

**FLORENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VIA CONFERENCE CALL
May 18, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jerry A. Lee, Chairman
Mr. Andrew B. Gaster
Mr. Raymond A. Haselden
Mr. Christopher G. Marsh

Mr. Ervin J. Richardson
Mr. Joshua B. Timmons
Mrs. Faith L. Truesdale

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Randy Smiley, Superintendent
Mr. Adam Kennedy
Mrs. Beth Snowden
Mrs. Mirandi Squires

Mr. Sam Tuten
Mr. Randy Willis
Mrs. Tina Williams, Recorder

The Board of Trustees of Florence County School District Five met for regular session on Monday, May 18, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Chairman Lee, the administrative staff, and two principals were present for the meeting, and the board members, one principal, and the technology director participated via conference call.

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** – Chairman Lee welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Confirmation of Notice to Media** – Chairman Lee stated that in accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, Section 30-4-80(e), the following were notified of this meeting: *Morning News*, *NPO News*, WMBF-TV, WPDE-TV, and www.fsd5.org.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – The Agenda was approved by general consent of the Board.
4. **Public Forum** – There was no one present to address the Board in Public Forum.
5. **Consent Agenda (A-C)** – Chairman Lee reviewed the items of the Consent Agenda which included Board Minutes for April 27, 2020, regular session; the Monthly Financial Statement for April 2020; and the School Food Service Statement for April 2020. A discussion ensued concerning Food Services. All items passed by general consent of the Board.
6. **Superintendent's Report**
 - A. Budget – In a budget update, Mr. Smiley said the state department passed a continuing resolution for the budget to remain the same as last school year. He said there will be no raises, step increases, or change in Base Student Cost. He said Mrs. Spearman doesn't think there will be a midyear budget cut, but districts shouldn't anticipate additional funding for next year. He said the district's budget is stable, but we would have additional expenses next year with a half-time speech teacher and additional special education teacher, which could possibly be offset by CARES funding. Mr. Smiley said the paving project was awarded to Palmetto Paving and will cost the district less than anticipated at approximately \$231,500 with a \$25,000 contingency built in. Florence County has contributed \$45,000, which is figured into the final cost. Summer projects also include upgrades to the high school roof and the special education building at JES. He said other projects would be on hold for the time being. Mr. Smiley told board members that all PPE

equipment and disinfectant for classes and buses would be provided by the state although the district has already placed the order. He said the district should receive protocols from the state department within two-to-three weeks in regards to a good, safe start of next school year. Mr. Smiley said the state has discussed starting school two weeks early for K-8.

- B. Annual Risk Assessment – The State Department of Education Office of Finance ranks each district based on audit status. Our district received a “Low Risk Assessment” of 11, which is the best possible ranking.
- C. Vacancies – Johnsonville Elementary School has positions open for a guidance counselor, an elementary education teacher, and three paraprofessionals.
- D. Technology Update – In a technology update, Mr. Kennedy stated that summer projects were in full progress. He said the servers had been upgraded allowing the network to work ten times faster. As well, a districtwide rollout of approximately 230 computers have been replaced for staff and teachers with each having a three-year warranty. The computer upgrades were purchased with bond funds and the network was funded through E-Rate. Mr. Kennedy told members that he was gathering information in regards to the district having one-to-one learning capabilities. He said the state department has suggested that their intention is to supply the district with approximately 1,200 computers at an estimated cost of \$560,000. He stated if the state’s plan fails, the district plans to implement one-to-one at JHS with 360 warranted devices at an approximate cost of \$170,000. Mr. Kennedy informed the board that the district would soon migrate to a new version of our district website, which is more streamlined with a newer format that is accessible for the disabled. Mr. Smiley said that the state has intent to provide hot spots for help with broadband accessibility. Mrs. Truesdale asked what platform of software was being considered for the one-to-one initiative. Mr. Kennedy said a Windows based system would be used with Office 365 and Microsoft Teams software. He is in hopes the state department will provide Schoology for districts to use free of charge. Mr. Haselden commended Mr. Kennedy for the outstanding work he has done for the district in technology.

7. For Action Agenda

- A. **Second Reading of 2020-21 Proposed General Fund Budget** – Mr. Marsh moved, seconded by Mr. Haselden, that the Board approve the Second Reading of the 2020-21 Proposed General Fund Budget. The motion carried unanimously.
- B. **Acceptance of Title 1 Funding – Acceptance of Title I Funding** – Mr. Smiley stated that the Title I funding allocation for 2020-21 is \$483,348.23, with no change from last fiscal year. Mrs. Truesdale moved, seconded by Mr. Gaster, that the Board approve the Title I Funding as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

- 8. **Executive Session** – Mr. Haselden moved, seconded by Mr. Gaster, that the Board enter the Executive Session Agenda to discuss (A) Resignations and (B) Student Releases. The motion carried unanimously, and the Board entered Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

- 9. **Reconvene in Open Session with Action if Necessary from Executive Session**– Following Executive Session, Chairman Lee called the meeting to order in Open Session at 8:00 p.m. with no action taken.

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A. Mrs. Truesdale moved, seconded by Mr. Marsh, that the Board regretfully accept the resignations of two certified employees (Resignation A and B) as presented by the Superintendent. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Student Release(s) - Mr. Gaster moved, seconded by Mr. Timmons, that the Board release Student A to attend school for the 2020-21 school year in Florence 2. The motion carried unanimously

10. Adjournment - There being no further business, Mr. Haselden moved, seconded by Mr. Richardson that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Tina Williams, Board Secretary

Minutes Approved