

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING

August 7, 2017

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, August 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Agenda notice was distributed to Spartanburg Herald Journal and listed on the District website at spartanburg4.org/do/agenda.

Chairman Milton Smith called the meeting to order. Minutes of the June 5 meeting and June 26 Budget hearing and meeting were approved.

The following reports were given:

Woodruff Primary School

Mrs. Hodge gave the following report:

1. The WPS Summer Reading Camp operated from June 5 through June 30. The Spartanburg Academic Movement offered grant money to support a class of rising second graders. Project Purposes: Spartanburg County data illustrates a precipitous drop in reading ability among children in poverty during the summer between first and second grades. The first objective of this project is to eliminate and even reverse ELA “summer slide” among rising second grade children in poverty. The second objective is to incentivize creative strategies to reverse “summer slide” among children in poverty at each of three levels: rising second grade, rising third grade, and rising fourth grade.
The teacher, students, and parents were offered incentives for successfully completing the requirements. Out of the eleven that originally agreed to attend, seven actually attended.
2. On July 28, we registered 681 students.
3. Teachers and administrators have worked on revisions to the curriculum guides this summer. First and second year employees to WPS have attended Conscious Discipline and High Scope Training with Mrs. Carly Parker. Laura Turner and Nicole Sheffield attended Crisis Management Training on June 13 and 14. Kindergarten teachers and Mrs. Humerez will receive training on administering the new Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) on August 8 and 9. The KRA has to be administered within the first 45 days of school.
4. DIAL 4 screening was held on July 31 for students not screened at the end of the school year and for late enrollees.
5. “Meet the Teacher” Day is August 15 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Students and family members can visit their classrooms and meet their new teacher. Parents are also encouraged to send school supplies on this day.
6. Preschool home visits are scheduled for August 17, 18, 22 and 23. Preschoolers will begin staggered entry on August 22. Staggered entry provides for easier adjustment to school for young children. Parents are informed of this process during home visits.
7. Power School shows 850 students enrolled at WPS. Since parents are still coming in to register students, we will be more precise with grade level numbers by August 10.

August

Community Project: Helping Hands of Woodruff (paper products) and Woodruff Soup Kitchen Food Drive

Character Value Emphasis: Responsibility

Career Focus: “Be Our Guest...” (Hospitality and Tourism)

4-6 – Tax Free Weekend for Back to School Shopping

15 – Visit Your Classroom and Meet Your Teacher (5:00 – 7:00)

17 – First Day for Students (Kindergarten through 2nd Grade) – Lunch Begins

17, 18, 22, 23 – 3K & 4K Preschool Home Visits

21 – No school for students

22 – Breakfast Begins

24–29 – 4K Preschool Staggered Entry

24–Sept. 1 – 3K Preschool Staggered Entry

25 – School Family Celebration – Wear School T-Shirts



Ben Harrison designed our t-shirts for the 17-18 school year.

Woodruff Elementary School

Mrs. Turner gave the following report:

1. Projected Enrollment: 3rd Grade- 217
 4th Grade-199
 5th Grade- 217
 Projected Total Enrollment: 633*
2. May 30-June 1: Two teachers participated in the Expanded ADEPT training and received certification for the implementation of the new evaluation system beginning 2018.
3. June 5-June 23: Summer School was held from June 5-June 23. Fourth and fifth grade students received instruction in math and reading from 8:00am-1:00pm.
4. June 5-June 30: Read to Succeed Summer Reading Camp was held for rising third and fourth graders in need of academic assistance in reading comprehension from 7:45am-1:15 pm. Twelve rising fourth graders and six rising third graders participated in the camp. Students were selected based on winter/spring MAP scores and DRA levels.
5. July 11: Supply Lists were delivered to local businesses as a convenience to parents and community members in preparation of the 2017-2018 school year.
6. July 25: WES New Employee Orientation was conducted at Woodruff Elementary School. New personnel in attendance: Paige Fowler, Casey Kendrick, Barry Wash, and Jonathan Godfrey.
7. July 27: Fall registration was conducted by WES teachers and staff members from 8:00am-4:00 pm. Third, fourth, and fifth grade parents and students registered in homerooms of classroom teachers. Registration forms and school supply lists were available for parents on the school website and in local businesses as an added convenience.
8. August 22: Plans are underway to conduct Grade Level Orientations on August 22nd. Teacher will hold three sessions to meet with parents to review instructional expectations, school policies and procedures.

