

# SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING

November 13, 2023

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office. Agenda notice was distributed to Spartanburg Herald Journal, Woodruff Times, and listed on the District website at [spartanburg4.org/do/agenda](http://spartanburg4.org/do/agenda).

Chairman Tony Davis called the meeting to order. Minutes of October 2, 2023, were approved as submitted.

Chairman Davis recognized Judy Tanzola and she spoke briefly about how she was overwhelmed with excitement and pride for some of the programs that are currently being practiced in District Four Schools. She mentioned the story book character parade, Veteran's Day Program at WES, and the end of the year WHS Graduate walk. Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Tanzola for her willingness to speak before the board.

The following reports were given:

## **Woodruff Primary School**

Mrs. Dover gave the following report:

1. Calendar of Events for November 2023 is attached.
2. CogAT and Iowa tests for second graders have been completed. These assessments determine eligibility for SOAR in third grade. Students who don't qualify for the gifted program based on CogAT and Iowa may qualify to take Performance Task Assessment as an additional opportunity to become eligible for SOAR.
3. Teachers met with parents during the month of October to review students' progress. Teachers at WPS hold conferences with parents of all students.
4. Red Ribbon Week was observed October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. Students and staff participated in dress-up days that represented a positive message about keeping our bodies healthy.
5. Mrs. Dover recently attended educator career fairs at Anderson University and USC Upstate. She was able to meet and speak with potential teaching candidates in many areas of certification.
6. WPS's first family night at Scoops in Woodruff was a success! We had a great turnout and enjoyed seeing everyone!
7. Preschool students attended field trips to Stewart Farms. The farm provides an exciting experience for our little ones including a wagon ride, lessons on growing pumpkins, a trip through the corn maze, and opportunities to see a variety of farm animals.
8. Kindergarten and second grade students learned about fire safety from Trinity Fire Department. Firefighters brought the truck and smoke house to the school for students to explore.
9. First grade classes are taking a field trip to Publix. The children get to tour the store, learn about each of the departments, and see some things going on behind the scenes.
10. WPS staff and students are collecting canned goods for the Woodruff Soup Kitchen during October and November. So far, we've collected over 1,700 items! We will continue to collect items until Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>.
11. Student Council representatives were elected by their peers to represent each second grade class. These students will work, as a group, throughout the year to learn about leadership, teamwork, problem solving, and other important skills. They will participate in leading community service projects and school spirit activities.

12. Family Literacy Night in “Candy Land” is planned for November 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00. Susan Richard, kindergarten teacher, and a committee of teachers has planned and prepared for a “sweet” night of fun for kids and their families.
13. All students will learn about what it means to be a veteran and the reason for observing Veterans’ Day. A variety of lessons and activities will be completed on November 8 - 10.

November 2023

- 6 – No School – Teacher Inservice Day
- 7 – No School – Election Day
- 15 – Interim Reports
- 16 – Make-Up Picture Day
- 16 – Family Literacy Night in “Candy Land”
- 17 – School Family Celebration
- 20 – Lion’s Club Vision Screening
- 22 – 24 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 30 – Healthy Smiles Dental Screenings

November 2023					
Grade Level	# on Roll		# in PS	Difference	Why
1/2 day 3K	32		37	-5	5- Moon (Special Education)
4k	138		144	-6	6- Martell (Special Education)
5K	184		188	-4	3 -Martell (Special Education) 7- McT
1st	193		201	-8	1 - McT 7- CDC 6 -Humerez (Special Education)
2nd	203		210	-7	4 - Humerez (Special Education) 2- McT; 1- CDC
<b>TOTAL</b>	750		780	-30	<b>10 - Humerez, 9- Martell, 5 - Moon 6- McCarthy Teszler &amp; CDC</b>

**Woodruff Elementary School**

Mrs. Parris gave the following report:

1. We celebrated Red Ribbon Week during the week of October 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. The students especially enjoyed wearing Orange clothes for “Orange you Glad you’re Drug and Bully Free.”
2. The Veteran’s Day program is at 9:00 on November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center.
3. Mrs. Parris and Mrs. Dover attended two teacher recruitment fairs, one was at Anderson University and the other was at USC Upstate.
4. Mrs. Wallace’s class won the pumpkin decorating contest hosted by Ms. Bostdorff, our librarian. Her students will receive one free item from concessions for their creativity.
5. Professional Development-Emily Rhodes attended “Introduction to Text- Dependent Writing on SC READY.
6. We are collecting items for the Agape Homeless Shelter of Woodruff. This community project runs through November 21<sup>st</sup>.
7. Reading Buddies are up and running.

