

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING NOTES

February 6, 2017

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Agenda notices were 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 January 2 meeting were approved.

The following reports were given:

Woodruff Primary School

Mrs. Hodge gave the following report:

1. Calendar of Events for February 2017 is attached.
2. Seventeen educators from Spartanburg School District #1 observed in our preschool classrooms on January 24, 2017. Dr. McSwain, Coordinator of Elementary Education/Staff Development, along with principals, reading coaches, and an Early Childhood professor at USC Upstate, had the opportunity to observe, talk with teachers and students, and ask questions about the preschool program.
3. Preschool enrollment is scheduled for March 16, 2017. We will enroll students for 3K, 4K, and any new kindergartners for the 2017-2018 school year.
4. The PTO raised \$750.00 at the Chuck E Cheese fundraiser on January 27.
5. Anna Davis is working with Lindsey Shilling, WPS art teacher, as she fulfills the requirements for an internship through Clemson University. She is planning a career in art therapy. We are excited to have her.
6. WPS District Literacy Team members visited ELA classrooms across the district on January 30. Members of the District Four Literacy Team from WPS include Tobey Rhodes, Laura Turner, Casey Dover, Christin Smith, Sarah Little, and Ann Hodge.

Enrollment

January				
Grade Level	# on Roll	# in PS	Difference	Why
Early Head Start	9	9	0	
Family Literacy	5	5	0	
1/2 day 3K	6	6	0	
Full day 3K	62	69	-7	1 McT and 6 Moon
4k	156	158	-2	1McT and Harvey 1
5K	198	199	-1	Harvey 1
1st	200	204	-4	Harvey 4
2nd	213	215	-2	Harvey 2
Special Education	8	8	0	
	857	859	-2	2McT

February

****Look for information this month about the WPS Science Fair.**

Community Project: Spartanburg Children’s Shelter

Character Value Emphasis: Problem Solving

Career Focus: ”Scientist at Work” (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

1–28 – Black History Month; National Children’s Dental Health Month

1 – Interim Reports Issued for 1st & 2nd Graders

6–10 – National School Counseling Week **We love you, Mrs. Sheffield!*

7 – School Improvement Council Meeting (3:30–4:00 – Media Center)

10 - PTO Chick-Fil-A biscuit sale

14 – Valentine’s Day Parties

20 – Teacher Inservice Day – No School for Students; Presidents’ Day

20–24 – Custodian Appreciation Week **WPS Custodians are the very best! Thank them for keeping our school so clean for us every day.*

24 – School Family Celebration – Wear School T-Shirts

27–March 3 – Dr. Seuss Week

Woodruff Elementary School

Mrs. Brewton gave the following report:

Current Enrollment	3 rd Grade – 202
	4 th Grade – 214
	5 th Grade – 189
	Total 605

1. January 2: Teacher In-Service was conducted in the WES media center. Topics of focus included AdvanceED diagnostic discussion, AdvancED staff survey administration, a review of SC Ready school-wide data, and clarification regarding on-line state mock testing guidelines. Facilitators for the in-service were Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Brewton. All certified staff participated in in-service activities.
2. January 4: Report Cards were issued to students and parents.
3. January 10: The Second Nine Weeks Awards Day Ceremony was held in the school cafeteria.

Please see award totals and student names below:

Grade Level	“A” Honor Roll	“B” Honor Roll	Perfect Attendance	Terrific Kids		Top 5 (In no particular order)
3	58	73	68	Skylar Barker Bryson Deleon Jamaya Higgins Landon Johnson Carolina Lopez Robinson Daniel Maric Robinson Dillon Mitchell Mary Ellis Mitchell Maldonado	Grace Venth Elijah Taylor Adalyn Smith Jacob Rice Jordan Jeremiah Luna Licerio- Bouvit Angelina	Maggie Smoak John Miles Bowling Matthew Weathers Georgia Amick Gabriel Glass
4	56	64	89	Dell Brockman Ryland Buckner Goodman Olivia Case Blake Chastain Emily Cruz	Nayrilee Gomez Notorise Robert Hall Aiden Hurd Taylor Lambert	Leah Brown Conner Kelly Courtney Guyton Bailey Hayes

