

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, 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 the 2021-2022 academic year. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	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 April 13, 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 April 13, 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 April 13, 2021 board meeting at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was held in compliance with the 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 led 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
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Ms. Garris asked for opportunities to add agenda items to future meetings. Chair Green indicated a policy consideration will be discussed during the May board meeting to determine a process for this.

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

Chair Green called for a motion to approve 26 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 gave an update on vacancies and hiring for the 2021-2022 school year.

Chair Green called for a motion to approve 98 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
Oswald	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Mr. Stacey reported that these renewals are for 27 coordinators and 71 assistant principals. These are one year contracts that need to be renewed each year.

7.0 Higher Education Partnership

7.1 Midlands Technical College - Thomas Rivers, Ph.D., Secondary Schools Director

Superintendent Little and Dr. Rivers introduced special guests, Dr. Barrie Kirk, Provost, and Dr. Devin Henson, Associate Vice Provost, from Midlands Technical College. Dr. Little and Dr. Rivers recognized Midlands Technical College for a five year relationship and expanded partnership offering dual enrollment to high school students and has expanded to partner with The College Center at Gilbert High School. Dr. Kirk gave remarks and reported that one of every five Lexington One high school students take dual enrollment courses and that enrollment has grown by 205%. The district’s collaboration with MTC will help create a model for all districts.

8.0 Citizens’ Participation

Chair Green read the rules for Citizens Participation.

Stephanie Berquist, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school students, advocated for an option for students to wear masks at school or having an exemption available.

Sydney Berquist, Lexington, SC, middle school student, advocated for having the mask mandate lifted and that it be optional and removal of plexiglass.

Monica Breckinridge, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, advocated for the choice by families to wear masks at school.

Rebekkah Godfrey, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, advocated for the district to make masks optional and advocated for contact tracing to cease and quarantine guidelines to be revised.

Debbie Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, advocated for lifting the mask mandate and removal of plexiglass and asked for more town hall type communication with the board.

Matt Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, discussed audit selection committee posting and compliance under Freedom of Information Act Guidelines.

Kailey Perdy, Lexington, SC, middle school student, advocated for no masks in school and on buses. She wants for herself and friends to get back to normal.

9.0 Action Items

9.1 2020–2021 General Fund Budget Amendment for Employee Step — Jeff Salters, Chief Operations Officer

Chair Green called for a motion regarding the 2020-2021 general fund budget. Dr. Powers moved that the board amend the 2020-2021 general fund budget to provide all eligible permanent employees a step increase for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Mr. Salters reported that the State legislature convened to retroactively reinstate the step increase for teachers. This motion covers all eligible employees who meet requirements of their contract as of March 1, 2021. The district will include a retroactive payment for time worked up to the April 26th payroll and then the step would be reflected in payroll going forward for the remainder of the year. The amendment will allocate 2019-2020 surplus funds to cover the district portion of the increase.

10.0 Superintendent’s Report

10.1 Report — Superintendent’s Update — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D.

Superintendent Little reviewed the plexiglass phase out strategies. Principals will have autonomy in removal of plexiglass appropriately for each school. He encouraged the community to continue receiving vaccinations.

10.2 Report — The College Center — Brandon L. Baskett, Dean for Higher Education Services

Mr. Baskett reported on a pilot program in spring 2021 with students that had been prepared to graduate early. Eighty six students across four high schools took 217 (39 unique courses) dual enrollment courses with Midlands Technical College. The district continues to refine the process of identifying students to offer dual enrollment opportunities. He reported the Year 1 College Center (TCC) cohort has an average GPA of 4.05. Projected enrollment for the Year 2 cohort is at approximately 100 students from 13 schools. Course work for these cohorts is designed so students will receive a high school diploma and an associates’ degree from MTC at the end of their senior year of high school.

10.3 2021 Graduation Update — Dr. Thomas Rivers

Dr. Rivers gave an update on the changes for high school graduations. Due to the restriction of only two tickets per graduation at the Colonial Life Arena, the ceremonies have been moved to the respective high schools. Each graduate will receive four tickets but if the COVID numbers remain low, ticket allowance may increase. Ceremonies will be livestreamed. All ceremonies begin at 8:00 a.m, scheduled as follows: Pelion High School - June 8th, Gilbert High School - June 9, White Knoll High School - June 10th, Lexington High School - June 11th and River Bluff High School - June 12th. Weather make up days will run from June 13th - June 16th if needed. All schools will receive the same number of tickets to be consistent throughout the district.

10.4 Report — Summer Recovery Program — Erica Bissell, ED.D., Reading and Language Arts Coordinator

Dr. Bissell presented the district’s summer camp offerings including summer recovery programs designed to assist those students with the highest academic needs to recover learning loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She reviewed camp details including dates, target audience and funding sources. Elementary programs are: (1) Summer Connections - full school day working on math, reading, writing and robust enrichment. This program is for students who meet specific math and ELA performance criteria, (2) Special Education parallel program for rising K – 5th graders with academic deficits who don’t qualify for Summer Connections, and, (3) a world language immersion camp. The immersion camp is district funded and tuition based. Middle and high school programs are: (1) Summer Connections offering 30 minute one-on-one virtual sessions, (2) Special Education in-person program

Summer Recovery Program (continued):

for 7th - 12th graders if they are not eligible for Summer Connections, (3) music camps for 6th - 8th grade band, chorus and orchestra students. Summer Connections and Special Education programs are funded by CARES Act funding and State reading camp funds. The music camp is covered by general operating funds. English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs include a Rising Star virtual camp for new ESOL learners and ESOL Summer Connections offering 30 minute one-on-one virtual sessions for 1st - 12th graders. These are funded by Title I and Title III grants. Extended School Year (ESY) students will work either virtually or in-person and this is funded by IDEA funds.

10.5 Report — CARES Act Funding — Jeff Salters

Mr. Salters gave a report on the federal funding that has been allocated to the district from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act and expenditures related to those funds. Spending plans must be approved by the State and are audited by the State.

- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER I) covered 12 allowable spending areas. Of the \$3,008,241 allocated to the district, the bulk of this funding was to provide one-to-one technology for all students including elementary students. There was discussion on how the district would replace this technology once these federal funds expire.
- Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) was a State of South Carolina allocation received in fall 2020. The \$2.5 million allocation covered four categories including school safety/personal protective equipment (PPE). Prior to this allocation, the district had already paid for a bulk of the district’s PPE and was able to be reimbursed by the State for these purchases.
- Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER II) covered 15 allowable spending areas. Of the \$12.1 million allocated to the district, funds were used for special education needs, educational technology, mental health supports, and summer and afterschool programs to address learning loss.
- Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER III) just passed on March 11, 2021. The allocation has not yet been determined.

10.6 Report — Operations Update — Jeff Salters

Mr. Salters shared photos and gave a progress report on the Lakeside Middle School site and White Knoll High School’s performing arts center and new classroom addition. He shared aerial photos on initial work at the site of the new performing arts center at Gilbert High School. Building progress can be tracked on the Lexington One website under Building Plan Progress.

11.0 Adjourn

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Mike Anderson/mea
Secretary

Prepared by:

Tracy Halliday/tah
Executive Administrative Assistant