## November

1 – Good News Club  
5-Daylight Savings Ends  
6-School Closed  
7-Election Day Holiday-School Closed  
9– Good news club  
10-Veterans Day Program 9:00-Activity Center  
    • School Psychologist Appreciation Day  
    • Student Council Meeting  
13-Gifted Music  
13-17-SEL Lessons  
14-Gifted Art  
15-Interims Issued  
16-Good News Club  
    • Interims Issued  
17 – Good News Club  
20/21-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Watershed  
22-24-Thanksgiving Holidays  
27-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Watershed  
28-Gifted Art

	#
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	197
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	206
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	218

## Woodruff Middle School

Mr. Scott Lawson reported the following:

1. Current enrollment figures: 6<sup>th</sup> – 234 7<sup>th</sup> – 222 8<sup>th</sup> – 236
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks interim reports will be sent home Nov 15.
3. Beta Club installation was held October 24 with 74 students being inducted. Coach Steve Ramey served as guest speaker.
4. WMS basketball tryouts began October 30.
5. WMS wrestling began Monday, October 30.
6. A WMS school improvement council meeting was held October 30.
7. An appreciation breakfast for veterans was held November 10.

November 15	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter interim progress reports
November 20	School spelling bee/Cub Classic basketball
November 21	Cub Classic basketball
November 22-24	Thanksgiving Holidays
November 27	Winter MAP opens/WMS fall awards program
November 30	WMS basketball at home vs. Chesnee
December 2	Archery – bows and biscuits drop in 8am-11am
December 4	WMS basketball at Sims
December 7	WMS basketball at Mabry
December 8	School band/chorus concert
December 9	Archery try-outs 9am – 6 <sup>th</sup> , 10am-7 <sup>th</sup> , 11am – 8 <sup>th</sup>
December 11	WMS basketball at home vs. Clifdale
December 14	ELA exams/WMS basketball at Rainbow Lake
Dec 15	Science and social studies exams/Winter MAP closes
Dec 18	ENCORE exams/WMS basketball at Chesnee
Dec 19	Math exams
Dec 20	Make-up exams/Last student day before Christmas Holidays

## **Woodruff High School**

Mrs. Christine Morris reported the following:

- Woodruff High School held basketball cheer try outs. We are excited to have cheerleaders this season. They will cheer at all our home games. Corey Newsome is the sponsor and is doing a great job with WMS and WHS.
- Guidance held College Application Day on Friday, October 6. We had 118 seniors participate in the College Application Day.
- WHS held a fire drill on Wednesday, October 11. Everyone did a great job exiting the building. Issues that were discovered were reported to the DO.
- On Tuesday, October 17, several students participated in the PSAT/ASVAB testing.
- On Wednesday, October 18, students completed their second SEL lesson and report cards were sent home.
- Guidance held another Lunch and Learn on Thursday, October 19. The topic was Communicating with Adults and Others.
- Jostens held a meeting with our seniors on Friday, October 20. They received information on ordering graduation supplies. They came back the following Wednesday.
- Our self-contained students participated in the Mayors Walk on Wednesday, October 25. It was a time to celebrate them as individuals and to remind them they have a bright future.

## **WHS GOOD NEWS**

\*The WHS cafeteria participated in National School Lunch Week and 3 “Lucky Lunch Goers” won a free ticket to the Clinton football game. They did a drawing Mon-Thurs of that week.

\*Future Teachers of America club is underway, and students have observed at WMS and WPS.

