

# SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING NOTES

December 5, 2016

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Agenda notices were distributed to Spartanburg Herald Journal and was listed on the District website at [spartanburg4.org/do/agenda](http://spartanburg4.org/do/agenda).

Chairman Milton Smith called the meeting to order. Minutes of the November 7 meeting were approved.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Teachers from Woodruff High School (WHS) presented the findings of the committee that reviewed scheduling changes at WHS. The committee recommended a seven-period school day beginning with the 2017-18. Administrators will begin work on implementation immediately.

## **Audit Report:**

Ms. Mary Peasley from the accounting firm of Cherry, Bekaert reviewed the Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2016. She reported that District Four received a “clean” audit, and commended Mr. Benfield and his staff on their outstanding work. District Four again qualifies as a “low-risk” audit.

The following reports were given:

## **Woodruff Primary School**

Mrs. Hodge gave the following report:

1. Calendar of Events for December 2016 was provided.
2. Volunteers from Celanese will refurbish the court-yards beginning Friday, Dec. 2.
3. MAP testing began on Monday, November 27, for our first and second graders.
4. The PTO will sponsor “Visit with Santa” on December 8. The students can make gifts for family members, write letters to Santa, enjoy goodies, and have their picture made with Santa.
5. Our staff graciously donated over \$1000 to United Way.

## **Estimated Enrollment for WPS as of 11/30/15:**

November				
Grade Level	# on Roll	# in PS	Difference	Why
Early Head Start	8	8	0	
Family Literacy	3	3	0	
1/2 day 3K	5	5	0	
Full day 3K	66	72	-6	1 McT and 5 Moon
4k	158	160	-2	1McT and Harvey 1
5K	201	202	-1	Harvey 1
1st	200	204	-4	Harvey 4

2nd	209	210	-1	Harvey 1
Special Education	7	7	0	
	857	859	-2	2McT

## December

**Community Project: Miracle Hill: Spartanburg Rescue Mission (socks & gloves)**

**Character Value Emphasis: Caring**

**Career Focus: "Lend a Helping Hand" (Human Services)**

Nov. 30 – Dec.18 – MAP Testing (Reading & Math) – 1st & 2nd Grades

3 – Flu Clinic

10 – Visit with Santa (4:00 – 6:00)

18 – Polar Express Day, Class Christmas Parties, and School Family Celebration

21 - Jan. 4 – Christmas Holidays – No School for Students

Jan. 5 – Students return to school

### *Student Survey*

Question	{Yes} %	{Maybe} %	{No} %
1. My teacher wants me to learn.	98.88%	0.84%	0.28%
2. My teacher is fair to me.	83.24%	13.41%	3.35%
3. My teacher wants me to do my best.	96.93%	2.23%	0.84%
4. I learn new things in school.	95.53%	4.19%	0.28%
5. My teacher makes me think.	84.08%	13.97%	1.96%
6. I know what to do every day in school.	85.2%	10.34%	4.47%
7. My family likes to come to my school.	58.94%	29.33%	11.73%
8. Other teachers know me.	67.6%	24.58%	7.82%
9. My family knows how I do in school.	84.36%	11.45%	4.19%
10. I am safe at school.	94.69%	5.31%	0%
11. My school has books for me to read.	99.16%	0.84%	0%
12. I use a computer to learn at school.	82.4%	10.89%	6.7%
13. My teacher wants me to help all boys and girls.	93.3%	5.59%	1.12%
14. My teacher tells me when I do good work.	92.18%	6.42%	1.4%

### **Woodruff Elementary School**

Mrs. Brewton gave the following report:

1. Current Enrollment 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade – 204

4<sup>th</sup> Grade – 212

5<sup>th</sup> Grade – 191

Total 607

2. November 3: SC Ready Data Analysis – WES faculty and staff members continue to analyze student standardized test data based on SC Ready results. At this point in the analysis phase demographic subgroup and standards data are being reviewed to identify specific groups of

students for academic intervention programs and align classroom instruction with content target areas.

