

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 4, 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
Mr. Jeff Mason
Mr. Clay Mahaffey

MEMBER (S) ABSENT: Dr. Ernest White

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. Mahaffey gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Gray to approve the agenda seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** Sally Hammond 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 Liz Macdonald, Early Learning Center; Reta Ridgeway, Chapman Elementary; Rakeya Brian, Cleveland Academy of Leadership; Adena McDaniel, Houston Elementary; Kamia Norman, Mary H Wright Elementary; Lori Patterson, Pine Street Elementary; Julie Boyd, E.P. Todd School; Dee Salmon, Carver Middle; Tracy Kennedy, McCracken Middle School; Randy Edwards, Spartanburg High; Karen Lambka, Whitlock Flexible Learning Center; Amanda Leonetti, McCarthy Teszler School; and April Bryant, Jesse Boyd Elementary & District 7's Teacher of the Year. Micah Randall was honored for being named a 2018 Special Olympics Games USA Medal Winner. Micah was selected to compete in the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games held in Seattle, Washington July 1-6, 2018. She traveled with 166 athletes, Unified Partners and coaches as part of Team South Carolina. She competed in Artistic Gymnastics and was awarded 5th

place on vault, gold on bars, bronze on beam, bronze on floor, and silver All Around. Fifteen students in our District in grades 3-8 received the maximum scores on either the SC READY Math test or SC PASS Science. The students are Nicholas Battocchio, Emily Loreda, Anne Janeski, Zoe Gordon, Paul Jackson, Chariya Moon, Paul Whisnant, Jessica Arrington, Emmett Baymiller, John Bolinger, Nicole Giesbertz, Wesley Shelton, McKayla Smith, Mary Ella Bullington, and Julia Brantley

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.

VI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Human Resources: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, provided the monthly staffing report. Dr. Redish noted the Human Resources Department had successfully processed a total of 100 certified teachers for the 2018-2019 school term and 41 classified employees.

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 since the Website's debut last month, the platform has gotten rave reviews from parents and staff, as well as the web content editors who work behind the scenes of the sites.

Curriculum & Instruction: Dr. Terry Pruitt, Deputy Superintendent, noted the District was steadily moving forward with the district-wide implementation of Reading Recovery (RR). He reminded the board that the RR journey began three years ago with training the first RR teachers and a RR Teacher Leader. He noted now the District had at least one Certified RR Teacher in each elementary school and a fully trained RR Teacher Leader. He said the goal was to train all K5, 1st and 2nd grade teachers in the RR Early Literacy Lessons. Dr. Pruitt concluded consistent adherence to the RR model with fidelity over time would positively impact our reading intervention efforts and would be demonstrated in our reading and literacy student achievement data.

Administration: Dr. Thomas White, Assistant Superintendent for Administration provided a comprehensive update regarding progress being made on the New Spartanburg High School. He noted certain highlights within the estimating, financing, design and construction phase. Dr. White noted the milestones as part as the renovations taking place at Duncan Park which involve the locker rooms and the dugout areas.

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: Dr. Eric Levitt, Assistant Superintendent for Planning and Innovation, told the board about a pilot project taking place between Spartanburg High School and the Spartanburg County Public Library. He said students would be able to checkout library materials using the county library's online catalogue with their school ID. He also said a county library courier would deliver and pick-up the materials at the high school's media center. All at no cost to students or the district. Dr. Levitt said recently the District was selected by the Education Oversight Committee (EOC) as one of five eLearning Day pilot districts in South Carolina to use online or virtual instruction for school make-up days. He said pilot districts would need to certify that eLearning will be implemented for all schools in the district for one or more make-up days which would constitute a minimum of 200 minutes of daily instruction. He said on eLearning days, teachers would be available to answer questions posted on Schoology to help students virtually. Dr. Booker said he believed that eLearning days in the middle part of the school year would be more beneficial to students than make-up days in June, when testing was completed, and attendance already tended to decline; and for families who had planned vacations during June, it also would provide piece of mind knowing days would not have to made-up during the summer.

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 2, 2018 Board agenda was provided.
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No executive session was held.
- X. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no action taken.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 7:31 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