Woodruff Middle School

Mrs. Brown gave the following report:

1. Summer School was held from June 5-June 23, with thirty-two students participating.
2. Language Arts teachers met July 10-11 with Literacy Coach Megan Wager to continue work with the reading and writing curricula.
3. Registration for Woodruff Middle School was held Thursday, July 27, from 8 am- 5pm. Approximately 75% of the student body registered this date. Families who could not attend this date were accommodated the following week from 8:30 am-2:30 pm.

4. Woodruff Middle School welcomes new staff to the building this year- Scott Lawson, Assistant Principal; Billi Wood, Secretary; Ty Skinner, 6th grade Social Studies; Lynn Richardson, 8th grade ELA teacher; Megan Wagner, Literacy Coach (shared with high school); and Melanie Williams, special education assistant.
5. The logo at the top of this page appears on the front of the school agenda planner to commemorate the 50th anniversary in the facility that houses Woodruff Middle School. A planning committee of teachers and staff are developing a variety of activities to celebrate throughout this school year.
6. Open House/Meet the Teacher will be held Tuesday, August 15, 4-5:30 pm.
7. The Band Instrument Rental opportunity is Wednesday, September 6, 4-6 pm, in the band room of WMS.
8. Football practice begins August 15th. Meet the Cubs is August 29, 2017. The regular season begins September 4 at E.P.Todd. Coaching staff includes Will Lanford, Eddie Brooks, Daniel Westmoreland, Buck Mosteller, and Chip Hitchcock. Girls Volleyball tryouts begin August 17. The season opens September 6 at Cowpens. Tonja Westmoreland is the coach.
9. Football Parent and Players Meetings and Volleyball Parent Meetings will be held Tuesday, August 22 at the conclusion of practices.

Calendar of Events:

August 15	Meet the Teacher/Open House, 4-5:30 pm
August 22	Football Player/Parent Meeting, 5:45 pm, Cafe Volleyball Parent Meeting, 6:30 pm, Gym
August 29	Annual <i>Meet the Cubs</i> for Football, Volleyball, and Cheer, 5 pm
August 30	Football Jamboree in D6 for WMS Cubs
September 1	School pictures being taken
September 4	Labor Day Holiday
September 6	Band Instrumental Rental, 4-6 pm in Band Room at WMS
September 13	1 st Nine Weeks Interims go home
September 25 -29	Spirit Week at WMS
September 27	<i>See You at the Pole</i> , sponsored by Cubs for Christ
September 29	Youth Night at the Woodruff vs Newberry football game
October 11	PSAT test administration
October 20	Teacher Work Day: Parent Conferences, 9-Noon
October 24	Parent Conference Afternoon, 3-7 pm
October 25	1 st Nine Weeks report cards
November 7	Election Day- teacher in-service day
November 11-14	Washington, DC Trip for 8 th grade

Woodruff High School

Dr. Aaron Fulmer reported the following:

1. All student and teacher schedules were mailed in July and related instructions given. Numerous parent conferences have been held regarding course schedules.
2. Registration for the 2017-2018 school year was held on July 27, 2017 and August 1 2017.
3. There are currently 776 students with schedules at Woodruff High School. Students continue to transfer into and out of WHS in the weeks leading up to the start of school.
4. The facility has been cleaned, and the final touches are being put in place for school opening.
5. Seventy-three students completed the extended school year program, received credits and made progress toward graduation.
6. Six students completed their diploma requirements during the extended school year program.
7. Student athletes have been working throughout the summer and have attended various camps. A consistent group of young men and women have been conditioning in the mornings throughout the summer. This group represents players from all athletic teams at WHS.