\*During Red Ribbon Week students had an opportunity to Bust Up Drugs/Drunk Driving, by busting up an old car during their lunch.

\*WHS Marching Cadets placed runner up in Upper State and in State competitions. We are beyond proud of their accomplishments this season.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
11-9	The Wall that Heals (AP field trip)
11-10	Veterans Day Program
11-13	Grades Due
11-14	Soup Kitchen Service Project
11-15	Faculty Meeting @7:35
11-15	SEL Lesson (Advisory Schedule)
11-15	Interims
11-15	Earthquake Drill
11-17	Lunch and Learn
11-22,23,24	Thanksgiving
11-27	Fall Sports Banquet
11-28	PD for ML Students (during planning periods)
11-30	Palmetto Fellows/Financial Aid Night Meetings
12-4	Chorus Rehearsal
12-5	Band Concert
12-7	Chorus Concert
12-14	Lunch and Learn
12-15	School Christmas Concert
12-15	Begins 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester Exams
12-21	Begins Christmas Break

## **Instructional Reports**

Dr. Aaron Fulmer reported the following:

1. The ADEPT teacher evaluations and PADEPP principal evaluations are progressing on schedule. All evaluations are entered into the SC LEAD portal. Administrators should conclude classroom observations in November and conduct mid-year conferences on Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) and preliminary evaluation conferences in December. At these conferences, the teacher and administrator will review the data/evidence and sign the evaluation.
2. The Induction class was held on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The second October session addressed the following topics: Relationships among Standards, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model, Differentiated Instruction, and the SC Teaching Standards under the Planning Domain.
3. Administrators have begun attending recruitment events in preparation of anticipated openings for the upcoming school year. With the state-wide teacher shortage and District Four's proximity to large districts, it is important for administrators to establish relationships with colleges and make contacts with education graduates early.
4. There have been significant changes in personnel at the SC Department of Education. Some employees have moved to other departments within the State Department, while other employees have accepted positions in school districts. These changes create challenges for school districts, as new relationships must be established, and the institutional knowledge of long-time employees is no longer accessible to districts.

Mrs. Ann Hodge reported the following:

1. The SCATA conference was held October 25 – 27. Sessions focused on the federal monitoring tool, noncompetitive procurements, parent engagement and needs assessments. Spartanburg Four will have a state and federal audit on March 6, 2024.
2. District Four will participate in the desk audit phase of our American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Submission is due by November 17, 2023.
3. All schools have organized their SIC teams and have entered the information into the SC School Improvement Council member network site. Our district has met all compliance requirements.

Mrs. Jennifer Turner reported the following:

1. The required 45-day funding report has been successfully submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.
2. GOLD and KRA state mandated testing for 4K and 5K completed on October 16, 2023. GOLD (4K) will complete a mid-year screening in January as well as an end of year assessment.
3. Second grade CogAT/IA testing completed on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at Woodruff Primary School. These tests are used as identifiers for the Gifted and Talented program.
4. The PSAT was administered at Woodruff Middle School on October 18<sup>th</sup> and Woodruff High School on October 17<sup>th</sup>. 157 students took part in this testing opportunity.
5. Attached you will find the November edition of the "Ed Tech Talk". This monthly newsletter highlights professional development offered by our Educational Technology Specialist. For this first semester, 65 teachers utilized these services in request forms, emails, or face-to-face meetings.
6. The 2023-2024 South Carolina School Report Cards were released on October 10<sup>th</sup> for all districts and schools. Spartanburg Four schools received the following ratings: Woodruff Elementary School- Good, Woodruff Middle School- Good, Woodruff High School- Average. While Woodruff Primary School received a report card, it is in the format of a "report to the community" and does not contain an overall rating.

Ms. Rachel Traynham provided the following report:

### SPED

1. We held our county-wide Special Education Directors meeting at McCarthy-Teszler on November 2, 2023.
2. I provided an overview of SPED and Satellite programs offered in Spartanburg County to Superintendents on November 9.
3. Spartanburg County District 6 is looking to hire an Audiologist to serve in all 7 school districts. This is a replacement position to be funded through the McCarthy-Teszler budget shared by all districts.

