

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2021

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, February 1, at 6:00 p.m. at Woodruff Elementary School. Agenda notice was distributed to Spartanburg Herald Journal, Woodruff Times, and listed on the District website at spartanburg4.org/do/agenda.

Chairman Melvin Brewton called the meeting to order. Minutes of the January 4 and January 12, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

The following reports were given:

Woodruff Primary School

Mrs. Dover gave the following report:

1. Calendar of Events for February 2021 is attached.
2. The SC Department of Education will conduct a CERDEP monitoring visit on March 12, 2021. That visit has been rescheduled from the original date of March 5th. They will visit one or two four-year-old classrooms and provide feedback.
3. Spartanburg Herald Journal will be publishing a story on the custodial staff at WPS. They want to highlight the work they do, especially during the pandemic with all the added demands.
4. WPS is hosting 2 student teachers from USC Upstate, 2 student teachers from Converse College, and 5 clinical students from USC Upstate. We're also in the planning stages to host a group of teacher candidates from North Greenville University.
5. WPS students and staff will collect items for Agape Care Center of Woodruff through February. We've collected approximately 300 items so far. WPS staff members and the Willow Creek Community are huge supporters in our projects.
6. Allison Duckett, Nicole Sheffield, Giada Parris and Briona Martin attended a virtual professional learning opportunity, "Social Emotional Cohort 1", hosted by the Office of Early Learning and Literacy at the SC Department of Education. Amber Blaile, Lorrie Harmon, Tory Hinson, and Jordan Odil are registered to attend a virtual session titled "Developing Phonological and Phonemic Awareness."
7. Teachers completed the first of three virtual parent and student training sessions on January 21st. The next two sessions are scheduled for January 28th and February 4th. There was good participation.

February

- 1–28 – Black History Month; National Children’s Dental Health Month
- 1 - 5 – National School Counseling Week *We love you, Mrs. Sheffield!
- 2 – Papa John’s Fundraiser
- 4- Virtual Parent and Student Training Session @ 6:00 p.m.
- 10 – Interim Reports Issued for 1st & 2nd Graders
- 14 – Valentine’s Day
- 15 – Teacher Inservice Day – No School for Students; Presidents’ Day

January 26, 2021					
Grade Level	# on Roll	Face to Face / Virtual	# in PS	Difference	Why
Early Head Start	11	11/0	0	11	Included in 3K Grade Level Count
1/2 day 3K	34	40/0	52	-18	6 – Moon (Special Education) 11- Early Head Start

					1 – Special Services
4k	101	100/6	109	-8	1 –Special Services, 2 - CDC & 5 –Spivey (Special Education)
5K	165	158/9	168	-3	1 - Special Services & 2 - Humerez (Special Education)
1st	185	180/9	189	-4	4 – Humerez (Special Education)
2nd	187	173/18	192	-5	1 – McCarthy Teszler & 4 – Humerez (Special Education)
TOTAL		704	710	-6	3 - Special Services, 1 - McCarthy Teszler & 2 - CDC

Woodruff Elementary School

Mrs. Hodge gave the following report:

1. We would like to welcome Ms. Stephanie Williams to our staff. She is serving as a reading assistant.
2. Mr. Crook, Mrs. Rhodes, and Ms. Mitchell will participate in a virtual meeting with the SCDE regarding Summer Reading Camp on February 11th.