8. Band members have been working throughout the summer and have begun band camp. Several instruments were purchased or refurbished. The competition program is entitled "*Spring*".
9. Coach Daniel O'Connell has been named the State Strength Coach of the Year by his peers.

Instructional Reports

Ms. Karen Neal reported the following:

1. Meetings with each principal have been conducted to review programs and personnel. We have attempted to answer as many questions as possible and to plan as much in advance as possible while we await answers from SDE.
2. Advanced Placement scores have been received and historic data reviewed. 229 AP exams were administered in District 4 in 16-17. The success rate of students identified by AP Potential as having a high probability of making a 3 or above on the test is one of the best ever.
3. We await test results from PASS, SC Ready, WorkKeys, and ACT. AP and EOC scores have been received, reviewed, and analyzed by school and district administration. All data is used to target special assistance in deficient areas.
4. A revised teacher evaluation plan, meeting federal and state requirements, has been submitted to and approved by the State Department of Education and will be fully implemented in 18-19. District administrators will review with teachers at each school during in-service and assist throughout the year. As always, a yearly calendar that includes dates for observation by district staff has been distributed to principals.
5. Each school operated an extended school year program during the summer.
6. All federal grants are in progress for submission to the SDE. This includes Title I, Title II, Title III, and CATE
7. Both Fresh Start and HELP will continue to serve students as assigned in 17-18. Plans are to continue the Wolverine Express program through these two programs. All programs will be offered at the Spartanburg County School District 4 Learning Center (D4LC).
8. The PowerSchool Parent Portal will continue to be available during 17-18. Parents without accounts were able to request an account at registration.
9. District 4 will utilize a Learning Management System (LMS), Schoology, during 17-18. A "train-the-trainer" model of training was conducted by Schoology on July 12 and 13. This LMS will assist in the utilization of Microsoft Office 365 and other software programs.
10. The IT staff has worked hard at completing the bulk of the projected summer projects, including replacement of servers, switches, updates to WMS business labs, installation of interactive boards, initialization of laptops, and the updating of multiple software packages.
11. 100% of the 16-17 faculty members with certificates expiring on June 30, 2017 met requirements for renewal of their SC educator credentials.
12. The current version of the 17-18 district standardized testing calendar was provided. Most state testing must occur within the last 20 days of the school year and must be computer-based. We await further direction from the SDE regarding reduction in testing and various alternatives to the high school testing program.
13. A new teacher orientation was conducted on July 18, 2017. Teachers were provided with information regarding the vision, mission and goals of the school district, met principals and district office staff, and completed the necessary employment paperwork.
14. The Great Start student support initiative, co-sponsored by District 4, area churches and community organizations was held in the Activity Center on Saturday, July 29, 2017.
15. Dual Credit courses are being offered at WHS with USC-Upstate.

Dr. Kim McAbee provided the following report:

