

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, September 3, 2019
6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBER (S) ABSENT: Meg Clayton

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. Lee gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Dr. White to approve the agenda seconded by Mr. Gray. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** Beth Lancaster recognized teacher of the year recipients. Each year, every school honors the best of the best by naming a teacher of the year. In addition to be great teachers and inspiring a love of learning in all their students, each of them has a strong long-range potential for leadership and the ability to motivate and inspire their fellow educators. The teachers of the year are Ashley Moss, Early Learning Center; Brandi Dendy, Claire Louka, Jesse Boyd Elementary; Cleveland Academy of Leadership; Kenesha Hardy, Mary H Wright Elementary; Mary Ann Stoddard, Pine Street Elementary; Valarie Wilkerson, Carver Middle; Priscilla Martin, McCracken Middle School; Thomasina Guffey, Spartanburg High; Michael Walker, Whitlock Flexible Learning Center; Sallie McKissick, McCarthy Teszler School; and Crystal Weathers, E P Todd & District 7's Teacher of the Year.
- 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 Out of State Travel for Vernon Beatty and Sharon Porter to attend the NABSE 47th Annual Conference, November 11-17th in Dallas TX:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the Out of State Travel for Vernon Beatty and Sharon Porter, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

- C. Approval of Membership of Comprehensive Health Advisory Committee (CHEAC), Member Recommendation:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the nomination for the CHEAC Committee members as presented, seconded by Mr. Beatty. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

VI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Academics: Dr. Terry Pruitt, Chief Academic Officer, provided an update on Middle School Summer School that was held at Carver Middle School. All middle schools – Carver, McCracken and EP Todd were represented. A total of 100 students were served over four core courses. Dr. Pruitt shared that he was working with approximately 40 teachers, instructional coaches and administrators representing all schools in District 7 to develop a Districtwide Instructional Framework. The purpose, he said, is to ensure that every teacher in every school has the resources, the skills and the support needed to design a well-crafted and well-taught lesson. Dr. Pruitt said a revision of the District’s Comprehensive Guidance Plan was a goal for the school year.

Communications: Ms. Beth Lancaster, 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 communications team has been working to support the superintendent search process by helping draft the press release announcing the search, creating a web presence for news about the search, posting a prominent link to the community survey on the homepage of every school’s website, and drafting brochure content to be posted for candidates.

Diversity & Inclusion: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, noted she had successfully joined the Spartanburg Network for Economic Mobility as a Committee Member. The Network for Southern Economic Mobility (NSEM) is a network of Southern cities that are committed and equipped to identify long-term, system-changing strategies that can improve upward economic mobility for youth and young adults in the lowest income brackets. The NSEM Initiative is a special project of the Spartanburg County Foundation. She shared that her office was offering training to principals, assistant principals and guidance counselor through the Racial Equity Institute. REI’s two-day Phase I training designed to develop the capacity of participants to better understand racism in its institutional and structural forms.

Finance: Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, noted due to the fact that the District was currently working to close out the books for the 2019-2020 school year and had not rolled the fund balances forward, an analysis of the financial statements would provide no relevant information at this time.

Human Resources: Dr. Marc Zachary, Chief Human Resources Officer, provided the monthly staffing report. He noted they had successfully processed a total of 86 certified teachers and 60 classified employees into District 7 for the 2019-2020 school term. Dr. Zachary also noted the Human Resources Department had been busy developing the New Teacher Induction Meetings and recruiting strategies for the year.

Operations: Mr. Jeff Stevens, Chief Operations Officer, and Bill Ramsey from M B Khan provided an update on the schedule for the completion of the High School. Mr. Ramsey noted the stadium would be ready for the first home football game on Sept 27. He also shared that pedestrian crossing signs would be installed on East Main Street and signage on buildings and throughout campus would be completed soon.

Technology & Innovation: Dr. Eric Levitt, Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, noted that the technology department had again worked through the summer to re-image and assess the condition of approximately 7,500 MacBooks and iPads. He said, David Beyer, Director of Technology, and his team had coordinated closely with school principals on 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 major technology systems had been underway at the new Spartanburg High School. The network cabling and infrastructure was completed in April. During May and June, network servers and wireless capacity were added throughout the building. One hundred and forty (140) ActivPanels were moved from the old high school and were ready for teachers on day one. Security features including electronic door locks on timers, a staff badging system, video surveillance, and teacher call-in systems were all completed and fully functioning the first day of school. He noted work on a video control room to produce live athletic events and the scoreboard was nearing completion.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Student Support Services: Dr. Booker provided a comprehensive overview and update on how District 7 supports the whole child. The presentation included information on student support staff and the programs and support they practice on behalf of our children.

Enrollment: Dr. Booker shared that the enrollment for K5-12 grade on the 5th day was 7,333 students, representing an increase of 118 students from the previous year's

enrollment. He said the total enrollment for the District (inclusive of PreK) was 7,594 students, or an increase of 92 students over last year.

Appointment to StriveTogether Board of Directors: Dr. Booker shared with the board that with the privilege of serving on the Board of SAM, he is looking forward to supporting the District nationwide as a member of the national board of directors through its affiliate StriveTogether. StriveTogether is a national, nonprofit network of 70 community partnerships working to ensure that every child succeeds from cradle to career, regardless of race, income or zip code and reaches 10.4 million students in 30 states and Washington, D.C. Dr. Booker said in October the board will convene in Seattle, Washington at the National Cradle to Career Convening under the theme Go Far, Go Together: Uniting in Pursuit of Equity for Every Child.

Invitation to Accompany Upstate Group to Finland: Dr. Booker said the Public Education Partnership (Greenville), Furman University's Department of Education, and the Riley Institute at Furman has invited him to join a delegation of South Carolina educational leaders to travel to Finland. Finland is touted as a world leader when it comes to their system of public education, teacher preparation, and student-centered focus. Dr. Booker said he was honored to represent District Seven and join the exemplary group of Upstate leaders on the trip.

SC READY and SC PASS Data: Dr. Booker said SC READY (ELA/Math) and SC PASS (Science/Social Studies) data had been released Tuesday, September 4 by the South Carolina Department of Education. He said District Seven showed improvements in four of the six tested grades in ELA and three of the six tested areas in mathematics.

VIII. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: A draft copy of the October 1, 2019 Board agenda was provided.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At approximately 6:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Beatty to go into Executive Session for discussion of a Personnel Related Matter, seconded by Dr. White. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

OPEN SESSION: At approximately 8:00 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hayes to return to open session, seconded by Dr. White. 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 8:02 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