

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DISTRICT 4 BOARD MEETING NOTES

January 5, 2026

The District 4 Board of Trustees held its regular meeting Monday, January 5, at 6:00 p.m. at the new Woodruff High School, room 130. Agenda notice was distributed to Spartanburg Herald Journal, Woodruff Times, Post and Courier and listed on the District website at spartanburg4.org/do/agenda.

Superintendent Dr. Aaron Fulmer called the meeting to order. Minutes of November 10 and November 21 were approved as submitted.

Dr. Fulmer administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Tony Davis, Mr. Ted Harrison, Jr., Mr. Phil Hembree, Mr. Jay Phillips and Mr. Morgan Smith.

Dr. Fulmer presided over the election of Board Chairperson. Morgan Smith was unanimously approved to serve as Board Chairperson.

Sandy Norman was unanimously approved to serve as Board Vice Chairperson.

Nathan Craig was unanimously approved to serve as Board Secretary.

The following members were selected to serve on the hearing committee: Nathan Craig, Sandy Norman, and Jay Phillips.

Tony Davis and Phil Hembree will serve on the Board of R. D. Anderson Applied Technology Center.

Special Recognition

Mrs. Jennifer Turner, Director of Curriculum & Accountability, awarded the following students with a SC Ready Perfect Score Merit Award: Lucas Dickard, Cowen Graves, Liam Pipkin, Sienna Arrowood, Charis Avrett, Keefer Young, Elizabeth Whitmore, Aubrey Shealy, and Robert Pettay.

Finance

Mr. Brian Nicholson from the accounting firm of Mauldin & Jenkins reported that Spartanburg District Four received an unmodified ("clean") audit. District Four again qualifies as a "low-risk" audit.

Instructional

Mr. Russell Mahaffey, Director of Personnel and Student Services, presented the following report:

1. PADEPP conferences will be scheduled with principals in January. The purpose of the mid-year conference is to review progress toward professional development plans and to review evidence related to the PADEPP standards. During second semester, principals will complete self-assessments for the PADEPP standards. A final conference will be held at the end of the school year. All evidence, ratings, and signatures are entered into the SC LEAD system.
2. As part of teachers' final evaluation cycle (second semester), principals will conduct formal observations in classrooms from January 6th through the end of March. They will complete the evaluations in SC LEAD and hold final evaluation conferences by April 24th.
3. The next Induction class will be held on Tuesday, January 13th starting at 3:30 PM. The teachers will be working with the 12 standards in the Instruction Domain throughout the remaining class sessions. Teachers will view a videotaped lesson of themselves, share their opinion after viewing the lesson, and discuss the Post-Conference Teacher Reflection form. They will rate themselves on the various domains, identify a reinforcement objective and a refinement objective, and compose a written reflection on the lesson.

4. Teachers and administrators received letters of intent on December 10th. They will return their intent forms by January 8th. These forms indicate employees' plans for the upcoming school year (e.g., retirement, resignation, or return to employment). Principals will use this information in composing teacher recommendations in February.
5. Personnel have or will attend the following teacher recruiting events this year:
 - a. USC Upstate October 14, 2025
 - b. Anderson University October 20, 2025
 - c. North Greenville University November 3, 2025
 - d. Converse University March 6, 2026
 - e. USC Upstate Meet the Districts March 17, 2026
6. Plans are in place to hire personnel with the addition of the new Woodruff Intermediate School,
 - a. Most of the teachers will simply move from Woodruff Elementary School to Woodruff Intermediate School
 - b. The administrators will be moving from WES to WIS.
 - c. The office staff will be moving from WES to WIS.
 - d. Dr. McCoy, the new principal of WES started the search for assistant principals on December 15, 2025.
 - e. The plan for hiring begins with having administrators in place to aid in the interview process for other positions. We have posted these positions.

