

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2021

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, in the Lexington County School District One's Central Services Building One located at 100 Tarrar Springs Road in Lexington, South Carolina. At 7:00 p.m. the Board of Trustees met for General Session in the Auditorium. The meeting was livestreamed on the Lexington One YouTube channel and a video of the meeting has been uploaded to the YouTube channel and LexOne video website. It is also on the Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes webpage.

Board Members: Chair Anne Marie Green, Vice Chair Brent Powers, Secretary Mike Anderson, Jada Garris, Kyle Guyton, Kathy Henson and Tim Oswald.

1.0 Call to Order 6 p.m. Executive Session

Chair Green called the meeting to order.

2.0 Executive Session

Chair Green called for a motion to enter into executive session to consider employment recommendations for 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and to receive legal advice concerning a pending legal matter in the case of Alvin Berry vs Lexington County School District One. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approved Unanimously

The Board of Trustees adjourned for executive session in the auditorium.

3.0 Adjourn Executive Session

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn executive session and begin the general session of the March 16, 2021 board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Powers	Approved Unanimously

4.0 Call to Order General Session of the March 16, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting

4.1 Notification of Compliance with S.C. Freedom of Information Act

Chair Green called to order the general session of the March 16, 2021 board meeting at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was held in compliance with CDC COVID-19 guidelines and district precautionary measures. All attendees were encouraged to social distance and were required to wear a face covering at all times. The district is in compliance with S.C. Freedom of Information Act by notifying the media of the date, time and place of the meeting. The district tapes the meeting for accuracy in preparing the minutes. Chair Green yielded the floor to Mr. Mike Anderson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

Chair Green called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Powers	Approved Unanimously

6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the February 2 and February 16, 2021 Board Meeting

Minutes of the February 2 and February 16, 2021 board meetings were included for approval. Chair Green asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes, other than those that had already been received. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as presented.

7.0 Reports and Action Items, if Needed, from Executive Session

Chair Green called for a motion to approve 38 certified recommendations for the 2021-2022 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Mr. Stacey reported that Human Resources is filling vacancies for 2021-2022 and will be adding new hires to a pool to fill positions that continue to open.

Chair Green called for a motion to approve 50 administrative renewals for the 2021-2022 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Mr. Stacey reported that these 50 renewals are district directors, chiefs and principals. These are one year contracts that need to be renewed each year.

Chair Green called for a motion to approve four administrative recommendations for the 2021-2022 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Receipt of Legal Advice Concerning Pending Legal Matter (Alvin Berry vs. Lexington County School District One)

Chair Green said the Board discussed a pending legal matter that requires action. She called for a motion. A motion was made to accept administration’s recommendation of Option A in the case of Alvin Berry vs. Lexington County School District One.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Guyton	Approved Unanimously

8.0 Citizens’ Participation

Chair Green read the rules for Citizens Participation.

Debbie Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, advocated for five days face-to-face instruction for high school students. She clarified that the minutes from the February 16, 2021 board meeting said the study was from Charleston schools, but the study she referenced was from the Medical University of South Carolina which indicated no student to teacher transmission. She would like to see more community town halls so the board is able to communicate with the public more.

Citizens’ Participation (continued):

Matt Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, was encouraged by the high school students to transition to the 4 + 1 model. He is interested in the plan moving forward to return to normalcy. He feels this community is changing and families are attracted to Lexington One and wants to see it remain the top in the state.

Chelsea Snelgrove, Lexington, SC, parent of an elementary student, advocated for district leaders to take action on climate change. She encouraged the district to look to the future and take interest in environmental sustainability. She wants the district to look into renewable energy and cited a study on solar panels that saved one district significant money.

9.0 Action Items

9.1 Second Reading — Lexington Middle School Renaming — Jeff Salters, Chief Operations Officer

Chair Green called for a motion for the board to accept the administration’s recommendation to rename the new Lexington Middle School campus to Lakeside Middle School. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Guyton	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Mr. Salters and Casey Calhoun, principal of Lexington Middle School, reviewed the process the district engaged in to consider rebranding the school. The recommendation from stakeholders was to rebrand the school based on its new feeder pattern to River Bluff High School. Mr. Calhoun assured the board that the district will honor the history of Lexington Middle School and the building. The facility is being repurposed and some of the historical mementos on campus can be preserved there. The mascot and school colors will be determined at a later date.