				Connor Daughtery Penland Cheyenne Dickerson Rebekah Purkhiser Desirai Simmons	Mallory Sawyer Peralta Tre Rodgers	Bennett Brockman
5	44	68	64	Cyleigh Bailey Burdette Kearstyn Ferguson Whit Harrison Charity Johnston Deven McClure Abigail Ownings Allison Redd Coleman Watson Littlefield	Sammy Asia Green Ely Hart Aden Jones Ireland Morin Dylan Pruitt Gage Rogers Hannabelle	Brayden Calhoun Emma Richards Dylan Honeman Charity Johnston Alicia Vasquez

4. January 16: A school and district holiday was observed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
5. January 17 – Feb. 2: Students and teachers participated in scheduled On-line Mock Assessments for writing, English language arts, and Math during this time.
6. January 23: Twenty-five 3rd grade students began the after-school Science Club. Under the direction of parent volunteer and USC-Upstate science instructor, Julie Smoak, students participate in inquiry based learning experiences bi-weekly.
7. January 26: Members of the Boys and Girls Basketball Clubs, 5th grade students, The Club of Dreamers, and the WES News Crew members attended the *Growing Up Gold Education Day* on the campus of Wofford College. During the event, students witnessed a women’s basketball game. The purpose of participating in this event is to provide basketball club members with an opportunity to witness advanced level basketball skills as well as provide all students with college experiences.
8. January 30: The Spring After-School Focus Program began at WES. Currently 93 students are enrolled in the program. The instructional focus will be writing, reading, and mathematics. Students also receive instruction in the mornings before the start of the traditional school day as part of the Morning Computer Club. Students attend math and reading labs to receive individualized computer-assisted instruction.

Woodruff Middle School

Mrs. Brown gave the following report:

1. Current enrollment figures:
 - 6th – 210
 - 7th – 191
 - 8th – 199
2. Third nine weeks interim reports go home Wednesday, Feb 8.
3. Benchmark testing was conducted in all grade levels January 31-Feb 2. Testing was done on computer to simulate actual testing conditions for state testing this spring. The testing schedule for WMS begins April 17. See attachment.
4. The Media Center Book Fair is scheduled for February 13-17.
5. The Guidance Department has held IGP (individual graduation plan) meetings with 75% of the 8th grade class. Our goal is to conduct face-to-face meetings with 80% of students/parents.
6. The school’s character education program focuses on student-led activities about kindness. This month, Woodruff Middle School has received *Kindness Certification* for participating in the “Great Kindness Challenge.” In the past few weeks, students have been challenged to write a note to a teacher and leave an encouraging note on a sticky in a library book before turning it in. The Kindness Challenges from the school year are posted throughout the school as constant

reminders. The school is celebrating "Random Acts of Kindness Week" February 13-17 with special activities and a school shirt design, #kindness.

7. The Battle of the Brains academic team defeated Landrum Middle February 1 and will advance to the next round of competition. Teacher Gail High is the sponsor of the team. Members this year include Alex Huckaby, Abbey Hiott, Jacob McCall and Cooper Lee.
8. The school Geography Bee will be held February 3 in the Media Center. Top scorers on a preliminary assessment from each grade level will compete in the bee. Teacher Stefanie Harrison sponsors this event.
9. Congratulations to Jena Daniels, Lauren Beeler, Zoe Wampler, Hannah Burgess, Aubrey Carroll, Joanna Jones, Malia Kimbrel, and Grace Cooper. Their artwork has been selected for display at the Chapman Cultural Center during January and February. Lily Zheng, Alexis Woody, Hailey Harkins, and Hailey Ferguson have art work on display at the Woodruff Animal Clinic.
10. Edward Jones sponsors Athlete of the Week recognition for Woodruff Middle School athletes. Winter sports recognition goes to Gabe Ellison and Cole Taylor, wrestling, Lillie Rhodes, girls basketball, and Zy Scott, boys basketball.
11. Girls basketball will play Blacksburg at Spartanburg High on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 5 PM for the conference championship.
12. A generous anonymous donation provided a school mascot uniform for WMS. During the winter spirit week, students voted on a name for the mascot. Meet "Prowler," the Wolverine Cub.