Estimated Enrollment for WES as of 11/05/20:

	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Face-to-Face	198	174	196
Virtual	16	15	15
Total	214	189	211

February 2021 Calendar

- 1 and 2 – Virtual Watershed program for 5th grade
- 15 – Inservice day
- 17 – Virtual Watershed program for 4th grade
- 17 – WES Science Fair
- 19 – Spirit Day – Wear jeans and school shirt

Woodruff Middle School

Mr. Lawson gave the following report:

1. Current enrollment figures: 6th – 225, 7th – 211, 8th – 213
2. Interim reports for 3rd nine weeks will go home February 10.
3. WIDA testing begins February 16.
4. Brooke Rogers is the school's Spelling Bee champion. Carrigan Caldwell was runner-up.
5. Winter sport Athlete of the Week recognition for Woodruff Middle School athletes includes: Connor Hitchcock, Taylor Lambert, Rihanna Wallace, Braden Mulak, Sadie Burnett and Hunter West.
6. The Foothills Conference Basketball Tournament will begin February 4. Woodruff Middle School's girls will host a first-round game.
7. WMS 8th graders were invited to rising 9th grade night at the Activity Center on January 12.
8. Congratulations to the following students for having their artwork selected by Mr. McConnell to represent Woodruff Middle School at the Chapman Cultural Center:

Chapman Newsome, Ivy Kate Rhodes, Angelina Tudor, Cassidy Schiele, Ruthie Sheffield, Rachel Hayes, Chris Romero, Alissa Styles, Gavin Kuronya and Nathan McConnell.

Calendar of Events:

- Feb 1 Spring sports begin
- Feb 4 WMS basketball in 1st round of Foothills tournament

Feb 5	8 th course cards due to WHS
Feb 10	Interims
Feb 16	WIDA testing begins at WMS
Feb 23	WMS winter sport awards program

Woodruff High School

Dr. Aaron Fulmer reported the following:

1. WHS Guidance Counselors continue to meet with students and parents to make individual plans for the 2020-2021 school year that coordinate with the long term goals of the students.
2. Woodruff High School staff met with Woodruff Middle School eighth graders on January 7, 2021. Students were given an overview of the school as well as encouraged to begin thinking about post-secondary goals.
3. Woodruff High School held the annual Eighth Grade parents' night on January 12, 2021. Parents were given an overview of the academic options at Woodruff High School and given an opportunity to ask questions of administrators and counselors.
4. Heather Abrams, WHS Guidance Director, hosted a financial aid night on January 25 in the WHS gym. Parents and students received information on exploring financial aid options. Enrollment and Calendar information given to Board

Instructional Reports

Dr. Kim McAbee reported the following:

1. The Cognia Accreditation Engagement Review will take place on March 1st – 3rd (Monday – Wednesday). The review will be conducted virtually through Zoom meetings. Interviews with various stakeholders will occur on Monday and Tuesday. **Board members will be asked to interview on Monday, March 1st at 10:30am.** Parents and community partners will be asked to interview on Tuesday, March 2nd at 9:00am. The exit presentation will occur on Wednesday, March 3rd at 2:45pm.
2. The next induction class will be held on Tuesday, February 9th from 3:00 – 6:00pm in the Woodruff Elementary School Media Center. The remaining sessions will focus on the twelve standards under the instruction domain.
3. A new ADEPT evaluation instrument will be in place for guidance counselors, speech pathologists, and media specialists/librarians next year. It will be rubric-based and more similar to the classroom teacher evaluation. However, it will contain standards that relate specifically to these specialized areas.
4. Woodruff Primary School will host one student teacher from Converse College during second semester. The placement will be in kindergarten with Rachel Gladden.
5. USC Upstate will have several clinical placements in District Four this Spring. Woodruff Primary School will host clinical students in PE and special education. Woodruff Elementary will host clinical students in PE, special education, and regular education classrooms. Woodruff Middle will host a math placement and science placement. Woodruff High will host a chemistry placement, English placement, and social studies placement.

Mrs. Britt McKinney provided the following information:

1. Title I, Title II, and Title IV will have a monitoring visit from the South Carolina Department of Education in March. Auditors can visit schools and may interview administrators about title programs being used in each building.
2. DHEC is partnering with local providers to offer a free vaccine/physical for students in District Four. This is in an effort for the current 6th graders to have the necessary shots to enter 7th grade in a timely manner. The sports physical is required for all student athletes and families may take advantage of this opportunity in mid-April.