1. A review of the District Strategic Plan was conducted by a reviewer from the SC Department of Education in July. The plan met requirements in every category and necessitated no revisions. The SCDE reviewer commented, "This is a very well written district strategic plan!"
2. Teachers, literacy coaches, and administrators at each school participated in various curriculum meetings throughout the summer. Curriculum guides were revised based on feedback and test results from the previous year.
3. Orientation for new employees was held on Tuesday, July 18 at Woodruff Elementary School. Twenty-one new employees were addressed by Dr. Liston, school principals, and Officer Taylor. They completed payroll documentation and insurance paperwork with Mr. Benfield and Ms. Williams. They were able to set up their computer logins and have their school identification cards made during this time. Employees who were not able to attend on the scheduled date met with Dr. McAbee and Ms. Williams in August.
4. Induction classes have been scheduled for first year teachers. These classes support teachers in learning the teacher evaluation instrument utilized in SC. Their initial session will be a county-wide meeting in Spartanburg District Six.
5. Read to Succeed Summer Reading Camp was held at Woodruff Elementary School for 2nd and 3rd graders during the month of June. Mrs. Erin Patterson and Mrs. Samantha Wood taught the classes. Mrs. Sarah Little served as program director and maintained the records. Assessment and attendance data were submitted to the SC Department of Education in July.
6. Great Start Woodruff was held in the District Four Activity Center on Saturday, July 29 from 8:00 – 10:00am. Thirty-nine area churches and ministries collected school supplies, packed bookbags, and distributed them to students at every level. Any remaining supplies were divided among the schools for students who may have missed the event or were late to enroll.
7. To ensure school stability for students in foster care, the SC Department of Education is requiring each district to submit written transportation procedures by September 1. This is part of a new process to support districts in making placement determinations in the best interest of the student.
8. Two mental health counselors from Spartanburg County Mental Health will serve the students and families in District Four for the upcoming year.
9. Significant changes are anticipated in the Title III/ESOL Program for 2017-18. Dr. Christin Smith, ESOL teacher, and Dr. Kim McAbee will learn about the new requirements at 2-day trainings in August. The SC Department of Education is requiring that all schools throughout the state utilize the same Home Language Survey.
10. Spartanburg Districts 2 & 4 will display student artwork at the Chapman Cultural Center on September 10 – October 15. The High School 3-D Show will be October 19 – 22. The Youth Art Month exhibit will be displayed from March 11 – April 15.

Mrs. Mary Johnson provided the following report:

1. IDEA Determination
Spartanburg School District 4 was rated at the Meets Requirements level on our current IDEA Determination Profile based on the 2015-2016 school year. (Report Attached) This is the highest possible determination. The other Determinations are Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, and Needs Substantial Intervention. We have achieved the rating of Meets Requirements for the past 4 years.
 - a. On Category One: Compliance with IDEA Part B Indicators 11 and 12, and Timely and Accurate Data Submissions we scored 100% on each of the three areas: Indicator 11-60-day Timeline, Indicator 12-Preschool Transition, and Submission of Timely and Accurate Data.
 - b. On Category Two: Compliance with IDEA Part B Indicators 4B-Discipline, Indicators 9 and 10-Identification, and Indicator 13-Transition we were compliant on all 4 Indicators.

- c. On Category Three: Timely Correction of previously identified noncompliance we did not have anything to correct because we did not have any areas of noncompliance on the 2014-2015 Report.
 - d. On Category Four: High-Risk Grantee Resolutions of Special Conditions we did not have anything to resolve because we were not designated as a high-risk grantee for the 2014-2015 school year.
2. 2016-17 Enrollment Status Report
 - a. Woodruff Primary School - There were 115 Special Education students enrolled in August of 2016. In May of 2017 there were 122 Special Education students enrolled. The projected enrollment for August of 2017 is 103.
 - b. Woodruff Elementary School - There were 112 Special Education students enrolled in August of 2016. In May of 2017 there were 83 Special Education students enrolled. The projected enrollment for August of 2017 is 116.
 - c. Woodruff Middle School - There were 72 Special Education students enrolled in August of 2016. In May of 2017 there were 74 Special Education students enrolled. The projected enrollment for August of 2017 is 77.
 - d. Woodruff High School - There were 70 Special Education students enrolled in August of 2016. In May of 2017 there were 50 Special Education students enrolled. The projected enrollment for August of 2017 is 90.
 3. 2017 High School Graduates - Woodruff High School had a graduating class of 166 students. We had 12 Special Education graduates; 7 students graduated with high school diplomas and 5 graduated with credentials of attendance.

Facilities

Board members received a printed update of facilities projects as well as energy usage reports showing savings at all locations.

Superintendent

1. Copies of Visions Newsletter provided.
2. Presented copies of 2017-2018 Board Meeting Schedule.
3. Opening Breakfast will be Friday, Aug. 11 at WHS.
4. Each board member received a shirt as a small token of appreciation.
5. The President of SMC will be speaking at the opening breakfast.
6. Thanked everyone for their hard work, and major attention to detail as we prepare to begin a new school year.
7. The SCSBA Annual Conference dates have been set for Feb. 15-18.