 total units were awarded, and four students enrolled graduated. An AVID Summer Bridge program was held at Carver Middle School. The three-week program served 20 students per day. The AVID Summer Bridge program is designed to help eliminate the “summer slide” which can occur over the summer months when students are not in school. The focus was on AVID math and science with team building and the appropriate use of WICOR strategies (writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading) embedded in the instruction. Athena Camp for gifted and talented students (Odyssey) from throughout the county was held July 9 – July 20, 2018 at Jesse Boyd Elementary. Sixty D7 students participated in the camp, which was a collaborative partnership with Converse College. He also noted Viking Early College orientations for both students and parents were held multiple times throughout the summer.

Administration: Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Administration updated the Board on Chartwells and the District’s Summer Feeding Program in which 30 different sites were utilized at various dates and times over the summer. He noted over the month of June 11,426 breakfasts were served, 19,088 lunches, 10,504 snacks and 1,575 dinners. In July he said 5,838 breakfasts were served, 10,430 lunches, 3,311 snacks and 411 dinners were served. Dr. White introduced Ron Smith from McMillian Pazdan Smith who provided an update on our construction projects. Mr. Smith said Drayton Mills Elementary School had received approval from the Office of School Facilities for opening on Aug 20. He was also happy to report the school had received Green Globes certification. The Green Globe certification process encourages accountability in sustainable design, to conserve energy, reduce water consumption, and promote responsible use of materials. And in addition, Mr.

Smith said, to being energy efficient, environmentally friendly and wired for the most advanced school technology – the facility offers a long list of unique amenities from an abundance of natural lighting to close proximity to the city’s scenic walking trail.

Dr. Booker provided clarification on the attendance zone for Drayton Mills Elementary School. He shared that the current attendance zones would remain in effect until 2020-2021 when McCracken Middle School would occupy the existing SHS. Specifically, students zoned for Chapman would remain zoned for Carver and students zoned for Houston would remain zoned for McCracken. The district will clarify this information for parents in the coming months.

A few board members noted that they had received concerns about customer service as they sought to enroll their students at McCracken. Dr. Booker informed the board that he had received no complaints and asked the board to direct those concerns to the district office.

Business & Finance: Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, said that due to the fact that the District was currently working to close out the books for the 17-18 school year and had not rolled the fund balances forward, an analysis of the financial statements would provide no relevant information at this time. She said information would be forthcoming.

Planning & Innovation: Eric Levitt, Assistant Superintended for Planning and Innovation, said the technology department had been in the process of re-imaging and assessing the condition of approximately 7,500 MacBooks and iPads this summer. He noted David Beyer and his team were coordinating closely with school principals for the smooth distribution of student devices during the first few days of school. Dr. Levitt said during the past several months, the installation of all the technology systems has been underway at Drayton Mills Elementary School. The network cabling and infrastructure was completed in April. During May and June, network servers and wireless capacity was added throughout the building. Sixty-one ActivPanels were moved from Chapman and Houston and all panels have been installed. Security features including electronic door locks on timers, a staff badging system, video surveillance, and teacher call-in systems will be completed within the next week. Dr. Levitt said many of the software applications used throughout the district required updating the data and software to prepare for the new school year. These have included PowerSchool (student information management system), InfoSnap (online student registration), Schoology (student learning management system), EdInsight (test score data warehouse), PDExpress (staff professional development registration portal), BrightArrow (mass calling and communication system), email and network accounts for all new employees, user database for new website, as well as numerous classroom learning applications such as DreamBox (math), iStation (reading), and iReady (special education) as examples.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Welcome Back to the 2018-2019 School Term: Dr. Booker noted it had been a very productive summer, and that now he was anxiously awaiting the return of our students. For the record he wanted to publically thank our many teachers and staff members who had been busy teaching summer reading camps, summer school, and conducting various camps throughout the summer.

Update on Ratings Visit to New York City on July 23: Dr. Booker shared that on Monday, July 23 visits were made to S&P Global Ratings and Moody’s Investor Service. He said the purpose of the meetings were to share with the rating agencies District Seven’s overall strength. He was pleased to report that in both instances our current ratings (which remain strong) were reaffirmed and said these ratings would help the district ensure favorable rates as we look to issue upcoming bonds this fall. Dr. Booker said the District anticipated issuing a \$55 million permanent bond, a \$127 million bond anticipation note, and \$6.25 million bond for general maintenance and technology during the early part of this fall.

District Seven’s Leadership Retreat: Dr. Booker said as we look to the 2018-2019 school year and a mission statement that stresses our commitment to inspire and equip our students for meaningful lives of leadership and service as world citizens, the administrative leadership team would gather at Milliken on Friday, August 3, 2018 from 8:00am - 3:30pm for our annual retreat.

Provide Update on the Opening of School at Cleveland Academy: Dr. Booker noted that school resumed at Cleveland Academy on July 20, 2018. He thanked the District’s many community partners who came out and made the annual “Back to School Bash” a successful and meaningful event for our children and their families. He noted attendance had been around 400 students during the summer session, and staff was to be commended for their work.

- VII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:** A draft copy of the September 4, 2018 Board agenda was provided.
- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** At approximately 6:58 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Gray to go into Executive Session for discussion of Personnel Related Matters, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- IX. OPEN SESSION:** At approximately 8:37 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hayes to return to Open Session, seconded by Mr. Mahaffey. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- X. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no action taken.

XI. ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 8:40 p.m. a motion was made by Dr. White to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Mason. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT

CHAIR

SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED