

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING

March 7, 2016

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, March 7, 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.

Minutes of the February 1, February 29 and March 2 meetings were approved.

The following reports were given:

Woodruff Primary School

Mrs. Hodge reported the following:

1. Calendar of Events for March 2016 is attached.
2. Gavin Kuronya won a national Audubon award at the Regional Science Fair at USC Upstate.
3. Preschool (3K & 4K) enrollment for the upcoming school year will be held on Thursday, March 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the multipurpose room. 3K screenings will be held on March 16 – 18. 4K screenings will be held May 25 and 26. Appointments for these screenings will be scheduled at enrollment. Rising kindergartners who did not attend our preschool program may enroll for 5K on March 10. Students who currently attend WPS do not have to re-enroll.
4. Preschool and kindergarten enrollment is scheduled for March 10, 2016.
5. As we looked at data in different ways for AdvancEd, we found the following for January 2016:
42% of 4K students know 50 or more letters (uppercase and lowercase).
78% of the 60 students in 4K students that attended 3K know 50 or more letters.
67% of 4K students know 20 or more letter sounds.
88% of the 60 students in 4K students that attended 3K know 20 or more letter sounds.

Estimated Enrollment for WPS as of 2/24/16:

Early Head Start – 8

Family Literacy - 1

½ day pm 3k – 7

Full day 3k – 64

4k – 156 (minus Kennedy's 7)

K – 205 (minus Harvey's 3)

1st – 216

2nd – 202 (minus 2 MC and Harvey's 6)

Sp Ed – 10 (total for all grades not broken down or added in counts above)

Total = 869

March

Community Project: Woodruff Area Nursing Homes (trial size shampoo, lotion, & powder)

Character Value Emphasis: Compassion & The Power of Acceptance: This moment is as it is.

Career Focus: "On Stage!" (Arts and Communications)

February 29 – March 2 – AdvancEd visit

1 – 31 – Music in Our Schools Month; Youth Art Month

2 – 6 – Dr. Seuss Week (Read Across America Day – Mar. 2)

4 – Spring Picture Day (All grades)

8 – Daylight Saving Time Begins (Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour)

13 – Teacher Inservice Day – No School for Students

17 – St. Patrick's Day

18 - Report Cards Issued – (PreK – 2nd) *Parents should be notified of need for retention by this date.

24 – 27 – Success Days (PreK – 2nd)

27 – School Family Celebration – Wear School T-Shirts

Woodruff Elementary School

Mrs. Brewton gave the following report:

Current Enrollment 3rd Grade – 210
4th Grade – 190
5th Grade – 204
Total 604

1. February 3: Interim Reports were issued to students and parents.
2. February 3: Fifth grade students participated in the Spartanburg County Link Up Youth Concert held on the campus of Converse College. Under the direction of music teacher Bradd Parton, the students learned how to play recorders for this event prior to their performance. The Spartanburg Philharmonic Orchestra partners with Spartanburg County schools to teach students about orchestra repertoire through a year-long hands-on music curriculum.
3. February 9-11: WES staff and parents volunteers hosted Muffins for Moms for individual grade levels. Mothers, grandmothers, families and community members enjoyed muffins with students prior to the start of the school day in the cafeteria.
4. February 16: Students participated in the school-wide Science Fair. The list of school wide winners can be found in the chart below:

Category	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place	Overall Winners
Biology	Kyle Smoak	Emily Willis	Autumn Bishop	Kyle Smoak
Behavioral Science	Charity Johnson	Marlee Wood	Christian Lee	Whit Harrison
Chemistry	Whit Harrison	Cole Burdette	Kaleb Johnson	Coleman Watson
General Science	Dalton O'Shields	Tucker Rogers	Gage Howard	
Mathematics	Austin Morgan	Ireland Morin	Brayden Calhoun	
Physics	Coleman Watson	Adam Cattaneo	CJ Bennett	

Two WES students, Kyle Smoak and Charity Johnson, won awards at the USC-Upstate Regional Science Fair while competing against other students from Spartanburg County. Kyle won the Audubon Society Award and Charity earned the Spartanburg Science Center Award.

5. February 22: The monthly School Improvement Council meeting was conducted. In an effort to improve home school relations and clarify confusion about the Power School parent portal the WES council distributed a flyer to parents outlining instructions regarding how to set up an account to view the grades of their students.
6. February 23: Students took Spring Pictures.
7. February 26: All WES students participated in the Social Studies and Black History Program conducted in the District 4 Activity Center. Students presented South Carolina and national historical events using songs, recitations, raps, and re-enactments. Parents and community members attended this program.

Woodruff Middle School

Mrs. Denise Brown gave the following report:

1. Enrollment figures: 6th- 190 7th- 196 8th- 193
2. 3rd nine weeks report cards go home March 16.
3. Congratulations to the Battle of the Brains team for defeating Ewing Middle in February 11 and advancing to Round 3. Battle of the Brains is an academic quiz bowl competition begun by radio talk host Bill Drake. Tom Heardon, Mr. Drake's business partner, has continuing Mr. Drake's legacy of the academic competitions between area schools.
4. DHEC will be providing a free Tdap Immunization Clinic for 6th graders whose parents wish for them to participate. A Tdap immunization is required for public school attendance in grade 7. The clinic date will be finalized for a date in the week of April 14.
5. The after school Study Jams kicked off February 8, complete with exciting after school activities

and some incentives for attendance. 75 students are enrolled for additional help in math, reading, and writing.

6. The Lady Cubs completed a perfect season with an 18-0 record and defeated Blacksburg for the Foothills Conference Championship February 6. This is the third championship in a row for the Lady Cubs and the first 18-0 season in school history.
7. Wrestlers Charles Landrum and Bryton Sloan competed at the state tournament level. There were 200 middle school wrestlers per weight class this year. Only 16 advanced to state competition. Charles took 3rd place; Bryton finished 7th.

Calendar of Events:

March 16	3 rd Nine Weeks Report Cards go home
March 18	6 th Grade Field Trip to Georgia Aquarium
April 13	Spring Pictures
April 16	Choral Festival at Carowinds
April 18	7 th grade Field Trip to Biltmore House
April 20	Interim Reports sent home
April 26	SC Ready – Writing
April 27	SC Ready- Reading
April 28	SC Ready- Mathematics
May 3	Rotary Choral Program, 7 pm, Activity Center
May 5	Rotary Band Program, 7 pm, Activity Center
May 11	PASS Science
May 12	PASS Social Studies
May 17	End-of-Course Algebra I
May 18	End-of-Course English I
May 19	ENGAGE Banquet

Woodruff High School

Dr. Aaron Fulmer reported the following:

1. Registration for 2015-2016 continues: selection of courses, entering requests, feedback to departments, coordination between WMS/WHS, and course tallies. These are the initial phases of building our Master Schedule. This process will continue according to our timeline.
2. The Miss Woodruff High Pageant was held on February 27, 2016. Neely Lambert was named Miss Woodruff High 2016, and Caroline Chandler was first runner-up. Other finalists included Dakendra Jeter, Elisabeth Stockhaus and Rebecca Holmes.
3. Our after school Homework Center, Saturday School, and Senior Enrichment programs are serving the various needs of the students at WHS.
4. Seniors have ordered caps and gowns and other senior supplies.
5. WHS held the Beta Club induction ceremony on February 22, 2016. Sixty-eight students were inducted into the Beta Club for the 2015-2016n school year.
6. Eleven WHS students garner twenty-seven all Southern State Regional at Large Scholastic Awards. WHS is proud of their accomplishments and appreciates all the hard work of Ms. Olencki and the students.

Amanda Brown-	One Gold Key One Silver Key
Cayla Crowder-	Two Gold Keys One Silver Key Two Honorable Mentions
Zachary Dotson-	One Honorable Mention
Olivia Kim-	One Gold Key
Alexis Lyda-	Three Silver Keys

Maritza Maric-	One Honorable Mention One Gold Key
Lizzie McCallion-	One Honorable Mention Two Gold Keys Three Silver Keys One Honorable Mention
Caleb Newton-	One Silver Key One Honorable Mention
Mary Schiele-	One Silver Key
Skyler Straub-	One Silver Key One Gold Key
Noah Wheeler-	One Honorable Mention

- In mid-February, Inman Mills invited Dr. Liston, Dr. Fulmer and others to visit the plants in Enoree. Inman Mills is interested in hiring students before they graduate to work after school and then become career employees with Inman Mills. Administrators toured the plants and learned that the jobs are much different from what one would imagine. The company would like to find students that are probably not going to a 4-year college to work and possibly train at an area community college. WHS took 15 students on a field trip to the plants and several are interested in jobs there.