9.2 Audit Selection Committee Recommendation — Jeff Salters

Chair called for a motion from the Audit Selection Committee. Ms. Kathy Henson recommended that the board retain the firm of Burkett Burkett & Burkett, Certified Public Accountants, P.A., to perform independent audits of the school district for fiscal years ending 2021, 2022 and 2023. The motion came from committee; no second was required; the motion was approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	None needed	6 in favor; 1 opposed (Garris)

Discussion: Mr. Salters reported that a sub-committee of the board, including Ms. Kathy Henson, Dr. Kyle Guyton, Superintendent Little and himself, reviewed proposals from firms to provide audit services of the district’s financial systems for the next three years. Ms. Garris asked how the meeting was noticed to the public. Mr. Salters indicated the meeting notice was in compliance with South Carolina Fiscal Accountability Authority procurement FOIA guidelines. Dr. Guyton proposed the board consider the two options offered by Burkett Burkett & Burkett, to either conduct the procurement audit annually or every three years. After further discussion regarding the cost/benefit implications of these options, the board chose to proceed with the vote on the firm selection, but select the procurement audit option at an upcoming meeting. Ms. Garris made a motion to table the motion on the floor, in order to determine if the sub-committee was noticed properly under FOIA guidelines, and to determine the cost of firm options. This motion failed as it did not receive a second. Chair Green proceeded with the original motion.

9.3 Ad Hoc Committee to Review Policy GCF, GCF-R Professional Staff Hiring and Policy GDF, GDF-R Support Staff Hiring — Committee Chair Dr. Kyle Guyton

Dr. Guyton deferred to Board Chair Green for a recommendation. Chair Green nominated Dr. Guyton

Ad Hoc Committee Recommendation (continued):

as committee chair and Mr. Mike Anderson and Ms. Jada Garris as committee members to the previously established ad hoc committee to review board policies GCF, GCF-R and GDF, GDF-R. Hearing no objections, the ad hoc committee members were accepted.

10.0 Superintendent's Report**10.1 Report — Superintendent's Update — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D.**

Superintendent Little moved directly to the report on instructional model shifts.

10.2 Report — Instructional Model Shifts — Thomas Rivers, PH.D., Secondary Schools Director, and Van Bowers, Elementary Schools Director

Mr. Bowers provided background on the elementary schools transition to five days a week face-to-face. A team of elementary administrators and staff made recommendations to provide a safe return to a five day model. Recommendations included extending the school day by 20 minutes, providing teachers with a minimum of 40 minutes of planning daily and giving students a minimum of 30 minutes per day to move/play/remove masks. School administrators would have flexibility in Friday instructional needs, lunch schedules, and more movement and use of cafeteria and related arts rooms. Mr. Bowers reviewed the district's priorities for the remainder of the year. Dr. Rivers reviewed the progression of instructional shifts since the beginning of the school year starting with the A/B cohort model for all students, transitioning students to the 4 + 1 model, and now adding a fifth day of in-person instruction. Elementary students returned to five days of school as of March 16, 2021, middle school students will return to five days the week of April 12, 2021, and the district will continue to monitor the high school COVID cases to determine a five day return for those students. Dr. Rivers reviewed the secondary considerations for a safe return to five days of instruction.

10.3 Update — COVID-19 Vaccinations and Quarantine Practices — Amy A. Wood, RN, Nursing and Health Services Director

Ms. Wood, reported that once South Carolina educators were approved for vaccines in Phase 1B beginning March 8, 2021, the district implemented a plan to provide a vaccination clinic for employees. Employees also received information by registering through Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS) if they chose to go to another location which many employees took advantage of. The clinic was held at White Knoll High School on March 12, 2021. Lexington One nurses vaccinated approximately 650 employees from Lexington One, Lexington Three and Lexington Four. The clinic will reopen on April 2, 2021 for the second round of vaccines. Ms. Wood addressed the district's quarantine practices. District practices have not changed, however, in November the CDC and DHEC published guidelines for ending quarantine early based on certain criteria. The shortened quarantine is determined by each school individually and depends on the criteria and social distancing practices at each location. Ms. Wood received feedback on the COVID return to school letter provided by physicians to alleviate confusion on community versus school release.