3. November 8: Election Day Holiday – This was a holiday for students and staff.
4. November 11: Veterans Day Celebration – Community veteran members were recognized at WES. Student council members placed American flags along the sidewalks to greet veterans as they entered WES. A luncheon was held in the school cafeteria for visiting veterans and WES students and family members. Fifth grade students greeted veterans as they traveled to the cafeteria waving American flags. Once in the cafeteria, Whit Harrison, student council president, greeted the veterans. The photographs of the visiting veterans were displayed on large screens in the cafeteria as they enjoyed a special lunch and performances conducted by the WE Singers and SOAR students. At the conclusion of the recognition program a group picture of all the visiting veterans was taken by media specialist, Amanda Stallard.
5. November 14: School Improvement Council Meeting (SIC) – The first School Improvement Council meeting for the new school year was held at WES. Members in attendance included Jennifer Turner, Brittany Kennedy, Lauren Lambert, Whitt Harrison, Kory Scott, Alysia Hayes, Joy Mitchell, Nikki Culbertson, Donna Burdette, Cyn Massey, Tracy Sanders, and Argyl Brewton. During the meeting committee members reviewed key points of the SIC Handbook, the WES School Renewal Plan, and recent SC Ready/PASS Tests data. Following the initial meeting, members were led on a school tour by SIC chair, Alysia Hayes.
6. November 15: Spartanburg Reading Council Presentation – English language arts teachers attended a literacy workshop sponsored by the Spartanburg Reading Council. The session was entitled *Reading is Meaning: Redefining Reading Logs with Padlet*. This session was held at Anderson Mill Elementary School and presented by Dawn Mitchell.
7. November 16-18: Donuts for Dads Third, fourth, and fifth grade students and parents participated in Donuts for Dads in the school's cafeteria.
8. November 16: Interim Reports - WES issued interim reports to students and parents for the first nine weeks.
9. November 16: Service Learning Project – The WES student body participated in a service learning project intended to assist the Woodruff Community. 2,222 canned food items were collected and donated to Helping Hands Ministries. Student council members, led by WES guidance counselor, Katie Godchaux spearheaded this project.
10. November 28: Holiday Book Fair – The Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that provides books students want to read. It is reflective of a varied selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level.
11. November 29 and 30: WES Girls and Boys Basketball Club Field Trip – Members of the Girls' and Boys' Basketball Clubs attended sporting events at WHS and WMS. Club members watched advanced levels of basketball skills on display while viewing contests on separate evenings.
12. November 30: SOAR Class Field Trip – SOAR students attended the Spartanburg Youth Theatre production of *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* presented at the Chapman Cultural Center.

### **Woodruff Middle School**

Mrs. Brown gave the following report:

1. Current enrollment figures:
  - 6<sup>th</sup> – 208
  - 7<sup>th</sup> – 194
  - 8<sup>th</sup> – 199
2. Report cards for will be sent home with students Wed., Jan 4.

3. The winter MAP testing window opened November 21. All math and reading classes will test. Read 180 classes will also take the second scholastic reading inventory test.
4. Benchmark assessments in reading and writing were administered Nov 16-18 to all students. Benchmarks were administered online to mimic the standardized testing conditions for SC Ready this spring. Data is being analyzed with teachers, and follow up activities are planned for students.
5. The Media Center hosted "Read Your Way to The Game," an event sponsored by the Education Oversight Committee. Students were asked to read books and submit reports to be entered into the drawing for Clemson/Carolina tickets to "The Game." Although a WMS student was not selected to receive tickets, Caitlyn Thacker (Clemson) and Arionna Goggins (USC) were selected from our school to receive free t-shirts.
6. 6<sup>th</sup> grader Ben Burden won the school spelling bee on Nov 21, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Grace Cooper was the runner up. Ben will represent Woodruff Middle School in the region bee February 18, 2017 on the campus on USC-Upstate.
7. Student Council sponsored and conducted our Veteran's Day Program on November 11. Students invited family members who were veterans or active servicemen. A breakfast was served to our guests. Local boy scouts who attend WMS presented the colors, while music and band students provided special music that honored all service branches. Mr. Kevin Brewington, an Afghanistan veteran from Jonesville, SC, provided the keynote address to veterans, families, and students. After the program, several veterans visited classrooms and spoke with students.
8. Several organizations are sponsoring events near the holiday season to benefit our community. Beta Club is sponsoring a canned food drive to aid Woodruff's Helping Hands and Soup Kitchen. Student Council is sponsoring two children from District Four's Angel Tree that helps provide Christmas to children in family literacy program.
9. Student Council sponsored a fund raiser for Haiti during the week before Thanksgiving Holidays and raised \$350 for hurricane relief efforts. WMS teacher Hans Batichon has extended family in Haiti and spoke with the student body about the need for assistance. Students contributed a quarter to purchase a link in a paper chain to show their support for their team in the Clemson vs Carolina game.
10. 8<sup>th</sup> grader Maggie Rhodes has earned All Region, Region Runner of the Year, All County, and All State honors in Cross Country. She finished her list of accomplishments by capturing the individual state championship at the AAA Cross Country State Meet held at Sand Hills Research Facility in Columbia, SC, November 7, 2016. In the 20-year history of District 4's cross country program, this is the highest individual placement and the first state champion!
11. The Lady Cubs Volleyball team claimed the conference championship for the 3rd year in a row, with a season record of 12-1. Avenging the one loss of the season, the Lady Cubs also claimed the Tournament Championship by defeating a strong Ewing team.
12. Basketball season opened November 21 with the annual Cubs Classic Basketball Tournament. Both WMS teams won the tournament championship. The Lady Cubs are currently 2-0 and the Cubs are 1-1 in regular season play. Daniel Addis coaches the Lady Cubs, and Grant Ramsey is the Cubs coach.
13. Wrestling opened its season on the road at Byrnes Nov. 29. Chip Hitchcock is the coach.
14. Edward Jones sponsors Athlete of the Week recognition for Woodruff Middle School athletes. The final fall athletes recognized include Maggie Rhodes and Bryson Mock, cross country; Brooke Bailey and Abbie Linder volleyball; Cameron Richards and Andrew Parks, football. Winter sports recognition goes to Maddie Grace Runyans and Chase Turner, basketball.