Instructional Reports

Ms. Neal provided the following information:

- Registration dates for the 16-17 school year have been set. All schools will register on July 28. Our first planning meeting with community leaders regarding Great Start will be held on Monday, March 14.
- Fresh Start and Project H.E.L.P. are fully functioning at the Workman Center. Current enrollment at HELP is 12, and Fresh Start has a current enrollment of 14. Students in these programs will participate in spring MAP testing and appropriate state tests.
- District administration continues to observe all programs in all schools on a rotational basis. In addition, formal teacher evaluations for second semester have resumed.
- Woodruff Middle School had 11 eighth graders to be named as Junior Scholars who were recognized at Converse on March 3.
- Pre-School enrollment for 3, 4, and 5-year-olds has been scheduled for March 10 at the District 4 Activity Center. A plan to communicate with area residents has been developed and distributed to all administrators for implementation.
- School and district staffs continue to review revised testing procedures and guidelines. See attached testing timeline. Several webinars and workshops have been attended by School Test Coordinators and District Test Coordinators regarding SCReady, SCPASS, WIDA, ACT and WorkKeys.
- District and school staff and administration have been reviewing various software applications for instructional use.
- The Office of Federal and State Accountability monitored the Title II program on February 24 and provided a positive review.
- Schools have selected new textbooks for 16-17 in the following areas: 2nd-5th grade social studies, civics, and government.
- Spring MAP testing is proceeding on schedule.
- The AdvancEd process started two years ago at the board strategic planning meeting held at Chairman Smith's house. The External Review held Wednesday, March 2 was the end result. The visiting review committee was very complimentary and acknowledged the strong discipline, rigor, and respect of the students in their report.

Dr. Kim McAbee provided the following report:

1. The AdvancED External Review was held on February 29 – March 2. A six-member team heard presentations from Dr. Liston and the District Administrative Team, interviewed 133 stakeholders, and conducted 93 classroom observations (67 ELEOT and 26 walkthrough) during their three days in District Four. The team rated the district on the AdvancED standards, which were grouped into three domains. The overall rating was 321.95. This compares to an average rating of 278.34 from other school systems. Dr. Drew Moore, Lead Evaluator, stated, “I do a lot of External Review visits each year, and these are some of the highest scores I have seen.”
2. Preparation is underway for a Title III (ESOL) monitoring visit on March 16th. Mrs. Crystal Fields, Director of Title III Programs, will review records, visit classrooms, and interview teachers to determine compliance with Title III regulations.
3. As part of the Read to Succeed legislation, a District Literacy Plan must be submitted by April 25. The plan will address literacy from PreK – 12th grade. A District Literacy Team with representatives from all schools has been assembled and will develop the plan. Following the development of the District Literacy Plan, each school must submit School Literacy Plans by September 1. All plans will be implemented during the 2016-17 school year.
4. A second Read to Succeed course, Content Area Reading and Writing for Early Childhood and Elementary Teachers, is being offered in District Four. This online course will last 7 weeks from mid-March through May. Fifteen teachers will be participating in this course.
5. Planning has begun for the Read to Succeed Summer Reading Camps. For the past two years, Summer Reading Camps have been designed for third graders. This year, we have the option of extending this program to kindergartners, first graders, and second graders.
6. The Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Celebration on March 3. The 2015 Teachers of the Year were recognized. Mr. Jeff Parks, representing District Four, received a plaque for this honor. Mr. Parks teaches U.S. History at Woodruff High School. The Economic Futures Awards were presented to school districts for their participation in the Upstate College and Career Readiness Showcase.
7. The planning session for “Great Start Woodruff” will be held on March 14 at the District Office. Churches, community organizations, and district representatives will meet to assign roles and responsibilities.
8. The Adult Education Program is currently serving 80 students. The morning session serves 41 students in the GED program and 17 students in the diploma program. The evening session serves 22 students in the GED program. Four students received the WorkKeys silver certificate and two students received the bronze certificate in February. The next WorkKeys assessments will be administered on March 9 – 10. The total certificates for the year: 1 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze.