The following reports were submitted:

Woodruff Primary School

Mrs. Dover gave the following report:

1. Kindergarten, first and second grade students completed all i-Ready Winter Diagnostic testing in December. Teachers and members of the leadership team are reviewing student, class, and grade level data as we plan for the second semester. All students received a popcorn treat for their efforts!
2. WPS students collected over 600 items during the month of December for Helping Hands Ministry. Next, we will collect paper products for the Agape Care Center of Woodruff. Our school goal is to collect 500 items.
3. WPS staff members enjoyed a Christmas lunch from Moe's on December 18th. We are thankful to the Spartanburg School District Four Board of Trustees and administrative staff for providing this delicious meal. It's a staff favorite!
4. Second graders in Miss Brian, Mrs. Burnett, Mrs. Chastain, Mrs. Craig, and Mrs. Moore's classes performed in the Christmas musical, Christmas at the O.K. Corral. Mr. John Carroll, the music teacher, did a fantastic job preparing children for this performance. All other second grade classes will perform in a spring production.
5. The last week of December was filled with fun activities for students and staff. Class parties and a special School Family Celebration were held on December 19th.
6. Students participated in a reading challenge, Sweet Reads and Frosty Treats, throughout the month of December. They surpassed their goal and read 3,204 books! They received an ice cream treat on December 18th to celebrate! Thank you to Mrs. Rhodes, the librarian, for planning reading incentives for students!
7. Second grade classes participated in a field trip to Roebuck Skate Center! The skate center provides a program on the invention of skates along with a lesson about force and motion!
8. Vision to Learn will return to WPS in January to provide eye exams for students who did not pass their screening. Glasses will be provided for students who need them.

January 2026

- 5 - Teacher Inservice Day / LETRS Training
- 7 - Report Cards Issued
- 19 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- 20 - School Store Fundraiser Begins

- 21 - Class Picture Day
- 22 - 100th Day of School
- 29 – Vision to Learn Exams Begin
- 30 - School Family Celebration
- Enrollment- As of 12/15/2025**

Grade Level	# on Roll	# in PS	Difference	Why
1/2 day 3K	39	43	-4	4- Moon (Special Education)
4k	138	147	-9	9- Moon (Special Education)
5K	202	209	-7	3 –Watson & 3- Humerez (Special Education) 1- Deaf and Blind
1st	199	207	-8	4- Watson (Special Education) 4-Humerez (Special Education)
2nd	213	222	-9	4– Humerez 3- Watson (Special Education) 2- McT
TOTAL	791	828	-37	11 – Humerez, 10– Watson, 13– Moon, 3- Satellite

Woodruff Elementary School

Mrs. Parris reported the following:

1. Students took the i-Ready reading test on December 9th, and math on December 11th.
2. Healthy Smiles visited our school December 3rd.
3. Congratulations to Phoenix Dixon, the Woodruff Elementary Spelling Bee Winner. Greyson Hoag was the first runner up.

We held our annual Spelling Bee in the media center on December 2nd. These were the class participants. 2025-2026

4th Grade:

Teacher:

Baynes:
Brannon:
Graham:
Harrison:
Pitt:
Romanov:
Stonesifer:
Wallace:
Watson:
G. Young:

Winner:

Brooklyn Smith
Kensley Miller
Kharai Alexander
Harper Blighton
Antonia Acosta Guzman
Bryson Hinojos
Lilyauna Brewster
Zaelyn Speaks
Kylah Murphy
Willow Dill

Alternate:

Dominic Huffman
Daisy Childers
Eliana Busko
Kash Faulkner
Chloe Downs
Finley Neal
Axl Williams
Sawyer Cartee
Trinity Rivera
Madison Alexander

5th Grade:

Connolly:
Gaffney:
Jacobi:
Mosteller:
Rector:
Thompson:
Tollison:
Williams:

Bonnie Bynum
Avery Stonesifer
Phoenix Dixon
Conley Williams
Sariah Scott
Lainey Burch
Greyson Hoag
Keefer Young

Gabriel Jeter
Lacie Redd
De’Mjiay Goggins
Harper Rogers
Savannah Mosley
O’Bryant Samuels
Katherine Sink
Gunner Hatten