#### **Calendar of Events:**

Nov 20-Dec 15	Winter MAP testing for all students
December 6	Choral Christmas Program, 7 pm, Activity Center
December 8	Band Christmas Program, 7 pm, Activity Center
December 13	Encore exams
December 14	Reading/writing and science exams

December 15	Math and social studies exams
December 16	School Christmas Program, 1:00 pm
January 2	Teacher Inservice
January 4	Report cards go home

### **Woodruff High School**

Dr. Aaron Fulmer reported the following:

1. The registration process for the 2017-2018 school year is already underway. Pre-registration packets are under development with pre-registration to begin in January.
2. Teachers continue to focus on curriculum standards in preparation for EOC, Work Keys and ACT testing.
3. On November 11, WHS held a Veteran's Day Program. The WHS concert band, the Girls' Ensemble and a faculty and student group each performed patriotic song. Bill Thomason, the guest speaker, encouraged students to think beyond themselves and how they can serve their country and fellow man.
4. Interim progress reports were distributed on November 16, 2016.
5. The Band Concert will be held on December 8, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the District Four Activity Center. Additionally, the band will march in the Enoree Christmas Parade on Sunday, December 4, the Woodruff Christmas parade on Saturday, December 11 and the Spartanburg Christmas parade on Tuesday, December 13.
6. The Chorus Winter Concert will be held on December 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the District Four Activity Center. Additionally, the Girl's Ensemble will perform at Woodruff First Baptist on December 4 at 11:00 am and on December 13 for the Woodruff Rotary Club at 12:30 pm.
7. The WHS Band, Chorus and Girl's Ensemble will all perform on December 16 at Woodruff High School for the school's Christmas Program.
8. Semester Exams have been scheduled for December 14, 15 and 16.

### **Instructional Reports**

Ms. Karen Neal reported the following:

1. Fresh Start is fully functioning at the District 4 Learning Center. Current enrollment is 8. Project HELP operates in the afternoons at the Learning Center for both Homebased and Homebound students. The HELP enrollment is currently 11. Three students in Wolverine Express have completed one unit of credit this semester.
2. Schools are formatively assessing students with MAP during December. This assists teachers in identifying student strengths and weaknesses and enables teachers to target instruction as needed.
3. District administration continues to observe all programs in all schools on a rotational basis. In addition, formal teacher evaluations continue on schedule. Also, teachers whose certificates will expire in June 2017 have been notified of such.
4. Principal evaluations using the new PADEPP instrument are being completed. As in teacher evaluations, the student growth component counts 20% of the total evaluation.
5. Truancy Court continues to hear referrals from District 4.
6. The timeline to set up Power School for scheduling for 17-18 has been created and was provided.
7. Upgrades to Power School and State Reporting Updates are being completed regularly as directed by SDE.
8. State report cards were released in November. District 4 ranked very well in various areas as reflected on the provided chart.