3. Spartanburg Four is offering free rapid testing for COVID daily at the district office. Parents and staff can call the office to set up an appointment. This service has been received well in the community and has helped many families who are unable to get to a testing site in Spartanburg.
4. The Junior Scholar county-wide program has been cancelled for this year, but Spartanburg Four will recognize those students who achieve this honor by presenting them with a pin and certificate.

COVID update: This will be presented at the meeting

Mrs. Jennifer Turner provided the following information:

1. Staff members from each school attended a workshop in preparation for the 2021-2022 school year. Each school's PowerSchool database is ready to begin the scheduling process for the upcoming school year.
2. District technology members and school testing coordinators will conduct school meetings on February 8th to review the spring 2021 testing season.
3. ACCESS WIDA, a state-mandated assessment required for English Language Learners, began on January 25th. The window will conclude on April 30th.
4. The Performance Task Assessment begins for qualifying students on February 22nd and concludes on March 26th.
5. Spartanburg Four's Ed Tech Specialist held a professional development session at Woodruff Primary School on January 12th. The focus of this session was Schoology and iPad use.
6. Students in 3rd grade were issued Chromebooks during the week of January 18th. Laptops these students were using will be reassigned throughout the district.
7. Woodruff Middle School's CTE labs were remodeled over the winter break and look fantastic!

Mrs. Rachel Traynham provided the following information:

1. County-wide considerations

- a. The SPED Directors in Spartanburg County are looking at options for beginning 2 new classrooms next school year to be shared services for pre-school as well as upper elementary students whose needs require more behavioral supports. We will meet in person on February 4th to look closely at the budget as well as possible locations for these classroom recommendations.

2. Mental Health Counseling

- a. We have seen an increase in the number of students receiving Mental Health Counseling during second semester. The needs are growing and having Mrs. Britni Morgan to help serve our students has proven itself to be a great investment for our students and their families.

3. Audits-

- a. **Indicator 13-(Post-secondary Considerations)** We received 100% compliance on this audit that was completed in November. Attached is the letter from Rebecca Davis, Director of Special Education Services at the SCDE. I believe we are the only Spartanburg County School District that had no corrections to be made.
- b. **Indicator 11 (Child Find)-** We received 100% compliance on this audit that was completed at the end of first semester. Attached is the letter from Carolyn Bostick at the SCDE regarding this outcome.
- c. **Indicator 12 (Child Find)-** We received 100% compliance on this audit that was completed at the end of first semester. Attached is the letter from Carolyn Bostick at the SCDE regarding this outcome.

These indicator audits take a great deal of time. Having these indicators at 100% keeps the auditors from requesting additional school and district information, therefore decreasing the burden on principals and other staff. When I began, we had several areas out of compliance, but I am pleased with the progress our SPED team is making in ensuring accuracy. While this is exciting, we are not out of the woods yet. There could be other findings as the SCDE continues to audit the indicators, but so far, so good!

- **The completion of these audit findings is used in our compliance percentage that is reflected in our District Profile and used in making our 2019 IDEA Determinations which will be released this summer. ****

Facilities

Board members received a printed update of facilities projects.

Financial/Fiscal Services

The accounting firm of Cherry, Bekaert reviewed the Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2020. Spartanburg District Four received a “clean” audit. Due to COVID 19 a representative from the accounting firm was unable to attend the meeting.

Superintendent

1. Provided copies of 21-22 personnel timeline.
2. Provided information on Ethics forms that are due by March 30.
3. Provided a copy of the approved 2021-2022 School Calendar.
4. Shared an invitation from Woodruff City Manager Lee Bailey for the Grand Opening Celebration of Block 224 Event Center.

Board Action

1. Approved returning teacher contracts for the 2021-2022 school year for all schools.
2. Approved Ann-Margaret McClary and Gwen Watson as WHS teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.