Ms. Mary Johnson reported the following:

1. Alternative Testing March 7-11
Satellite students in grades 3-8 at McCarthy Teszler and Abner Creek will be administered the SC Alternate and NCSC tests, substituted for SC Ready and SC Pass March 7-11. I unpacked the test material, took an inventory, sorted the materials, repackaged the material by school and delivered it to McCarthy Teszler and Abner Creek. When testing is over I will have to go and pick them up, take an inventory, package by the school the students would attend if they were served in the district and mail.
2. Medicaid Audit-March 2
Rhudene Toomer conducted our Medicaid audit. The audit is always based on billing from the previous year. We select 10 files for her to examine and she gives us a report based on those files. There were only 2 issues with the audit. Some careless errors were made in psychological billing, which required us to submit evidence that they were errors and not fraudulent billing. One

speech therapist did not send all of her credentials, so we have to submit a copy of her credentials along with all of the speech files that we submitted that included paperwork from that therapist.

Rhudene told me that she had hoped to get me for missing start and stop time on billing for Nursing Services, but I knew she would be looking for that and made sure that it was correct in the files we submitted.

Michael McBride a representative from PCG, our Medicaid billing agency, came and conducted our quarterly conference while Rhudene examined our files. He said that we're billing at about the same rate as last year, which is an increase from the previous years without PCG.

When Rhudene went over the audit results, Michael was there to try to explain the cause of any errors. He later e-mailed us copies of all of the psychological files submitted last year, so we could submit to Rhudene. We copied all of the files from the speech therapist. We emailed the corrected files to Rhudene and should receive a report within a week.

3. Indicators 4,9,10 due to the State Department March 21.

Indicator 4 provides evidence of whether or not there is a significant discrepancy in long-term suspensions/expulsions of students with IEPs.

Indicator 9 provides evidence of whether or not the District has a disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services that was the result of inappropriate identification.

Indicator 10 provides evidence of whether or not there is a disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability category that was the result of inappropriate identification.

If there is evidence of violations of these indicators it could result in the loss of federal funding to the district.

4. Quarterly Teachers Meeting-March 8

I meet with the Special Education Teachers and Speech Therapists once per quarter to discuss updates to Enrich and Medicaid and address any questions or concerns. This helps to eliminate many of the paperwork errors that would be a problem in a Special Education audit.

5. Directors Meeting at Spartanburg Regional-March 17.

The county directors will be meeting at Spartanburg Regional Hospital, so we can meet the Special Education interns from Spartanburg District 6. These interns are working at Spartanburg Regional in a transition program District 6 established with the hospital.

6. Transition Alliance Meeting at Atrium at Spartanburg High March 28.

The Transition Alliance meets monthly, most districts in the county have a transition representative who works with the committee or in the community to create job opportunities for special education students, like the one mention above in District 6. District 4 does not have a Transition Representative we use a high school teacher. We will get some benefits from the Alliance, but not as many as we would if we had a person that was able to make the transition of the students into the work force their primary focus.

7. Adult Education

We have 6 special education students attending Adult Ed . 3 in the morning and starting this week 3 at night. One of the Primary Teachers works one hour per week with the ones in the morning. I work with the afternoon students for an hour per week on Mondays or Thursdays from 5:00-6:00, some weeks both if I have to miss a week. If service is not provided until age 21 it could result in a law suit. Last year the directors proposed a special education teacher for the county to serve these students, but this addition to the countywide budget was rejected.

Facilities

Board members received a printed update of facilities projects.

Superintendent

Dr. Liston reported the following:

1. Noted that school programs, etc. are listed as part of each school's board report as information for board members.
2. Student make-up day is scheduled for March 11. Teachers have two inservice days to make-up. One make-up day has been completed and schools are working on making up second day.
3. Thank you to all administrators for hard work in preparing for the AdvancEd External Review.
4. Teachers-of-the-Year will be recognized at the board dinner in April.
5. William L. Howell Art Purchase Award winners will be selected in April. Winning students will be recognized at the May board meeting.
6. Non-certified intent forms have been distributed.
7. Retirees will be recognized in June.
8. Gave a brief review of educational information included in the House version of the budget.
9. Leadership training for administrators has been scheduled for March 30 from 8:30-9:30 AM and April 13 from 8:30-9:30 AM.

BOARD ACTION

1. Approved General Obligation Bond for \$1,230,000.
2. Approved Bond Anticipation Note for \$600,000.
3. Approved purchase of 170 computers from Y&S Technologies.
4. Approved replacement windows at WMS.
5. Received copies of proposed revision to Policy AD – School District Mission (1st reading)
6. Approved the following 2016-17 teacher recommendations: Lindsey Shilling and Karleigh Alexander at WPS, and Amanda S. Stonesifer and Deidre Robinson at WES.