Calendar of Events:

February 21	WMS Winter Sports Banquet, 7 pm, Gym
February 24	6 th Field Trip Georgia Aquarium
March 1	School Pictures being taken
March 2	Junior Scholar Recognition, Converse College, 6 pm
March 15	Report Cards go home
April 19	Interim Reports go home
April 29	Carowinds Choral Festival

Woodruff High School

Dr. Aaron Fulmer reported the following:

1. After-school enrichment sessions for Work Keys began on January 30, 2017. Approximately 80 students are involved in Work Keys enrichment.
2. Pre-registration meetings were held for each class. Important information is also posted on the school's website. An eighth grade parents' night will be held on February 6, 2017. In addition, a tour was conducted of RD Anderson for freshmen and sophomores, and both WHS and RDA counselors have met with students to discuss career planning and course selection.
3. Ms. Heather Abrams, Guidance Counselor, has been coordinating career encounters at lunch. She contacts and schedules representatives from various careers to answer questions and talk to students during the lunch period. A variety of careers have been represented including professional, technical, and the armed forces.
4. Sandra Lopez and Victoria Wiley, two seniors at Woodruff High, have been selected as finalist in for the Writing South Carolina competition. The Writing South Carolina competition is sponsored by USC Honors College. These students will travel to USC on March 17, 2017 for the final round of competition that will include an impromptu writing sample and a seminar for writers hosted by published authors.

Instructional Reports

Ms. Karen Neal reported the following:

1. Staffs from each school attended a workshop on preparing Power School for the new school year. All Power School data bases were prepared to enable scheduling for the 2017-2018 school year.
2. Fresh Start is fully functioning at the Learning Center. Current enrollment is 9. Project HELP continues to serve homebased and homebound students. Current enrollment is 11. Students continue to progress in the Wolverine Express program. Several will be taking EOC tests in the spring.
3. District administration continues to observe all programs in all schools on a rotational basis. In addition, formal teacher evaluations for second semester have resumed.
4. Pre-School enrollment for 4-year-olds has been tentatively scheduled for March 16 from 8:30 AM until 2 PM at the District Activity Center. A plan to communicate with area residents is being developed and has been distributed to all administrators for input. In addition, we hope to continue the offering of 3K classes based on need and space available. Parents will be able to sign up their three-year-olds at the same time.
5. The countywide ceremony to recognize Junior Scholars will be held March 2 at Converse. District 4 had 17 Junior Scholars in 16-17.
6. The afterschool program began on Monday, January 30^{at} Woodruff Elementary and Woodruff Middle School. Each school sets criteria for selection into this program. Woodruff High School began its after school program for juniors who will be taking the ACT and WorkKeys in April earlier in January.
7. Teachers, whose certificates expire in June, 2017 have been notified of their renewal credits.
8. IT, district, and school staff have conducted individual school meetings to review the testing plan to troubleshoot potential issues with online testing in the spring. Mock testing sessions have simulated actual sessions and have been beneficial in fine tuning the process.
9. District staff is also conducting a Technology Readiness Survey in collaboration with the State Department of Education. A workbook has been completed and a group will be in the district in February to review our set-up.

Dr. Kim McAbee provided the following report:

1. The District Four Literacy Leadership Team conducted visits at all schools on January 30 to learn more about the ELA/Reading programs throughout the district. Feedback from teachers, literacy coaches, and administrators indicated the visits were meaningful, and the time was well spent. Information from these visits will be useful as this team writes the District Literacy Plan.
2. The SC Department of Education is requiring teachers and administrators to complete a Read to Succeed Exemplary Literacy Reflection Tool (survey). Teachers will rate themselves on their use of exemplary literacy practices. School Literacy Teams will utilize this information in developing school goals. From the school findings, the district goals will be established.
3. There are currently four administrators and five middle level/secondary teachers enrolled in the winter session of Read to Succeed courses. The district may have the opportunity to offer more online courses during the spring session. These are the courses that teachers are required to take for recertification under the Read to Succeed legislation.
4. Administrators at Woodruff Primary and Woodruff Elementary Schools are beginning to plan the Summer Reading Camps. A SCDE meeting will be held on February 10 to review the requirements.
5. ESOL students are scheduled to begin WIDA ACCESS online assessments on Monday, February 6. Woodruff High School students will be tested first. Testing will be concluded at all schools on March 23.
6. The Performance Task Assessments (PTA) will be administered February 21 – March 9. There are 104 students in grades 2 – 5 who are scheduled to be tested.
7. District Four has artwork displayed at the Chapman Cultural Center through February 22. The display is very impressive. A reception was held on Monday, January 30th to honor the