4. During the months of October and November, students at WES donated items to the Woodruff Soup Kitchen.
5. During the month of December, students and teachers at WES held a Christmas Toy Drive.
6. Data meetings will be held during January planning meetings to discuss i-Ready data, SC Ready projections, interventions, curriculum, and individual students.
7. The WES Christmas program on Thursday, December 18th was a huge success. Mr. Wash did an excellent job with the 5th grade students and the WE Singers.
8. We had our i-Ready celebration December 19th-Reindeer Games.
9. During the month of December, Mrs. Carroll taught Social and Emotional Lessons to 3rd-5th graders.
10. Read to Succeed legislation requires that students be retained in the third grade if the student scores at the “Not Met 1” level on SC Ready in the Spring. Ms. Mitchell sent a form at the beginning of the year informing all parents of the legislation. Ms. Mitchell will notify parents if their student falls in this category. She will conference with these parents in person or on the phone. A letter will be sent home in December at the end of the 2nd 9 weeks to notify parents of students projected to be “Not Met” by scoring below a 489 based on the winter i-Ready test and then again in the Spring after the last i-Ready testing. This is for all the students with and without a good cause exemption. Ms. Mitchell will conference with all the parents of students that score below 489 during the third nine weeks. This includes students with and without a good cause exemption. Any student that scores “Not Met” on SC Ready in the Spring will be required to attend summer reading camp and could possibly be retained pending their scores on the i-Ready test at the end of summer reading camp. Any students with a good cause exemption that scores “Not Met” on SC Ready will be invited to summer reading camp and will have an individual reading plan that will follow them to 4th grade. She expects to receive more information regarding the summer reading camp for the summer of 2026.
11. Fifth grade students raised over \$948 for their Christmas Donation Project!!! Because of their kindness, they were able to provide Christmas gifts for four children in our community.

Professional Development

January 24, 2026	iReady PD	Spartanburg District 2	Guker/Parris
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January 21-24	SC Speech-Language Hearing Association Annual Conference	Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center	Baxter
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Estimated Enrollment for WES as of 12/19/2025

3 rd Grade	213
4 th Grade	229
5 th Grade	207

January 2026 Calendar

- 5-Teacher In-Service Workday, LETRS Training
- 6-Students Return to School, Gifted Art
- 7-Report cards issued
- 12-WE Singers
- 13-Gifted Art
- 14-4th Grade Watershed Program, “Sound of Music”
- 15-4th Grade Watershed Program, “Sound of Music”
- 19-MLK Jr. Holiday-School Closed
- 21-Good News Club begins, Gifted Art
- 26-WE Singers
- 27-Goon News Club, Gifted Art
- 28-3rd Grade Watershed Program, “All Around the World”
- 29-3rd Grade Watershed Program, “All Around the World”
- 30-Fabulous Friday for Teachers

Woodruff Middle School

Mr. Scott Lawson reported the following:

1. Current enrollment figures: 6th – 231 7th – 240 8th – 228
***Four new students scheduled to start January 7.
2. 2nd Nine Weeks report cards will be sent home January 8.
3. The WMS faculty held a Christmas luncheon on December 18.
4. Band and chorus held school day and evening concerts.
5. WMS basketball and wrestling seasons are underway. WMS girls won the Cub Classic preseason tournament.
6. Archery will hold try-outs Saturday, January 11.

Calendar of Events:

Jan 9	Letters of intent due/basketball at Sims
Jan 11	Archery try-outs
Jan 13	Basketball at home vs Mabry
Jan 16	Basketball at home vs High Point
Jan 23	Basketball at home vs Clifdale
Jan 27	Basketball at Landrum
Feb 3-7	WIDA ACCESS testing
Feb 5	Contracts issued

Woodruff High School

Mrs. Christine Morris reported the following:

- Several students attended the Tree Planting at the new WHS on Saturday, November 8. The wrestling team continues to be huge helpers.
- Thank you to everyone involved in the planning and organizing of the Open House for the new WHS. What a great day it was.
WHS held a Veteran’s Day program on Tuesday, November 11. Matt Harakas was our guest speaker. He shared 10 nuggets of wisdom that served him well. He summed it up in one final analogy, think of an apple tree, its purpose is to bear fruit, but does it get to enjoy its own fruit? Bear fruit for others, to love others, and to serve others.
- Mrs. Jennings’ class enjoyed a field trip to see the Swamp Rabbits play hockey. It was great to see them interacting with each other and navigating such an event outside of the school building.
- The Teacher Cadet class visited USC Upstate to further explore and learn about the teaching profession as well as fellowship with other future teachers.
- Student Council put on a pep rally for our 2nd round playoff game. They had fun playing a wig snatching game. The big winner was Coach Chiffon defeating Coach Thomas in the game. Ruthie Sheffield was also recognized for winning a State Championship in weightlifting.
- The Art Society held is annual Art Christmas Market. It was well attended and had at least 30 vendors present, crafts for the kids, and Santa was there checking his list.
- Guidance held a Lunch and Learn on November 7. Information about Big MO was shared. Another one was held on November 20, on Healthy Boundaries.
- The ninth-grade class attended RDA and MSC on Monday, November 24. They were able to tour the classrooms, hear from current students, and participate in several hands-on activities.
- Several classes participated in virtual Auschwitz field trip. The students and staff really got a lot out of it and were moved by the virtual tour. Mrs. Lawson organized the event.
- Congratulations to upperclassman Gabe Glass and underclassman Jayden Day for being selected November Students of the Month. Amaya Williams, Coleton Lancaster, and Logan Yachaina were recognized as “BE a Wolverine” recipients.

