



610 Dupre Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29307
PO Box 970
Spartanburg, SC 29304
p 864.594.4400
f 864.594.4406
spartanburg7.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: [REDACTED]
FROM: Russell W. Booker, Superintendent 
DATE: January 12, 2016
SUBJECT: Response to Questions Posed by D7 Resident, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (on 1-5-16) at the January School Board Meeting

- 1. Does the board have a conflict of interest policy? Does any board member have a perceived or actual conflict of interest regarding any aspect of the project? If so, who?**

The Board has two policies that address conflict of interest: Board policies BCA (Board Member Code of Ethics) and BCB (Board Member Conflict of Interest). In accordance with provisions of BCA and BCB, two board members recognized a potential for the perception of conflict of interest. Mr. Andy Hayes declared the potential perception and recused himself from any actions regarding property. Ms. Meg Clayton declared the potential for conflict on matters regarding construction and has recused herself from any actions regarding construction or construction management. State Law (59-69-260) authorizes board members to provide services or sell products to the district so long as these transactions are in accordance with state ethical provisions of law.

Spartanburg School District Seven board policies are available for review on the District's website under the Board tab.

- 2. Does any board member benefit financially in any way, directly or indirectly, on any of the proposed spending? If so, was this disclosed prior to the board's vote? If so, did the board member(s) affected abstain from voting?**

See answers in question number one.

- 3. Has there been any official communication from Wofford expressing any problems with, or wishing to terminate the current arrangement of renting the usage of the football stadium for home games?**

The original agreement between Wofford and Spartanburg School District Seven regarding the stadium at Wofford was established in 1996. The only amendment to that agreement came in June 2011, after two years of discussion. Although there has been no recent official communication from Wofford expressing any problems with, or wishing to terminate the current arrangement of renting the usage of the football stadium for home games, there was a clear desire for such in previous discussions.

As Wofford's own campus and athletic programs evolve it is becoming increasingly difficult for the district to enjoy the same degree of partnership that was established decades ago. It is our belief that a new stadium is needed to suit the needs of our athletic program today and for generations to come.

4. What is the official position, support or oppose, of the two new board members who were sworn in after the vote?

The two new board members were sworn in to office at a Board meeting on December 1, 2015. At that meeting the Board unanimously adopted the Capital Improvement Plan, which was previously approved in concept only, as the official Capital Improvement Plan for District Seven. On January 5, 2016 the Board was unanimous in its decision to call for a referendum on the capital improvement plan.

5. Since the meeting with the DOT was held after the \$185 million was proposed, will the improvements that the DOT recommended come out of that same \$185 million, or will those be an additional request for taxpayer funds?

Road and other site improvements were and remain a part of the cost estimates included in the referendum. An additional request for funds for these purposes will not be needed.

6. Is it still the board's position that the reason for holding a special referendum in March rather than include the referendum with an existing vote (primary, general election) is rising construction costs, as was stated in the October public forums?

In South Carolina, the governing board of the School District sets the date of a school bond referendum. It is not lawful to hold a referendum in conjunction with a Democratic or Republican Presidential Primary. A statewide primary is slated for June 14, 2016. It is our belief that conducting an election during the summer months was not a good time for this measure. Postponing the referendum to a future date such as November will add significant costs to construction as costs escalate over time. You might be interested to know that the last referendum in District 7 in 1998 was held in March as well.

7. What is the board's estimate on the final total cost (ALL costs included) of the entire spending project?

The cost estimates for the Capital Improvement Plan in the referendum (\$185 million) is inclusive of all expenditures for all projects.

Cc: Julie Lonon, Board Chair