students and provide time for students to share their work with their families. Youth Art Month will be held February 28 – April 9. All districts will have work displayed during this time.

8. Preschool Enrollment for the upcoming school year will be held on Thursday, March 16 at the District Four Activity Center (8:30am – 2:00pm).
9. The Adult Education Program is currently serving 57 students. The morning session serves 24 students in the GED program and 8 students in the diploma program. The evening session serves 25 students in the GED program. Four students are scheduled to take the last portion of the GED exam on Friday, February 3. If they pass, the total number of GED graduates will be 13. Twenty-four students have earned their Career Readiness Certificates (WorkKeys) since January with 7 more scheduled to take the assessment on Thursday, February 2.

Mrs. Mary Johnson provided the following report:

1. Oral Administration Accommodation Use on ELA Statewide Assessments

Special Education students are allowed daily accommodations on classroom assignments and tests. One of these accommodations is oral administration of tests or having tests read to them. This year the guidelines for students who are allowed the accommodation of oral administration of standardized tests is being closely scrutinized. Only students who are considered nonreaders will be allowed to receive this accommodation. The standards, that allow oral administration of the English and Language Arts (ELA) portions of SC Ready and English 1 End of Course Test, require the development of a 9 page plan. Each student's teacher is required to complete a four page screening document and the psychologist a 5 page score report, in order to prove that the student is a nonreaders. Once the evidence is gathered to prove that the child is a nonreader, a meeting will be held, during the month of February, to add the accommodation of oral administration of the ELA portion of SC Ready or English 1 EOC to the student's IEP (Individualized Education Plan). This will give the Guidance Counselors 3 days in March to precode the information in Powerschool so the appropriate test can be ordered for the child to be able to be tested with his classmates.

2. Table 2 Report

Table 2 Report is due to the State Department on February 10. Table 2 is a count of teachers employed to provide special education to children with disabilities, including preschool teachers, itinerant/consulting teachers, and home/hospital teachers. This report is a count of all types of personnel providing services to children with disabilities. It also reports whether teachers hold the appropriate State certification or licensure, such as highly qualified or fully certified for the position they hold.

Facilities

Board members received a printed update of facilities projects.

Superintendent

1. Derrick Jones, who coaches at Duke University and Vareeva Evans-Harris are former WHS graduates. Coach Jones has written a book and will be at WHS on February 13 at 1:00 p.m. filming a clip about his inspiration for writing.
2. Dr. Liston provided an article from the Post and Courier outlining the worsening teacher shortage.
3. Copies of the 2017-18 personnel timeline were provided. Dr. Liston noted that contracts will be issued February 8 and are due back May 10 (per a change in state law).
4. Copies of the latest issue of Visions were provided.
5. Dr. Liston reminded board members that the State Ethics forms are due by March 30.

6. Copies of information from ReWa regarding proposed sewer lines and notice of a public hearing were provided for board members.
7. Legislators are considering a change that will allow for an earlier start date to the 2017-2018 school year. If approved, board members will receive a revised calendar for consideration.
8. The State has begun the budget process. State Superintendent Spearman has requested a \$150 per pupil increase. An increase of \$90 per pupil is needed to meet the step increase requirements.
9. Hotel and registration information were provided to board members that will be attending the annual conference later this month.

BOARD ACTION

1. Approved teacher contracts at all schools for the 2017-18 school year.
2. Approved Lynn Richardson as ELA teacher at WMS for the 2017-18 school year.