Date Event

1-5	Teacher Workday
1-6	Intents Due to WHS
1-7	Report Cards
1-12	1 st Day of ISS
1-19	No School
1-23	Lunch and Learn
1-26	NHS Induction
1-30	Scoops
2-4	Interims
2-6	Character Assembly
2-9	Access Testing Begins
2-18	Career Fair
2-19	Lunch and Learn
2-27	Scoops

Instructional Reports

Mrs. Rachel Traynham reported the following:

1. Nursing
 - a. We are meeting with AED Sales Representatives this week to discuss options for AEDs in the new High School
2. Mental Health
 - a. Numbers of New Referrals to date:
 - WPS-13
 - WES-35
 - WMS-31
 - WHS-26
 Columbia Screeners:68, 9 EMS, 4 Hospitalized, 4 Sent to CAFÉ
3. SPED
 - a. The County Special Education Directors will meet this week at District 6
 - b. We will have our Special Education Program Audit later this month
4. Title Programs:
 - a. We are still working on approval for several of our plans
 - b. Title III has now issued funding, and a meeting will be held in January
5. Multi-lingual Learners:
 - a. There will be a program meeting in Columbia this month
 - b. Our population continues to grow

Mrs. Jennifer Turner provided the following report:

1. Students in grades K-8 completed their winter interim assessment required by Proviso 1.76, and this data has been submitted to SCDE for review.
2. Quarter two as well as semester one completed on December 19th. Report cards will be distributed to students on January 7th.
3. Plans are underway for the preregistration process for the 2026-2027 school year. Schools are completing class meetings, projected student enrollment, and the scheduling process.
4. Schools and administrators are preparing for semester two required state assessments which will begin with a midyear assessment for students enrolled in 4k.
5. WIDA ACCESS, an assessment taken by K-12 students who are served within the multilingual program in Spartanburg School District Four, will begin testing on January 21st. Currently, SD4 has 150 students required to take this assessment.

6. Qualifying students in grades 2-5, who have been identified as needing additional testing to potentially qualify for the South Carolina Gifted and Talented program, will take part in the Performance Task Assessment from February 17th- March 13th.

Facilities

1. **BAN 2025 Projects** – Board members received a list
2. **BAN 2026 Projects** – Board members received a list.
3. **2025 / 2026 School Year Projects** – Board members received a list.
4. **Tree Planting** - TreesUpstate is scheduled to plant an additional (12) trees on Feb. 18, 2026. Schools and Locations TBD.
5. **Engraved Bricks for New WHS** – Initial order: 249 Installed in Oct 2025.
 - a. We have orders for 19 additional bricks of which 10 have been Paid.
 - b. Next order will be placed this summer.

New WHS – Work continues on the Punchlist.

Superintendent Report- Dr. Aaron Fulmer

1. Presented a copy of the 2026-2027 personnel timeline.
2. The Spartanburg Oversight Committee met November 13, 2025, and voted to accept the distribution of the Minimum County Foundation. Chairman Davis attended the meeting.
3. Reminded the board that the SCSBA annual conference will be held February 19-22 at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach.
4. Asked Nathan Craig and Sandy Norman to present any pertinent information they received at the Delegate Assembly that was held in December.
5. Thanked the board for agreeing to provide a Christmas Meal at each school and also for agreeing to the incentives employees received.

Board Action

1. Approved SCDOT road improvements at the new Woodruff High School site in the amount of \$3,571,848.99.
2. Approved SCDOT road improvements at Allendale Road and Road 50 in the amount of \$144,404.00.
3. Approved district administrators for the 2026-2027 school year.