### Nursing

1. The Employee Health Fair was held November 3 in the Woodruff High School Cafeteria. Faculty was able to participate if covered under the state health plan. We were happy to be able to provide this for our employees.
2. COVID 19-We have had 32 staff members to test positive and 78 students to test positive to date.
3. We were recently able to hire a substitute nurse to serve in our schools should one of our full-time nurses need to be out.

### Mental Health

1. The number of student referrals for Mental Health Services continues to increase. We have transported 11 by guardian or EMS to the CAFÉ' or emergency room for further evaluation.

### Multi-Lingual Learners

1. We are serving about 140 Multi-Lingual Learners. That number has increased from our last meeting. We currently have 2 full-time ML teachers and will be looking to hire a part-time assistant to support the needs of this growing population.

### Facilities

**BAN 2023 Projects** – Board members received a copy of projects.

**2023 / 2024 School Year Projects** – Board members received a copy.

**School Safety Grant** – We have applied for the following items through the SCDE Safety Grant program:

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Metal Detectors for WPS (1), WES (1), and WMS (4) | \$120,000 |
| 2. Classroom Door Locks for WPS, WES, and WHS        | \$82,800  |
| 3. Classroom Window Glass Replacement at WES         | \$7,500   |

**Generator for District Office Server Room** - We are working on a proposal for a backup generator to maintain power and air conditioning in our server room at the District Office. These servers control computers, security cameras, telephones, and data backups.

**Turfcare and Lawn Maintenance Bids** – To be considered under New Business.

### Superintendent

1. Offered congratulations to the newly elected board members, Nathan Craig and Micha Kelley. Also, congratulations to re-elected members Rick Sloan and Sandy Norman. The oath of office will be conducted at the December meeting. Families of the elected are welcome to attend.
2. Expressed how proud he is of all the schools and offered thanks to the administrators for their dedication and hard work.
3. Recognized the Athletic and Band booster clubs for their efforts in raising money to help offset costs associated with all athletic and band programs.
4. Reminded the board that Sandy Norman will serve as the voting delegate and Tony Davis as the alternate at the Delegate Assembly which will be held December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Charleston.

5. The SCSBA Annual Convention will be held in February.
6. Gave an update on millage calculations due to rollback. Based on the current calculation the numbers will stay in line with what was said during the referendum process.
7. Harper Construction is slightly ahead of schedule with the new WHS. Harper is doing an excellent job with communicating, organization, and site management with all the sub-contractors. Drone photos of the site will be shown at the December meeting. Also, discussion is being held regarding the placement of a traffic light at the intersection of Miller Road and 146.
8. The SCHSL will have an executive committee meeting Wednesday November 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss competitive balance and a multiplier factor.
9. The Spartanburg County Oversight Committee voted Thursday November 9, 2023, to accept the distribution of the Minimum County Foundation between the seven Spartanburg County School Districts. Chairman Davis did an excellent job chairing the meeting.

### **Board Action**

1. Approved the following policies: GCCAC/GCDCC Paid Parental Leave, IKF-R Graduation Requirements, JFABD-R Admission of Homeless Students and JLCDB-Use of Lifesaving Medications.
2. Approved the low bid of \$58,306.00 (Turf Care) and \$735.00 (per cut) from Harrison Landscape Management. 7 votes of yes and 1 abstention.
3. Approved the low bid of \$2865 per cut from Harrison Landscape Management for lawn maintenance. 7 votes of yes and 1 abstention.
4. The following policy updates were presented as information (first reading): GBEBE Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion- Staff) and JICFB Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion- Student).
5. Chairman Davis then asked for discussion regarding the invoice on the Bus Drive Replacement at WHS. Mr. Clark Simpkins presented the board copies of a summary, invoice, and bid sheet. The board discussed the significant increase in the invoice versus the approved bid amount. Vaughn Curbing Company was the approved contractor.
6. No action was taken regarding the placement of Duke Power lines at the new WHS site.