

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

August 26, 2025

SUBJECT:

Proposal Regarding Athletic Trainers

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The District budgets for contracted athletic trainers at seven high schools. In preparation for the 2025-2026 school year, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued last school year to find vendors who could staff our schools.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Despite best efforts to contract athletic training services at all high schools, three high schools have no coverage – Aiken High, Wagener-Salley High, and Silver Bluff High. The vendor selected through the RFP process has been unable to provide staffing. The Administration understands the importance of having coverage and recommends employing athletic trainers at those sites, as well as future vacancies, to address what has become an ongoing issue. The current budget for each school's contracted athletic trainer is \$80,000. The estimated annual salary/fringe to employ an athletic trainer, dependent on years of experience, is approximately \$110,000 per school. For 2025 – 2026, if approved, the estimated \$30,000 difference between contracting and employing would be minimized by a delayed implementation. We anticipate being able to cover the additional expenses in the current year through other budgeted vacancies. The costs will be included in future years' budgets.

If approved, we recommend paying trainers from pay table 119 (\$58,852 - \$91,103) with step placements determined by the District's service credit formula.

RECOMMENDATION:

Employ athletic trainers at Aiken High, Wagener-Salley High, and Silver Bluff High as well as consideration for future vacancies

PREPARED BY:

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