

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, November 12, 2019

6:00 p.m.

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

MEMBER (S) ABSENT: Mr. Rick Gray
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. Hayes gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** A motion was made by Mr. Beatty to approve the agenda seconded by Mr. Lee. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.
- III. GOOD NEWS:** Ms. Beth Lancaster, Chief Communications Officer, recognized Board Member Ms. Porter, who was chosen for the prestigious honor - the Cammie Fludd Clagett Award of Achievement in Education or the Arts. Missy Campbell was honored for being named the South Carolina Association of School Business Officials Outstanding School Business Official. Erin Black, Adult Education Director was recognized for being named the Rookie of the Year by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators. Pointing to visionary leadership of Dr. Meredith Rose, Principal and Dr. Wanda Greenfield, Technology Integration Specialist from Jesse Boys - the experts at Apple praised the school and renewed their designation as an Apple Distinguished School for 2019–2022. Caroline Pruitt from Drayton Mills Elementary was honored for being named Lander University’s distinguished outstanding young alumni during its annual Alumni Awards Ceremony. McCracken Middle Helene Moore-Haywood was honored for receiving a SC Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (SCAER) Annual Conference Scholarship. 2019 All-Region Orchestra students were honored and those who received art awards at the Piedmont fair were also recognized.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

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

V. FY19 EXTERNAL AUDIT: External auditors from the firm of McAbee, Schwartz, Halliday & Company presented their review of District Seven’s compliance with its procurement code process and regulations in accordance with procedures set out in the State of South Carolina Budget and Control Board Audit Program. The review covered transactions from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and consisted of required communications and disclosures and included highlights from our financial position. District Seven was granted an “unmodified” opinion, which is the highest opinion possible for our financial statements and operations.

VI. REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

Academics: Dr. Terry Pruitt, Chief Academic Officer, shared that Duke Energy had awarded District 7 a \$5,000 grant to be used for school supplies at the following schools: Carver, EP Todd, Boyd, Drayton Mills, Mary H. Wright, Meeting Street and Pine Street. He said the District was expanding the research-based phonics program this school year. He said, a districtwide focus group had been organized based on best practices in teaching phonics to promote continued support and fidelity to implementation. Dr. Pruitt said AdvancED was now Cognia and that the Company Measured Progress and AdvancED had merged. He shared that the District’s five-year re-accreditation year was 2020 – 2021.

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 said the communications team had been supporting a tremendous number of initiatives across our D7 schools this month, but some key areas of focus included: Hispanic Heritage Month, donor opportunities at SHS, next Steps on introducing the new school, and visibility for the new Diversity and Inclusion initiative.

Diversity & Inclusion: Dr. Carlotta Redish, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, provided the monthly update from the Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

Finance: Ms. Missy Campbell, Chief Financial Officer, in addition to the audit reported earlier in the minutes, presented the Annual Procurement Report for 2019-2020 to cover information on minority expenditures for the previous school year. She said her office continues to seek ways to engage minority and women owned businesses to enhance a partnership with the District. Ms. Campbell shared information related to a bond anticipation note sale on Oct 3, 2019. She said this sale marked the final piece of our 2016 Referendum financing. The Bonds were for a total

of \$130,000,000 with the proceeds being utilized to retire all BANS outstanding and to provide the final cash flow necessary to complete the final project phase. She noted there were seven bidders for these Bonds whose True Interest Cost (TIC) rate ranged from 3.24% to 3.30%. Overall, she is very pleased with the results of the sale. These rates are outstanding in today's bond marketplace. The winning bid was to Jefferies, LLC. Part of a competitive debt related sale of bonds is a rating of the district and surrounding economy. Moody's provide a "Aa3" rating and Standard and Poor's awarded a "AA-" rating on this issuance.

Human Resources: Dr. Marc Zachary, Chief Human Resources Officer, provided the monthly staffing report. The Human Resources Department has successfully processed a total of 89 certified teachers and 78 classified employees into District 7 for the 2019-2020 school term.

Operations: Jeff Stevens, Chief Operations Officer, provided an overview and construction fact sheet on the final phases of construction at Spartanburg High School, renovations to the future McCracken Middle School, and other projects currently underway.

Technology & Innovation: No report

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Student Enrollment 45th Day: Dr. Booker shared that enrollment for K5-12 grade on the 45th day was 7,262 students. This represents an increase of 135 students from the previous year's enrollment of 7,127 students. Total enrollment for the district (inclusive of PreK) was 7,559 students - an increase of 118 students over last year's 7,441 students. He noted over the last ten years show an upward trend with the district gaining 561 students, and according to our 2018 Demographics study, enrollment is forecasted to climb over the next five years to 7,671 students.

Spartanburg High School Dedication and Open House: Dr. Booker said the Dedication and Open House for Spartanburg would be held on Sunday, January 12, 2019 in the early afternoon.

Spartanburg High School Green Globe Certification: Dr. Booker was pleased to report that following a second review of our sustainability efforts at the new Spartanburg High School, the District gained a Two Green Globe Certification. A Two Green Globes designation means the facility demonstrates excellent progress in achieving reduction of environmental impacts and use of environmental efficiency practices. The review summary stated, "This level of sustainability is an outstanding accomplishment and you should be proud of the manner in which you approached the design and construction of this facility." We are in the process of sending a release out to our public sharing this great news.

Leadership South Carolina Visit – November 14: Dr. Booker said he was looking forward to Leadership South Carolina visiting Spartanburg for a tour the new Spartanburg High School on November 14, 2019. He noted the tour was part of their Public Education and Workforce Development focus for November. He said the visit to SHS would begin with an overview of public education by The Honorable Rita Allison, House Education Chair, and The Honorable Scott Talley, Senate Education Committee.

Memorial Sculpture & History Wall: Dr. Booker said his team was continuing to make progress on the sculpture and history wall projects for Spartanburg High School and he looked forward to sharing this project with our students and community in the coming months. He noted the four sculptures had been completed and would be installed as soon as the Fine Arts Center was completed.

VIII. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT: A draft copy of the January 7, 2020 Board agenda was provided.

IX. APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR BOARD OFFICERS: Ms. Porter appointed Jeff Mason as chair, Vernon Beatty and Rick Gray. The committee will be responsible for submitting a slate of officers to the board to act upon at its next regular scheduled meeting, which will be January 7, 2020.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION: At approximately 7:12 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Beatty to go into Executive Session for discussion of a contractual matter, seconded by Mr. Mason. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

OPEN SESSION: At approximately 8:10 p.m. a motion was made Mr. Lee to return to Open Session, seconded Mr. Beatty. All were in favor. The motion passed.

XI. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was no action taken.

XII. ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 8:12 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Hayes to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Clayton. All were in favor of the motion. The motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT

CHAIR

SECRETARY

MINUTES APPROVED