9. Junior Scholars will be recognized at the countywide awards ceremony on March 2 at Twichell auditorium.
10. All teachers whose certificates expire in June have been notified.

Dr. Kim McAbee provided the following report:

1. Second grade testing for academically gifted and talented identification has been completed. Results on the dimensions of aptitude and achievement were received in the district on November 30. Woodruff Primary School staff members are currently analyzing these results. Students may qualify the following ways:
  - A composite score at the 96th percentile on the CogAT.
  - A composite or sub-test (verbal, non-verbal, or quantitative) score at the 93rd percentile on the CogAT (Dimension A/Aptitude) AND a score at the 94th percentile on the Iowa Test (Dimension B/Achievement). If students meet one qualifying criterion, they are able to participate in the Performance Task Assessments in February.
2. English Language Learners (ELLs) in kindergarten - 12<sup>th</sup> grade will take the WIDA ACCESS online assessment beginning in February. There are four parts to this assessment: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. ELLs have taken WIDA ACCESS for several years, but this will be their first time taking the online version.
3. The Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM) will create a "Strive for Five" toolkit to support preschool attendance. The purpose of the "Strive for Five" campaign will be to encourage preschool families to take attendance seriously and develop good attendance habits at the beginning of the educational career. The toolkit will be used to share ways that schools, communities, and businesses can promote the campaign.
4. Districts 4, 5, and 6 will display student artwork at the Chapman Cultural Center from January 8 through February 19. Youth Art Month will be February 28 through April 9.
5. First year teachers on induction-level contracts continue to meet monthly to learn about the SAFE-T evaluation and requirements for their annual contract year. They have been working with the ADEPT Performance Standards and are currently developing their long-range plans.
6. The Adult Education Program is currently serving 46 students. The morning session serves 21 students in the GED program and 7 students in the diploma program. The evening session serves 18 students in the GED program. Six students anticipate finishing their GED test battery in December bringing the total number of graduates to nine. Twenty WorkKeys Career Readiness certificates have been earned this year.

Mrs. Mary Johnson provided the following report:

1. Child Count - The overall enrollment of Special Education students in Spartanburg District 4 for the 2016-2017 school year is 374 students. Our numbers have decreased, for we had an enrollment of 383 students last year. The overall percentage of students served in Special Education in our district is 8%. The percentages at each school level are: 8% of the students at Woodruff Primary School, 13% of the students at Woodruff Elementary School, 9% of the students at Woodruff Middle School, and 4% of the students at Woodruff High School. When the State Department analyzes data submitted by districts in Tables and Indicators they look for over representation of students in Special Education Programs. More than 10% of the students in a district enrolled in Special Education is considered to be excessive. Our overall total puts us in the safe range.
2. Medicaid Process - On November 17, we met with Public Consulting Group, PCG, the company we contract with to submit our Medicaid billing to the State Department. During that meeting we learned that, in spite of the fact that nurses and speech therapists in districts throughout the State submitted billing codes with their online billing, PCG submitted all of the

billing using the same billing code. So, in order to correct any errors that may have occurred in this process, PCG plans to resubmit all of the Medicaid billing from the 2015-2016 school year.

3. Medicaid Changes - Many of the families who have Medicaid also have a second insurance carrier. There was a change in state legislation in August that requires districts to bill the other insurance carrier before billing Medicaid, starting in January. Since we only contracted with PCG to bill Medicaid, they will not bill the other insurance companies. Third-party billing will be the responsibility of the districts. The State Department has a meeting scheduled for December 12 to provide details on the third-party billing process. Third-party billing will be very time consuming. If it involves less than 5% of the student population, it won't be cost efficient to complete this process

### **Facilities**

Board members received a printed update of facilities projects. Mr. Simpkins reported that bids had been taken for trash removal/disposal and Republic Services had the low bid. Changing to Republic Services will save the district approximately \$35,500 over three years in waste disposal expenditures.

### **Superintendent**

1. Board members received copies of the 2017-2018 personnel timeline and intent forms for certified and non-certified employees.
2. Copies of board policies approved at the November meeting were provided for board members to update manuals.

### **BOARD ACTION**

1. Approved the recommended revisions to board policy GCC – Professional Staff Leaves and Absences.
2. Joni Phillips and Gordon Godfrey gave a brief overview of information from the SCSBA Legislative Delegate Assembly
3. Approved the purchase of approximately 7 acres of property.