10.4 Report — Operations Update — Jeff Salters

Mr. Salters gave a progress report on the newly named Lakeside Middle School facilities and said the district continues to work with the Department of Transportation on updates on road improvements. He shared progress on the White Knoll High School classroom addition and performing arts center. He reported that crews have broken ground on the new Gilbert High School performing arts center. This work will include a weight room and wrestling room additions. Progress can be tracked on the Lexington One Website under Building Plan Progress.

11.0 New Business**11.1 2021–2022 Fiscal Year Budget Planning — Budget Priorities — Jeff Salters**

Mr. Salters led discussion with the board on the status of the current year general fund budget. He reviewed the status of the current budget year and said the district continues to monitor the economy and General Assembly actions as they work through the State budget. A current year budget amendment will be forthcoming to cover the cost of the fiscal year 2020-2021 step increase once the legislature passes that bill. While the state funds the step and related fringe costs, the district will have to fund the difference between the state minimum salary and the district's higher salary schedule. The board approved 2020-2021 projected use of \$3.7 million of fund balance. However, the one-time payment to employees in December 2020, resulted in an increase in the budget of \$6.7 million thus increasing the use of the fund balance for 2020-2021. He explained that the \$8 million surplus from the 2019-2020 general fund budget is being used to cover the December 2020 one-time employee payment and the current year step increase. The proposed amended budget would yield an estimated \$53,544,237 fund balance at the end of fiscal year 2021. Mr. Salters shared information on millage rates as a potential source of revenue as budget priorities are being established. There is an option to increase millage using lookback millage if necessary to achieve the determined budget. This millage increase falls on businesses, not homeowners. Student growth in 2020-2021 decreased by one percent due to families making other school choices during the pandemic, but the district anticipates a two percent growth as students return to the district. He shared budget priorities for 2021-2022 as recommended by administration and school leadership. Priorities include related employee costs to maintain/reduce student teacher ratios, fund step increases, implement employee retention and recruitment strategies, plan for facility openings, continue support of LOOLA, expand The College Center programming, and continue to fulfill needs due to COVID.

Chair Green opened the floor to the board to discuss the administration's proposed priorities and to identify priorities from board members. There was much discussion on reducing class sizes for the upcoming year. Mr. Stacey reviewed the proposed student to staff ratios. Proposed reduced ratios would create 58 additional teaching positions. He believes these new ratios would significantly help decrease the learning gap from this school year. There was discussion on teacher retention and possible retention bonuses versus signing bonuses. Discussion included considerations for possible increases in salary scales, substitute salary increases, increasing the number of mental health counselors, and expanding career-based programs at Lexington Technology Center. Administration was asked about lessons learned through this year with the pandemic. They expressed thoughts on the digital divide and continuing to reduce the gap, a critical need to focus on social emotional needs in the year to come, technology-based efficiencies such as zoom IEP and IGP meetings, LOOLA serving a student need, and the institution of an employee assistance program. Mr. Salters indicated the district will need to be very strategic in its plan to refresh all the technology that was rolled out this year. He reminded the board that CARES Act funding covered much of this but as technology ages, the district will be responsible for replacement. Mr. Salters said his team will work on cost analysis of the priorities identified by the board and will present options during the first reading of the budget.

12.0 Items for Board Information**12.1 Lexington District One Educational Foundation Board Members — Chair Anne Marie Green**

Chair Green said that after announcing a need for Lexington One Educational Foundation board members, Mike Anderson, Kathy Henson and Kyle Guyton have expressed interest in serving. The Foundation will vote on the board nominees at their next meeting. Ms. Garris wanted to note that the Educational Foundation's bylaws state that the school board of trustees must vote on the Foundation's trustees, but that our board did not vote on the trustees. Ms. Green said the Executive Director misinterpreted the bylaws and the school board of trustees only has to designate the Foundation's trustees.

- 12.2 Monthly General Fund Financial Report — February 2021**
- 12.3 Monthly General Fund Budget Transfers — February 2021**
- 12.4 Monthly Capital Projects Report — February 2021**
- 12.5 Monthly Unauthorized Procurements Report — February 2021**
- 12.6 Quarterly Grants Update**

13.0 Adjourn

Prior to adjourning, Chair Green asked Ms. Henson to give a brief update on the South Carolina School Board Association's Annual Convention that she and Chair Green attended February 18 - 21, 2021.

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Green	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Michael Anderson/MEA
Secretary

Prepared by:

Tracy Halliday/TAH
Executive Administrative Assistant