

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2020

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 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 convened a budget hearing for the proposed 2020-2021 general operating fund budget. At the conclusion of the budget hearing, the board held the regularly scheduled meeting. The meeting was livestreamed on the Lexington One YouTube channel and a video of the meeting has been uploaded to our YouTube channel and our LexOne video website. It is also on the Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes webpage.

Board Members: Cynthia Smith, Anne Marie Green, Brent Powers, Mike Anderson, Tim Oswald, Jada Garris and Kyle Guyton were present.

1.0 Call to Order 6 p.m. Executive Session

Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

2.0 Executive Session

Chair Smith called for a motion to enter into executive session to consider employment recommendations for 2020-2021 and a legal briefing regarding potential litigation. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Green	Approved Unanimously

3.0 Adjourn Executive Session

Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn executive session and open 2020-2021 General Fund Budget Hearing. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

4.0 Call to Order 2020-2021 General Fund Budget Public Hearing

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

Chair Smith called to order the 2020-2021 General Fund Budget public hearing.

She said the board was meeting in compliance with the Governor's orders and CDC recommendations. The auditorium has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before the meeting and will be after the meeting also. District staff will also sanitize the microphone before and after staff presentations or individuals speaking during Citizens' Participation. All board members, employees or other individuals in attendance are encouraged to social distance and to wear a mask at all times.

There is limited seating. Once that seating is filled, attendees were asked to go to the Staff Development Room/Overflow Room where they could watch the meeting while observing social distancing guidelines.

The public is encouraged to watch the meeting on our YouTube channel. After the meeting, the district will follow its previously established process by posting a video of the meeting to the district's YouTube channel, LexOne Video site and our own website.

4.1 Notification of Freedom of Information Act (continued):

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 Smith called on Dr. Powers for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.0 Third Reading - 2020-2021 Proposed General Fund Budget - Jeffrey Salters, Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Salters presented the third reading of the general fund budget seeking action to approve the budget. Before he started the presentation of the general fund budget, Mr. Salters updated the board on recent capital funding activity. During the course of the recent bond resale that had previously been approved by the board, the two ratings agencies –Moody’s and S & P Global came back with strong ratings for the district quoting “strong financial performance”. This refunding equates to an approximate \$12.6 million savings over the course of the bonds which is a significant savings to Lexington One taxpayers.

Mr. Salters said the General Assembly will not reconvene until September 15, 2020 to pass a General Appropriations bill. The Assembly passed a continuing resolution which funds districts at the 2019-2020 budget revenue. The district anticipates funding shortfalls and a possible budget amendment after the bill passes. The budget is designed for projected student growth of 527 students; and, meets the district’s priorities including the opening of Centerville Elementary School and restructuring of Gilbert Elementary and Gilbert Primary School. While the district believes employees deserve raises, there are no step or salary increases included in the budget at this time. Under the continuing resolution, the district is legally restricted from increasing teacher salaries. Therefore, the district does not think it prudent to move forward for raises for any employees at this time until the Appropriations Act passes. If raises are incorporated in appropriations, those would be retroactive for the 2020-2021 contract year. Mr. Salters reviewed a net increase of 15.50 staff across the district. This number includes a 7.9 staff increase under the new structure of elementary schools in the Gilbert.

Mr. Salters reviewed the programs and services budget. The only change from the second reading is a decrease of \$90,000 due a renegotiated technology supply contract. Mr. Salters pointed out that an increase to unemployment compensation reimbursements due to COVID-19 and a new Employee Assistance Program could qualify for CARES Act funds and would result in a change in those line items during the course of the year. Mr. Salters reviewed the school fee reductions for elementary and high schools which will complete the total review of school fees, as middle school fees were reduced this past year.

The only change in projected revenues was the change in the operational fund transfer by the \$90,000 savings from the renegotiated technology contract. Mr. Salters reported under Act 388, the district could increase millage, but chose not to due to economic and community impact from COVID-19. The overall proposed general fund budget for 2020-2021 is \$287,079,334.

Chair Smith said the budget would be voted on during the general session this evening.

6.0 Citizens’ Public Comment on the Budget

Chair Smith read the guidelines for Citizens’ Participation for the proposed general budget hearing.

Chelsea Snelgrove of 344 Keiser Rd, Lexington, South Carolina said her comments may not concern general budget specifically but were about equal education and opportunities for all students. She looked at plans for the new Centerville Elementary School (CES) and in comparison to her son’s school found them unequal. CES will offer clubs and access to state of the art equipment and opportunities not

6.0 Citizens’ Public Comment on the Budget (continued);

available at her son’s school. She said a trend in pupil activity funds showed inequity in schools with a large number of minority students. She quoted data from the 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) comparing per pupil funds from elementary and middle schools with high and low numbers of minority students. She asked the board to address this issue and look for equity for students through the budget.

7.0 Adjourn Public Hearing

Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn the general budget public hearing. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

8.0 Call to Order General Session - June 23, 2020 Board Meeting

Chair Smith called the general session to order and asked for a motion to open general session of the June 23, 2020 board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Powers	Approved Unanimously

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

Chair Smith said the board is meeting tonight in compliance with the Governor’s orders and CDC recommendations. The auditorium has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before the meeting and will be after the meeting also. District staff will also sanitize the microphone before and after staff presentations or individuals speaking during Citizens’ Participation. All board members, employees or other individuals in attendance are encouraged to social distance and to wear a mask at all times.

There is limited seating. Once that seating is filled, attendees were asked to go to the Staff Development Room/Overflow Room where they could watch the meeting while observing social distancing guidelines. The public is encouraged to watch the meeting on our YouTube channel. After the meeting, the district will follow it’s previously established process by posting a video of the meeting to the district’s YouTube channel, LexOne Video site and our own website.

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.

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9.0 Approval of Agenda

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was seconded and carried.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

10.0 Approval of Minutes of the May 5 and May 19, 2020 Board Meetings

Minutes of the May 5 and May 19, 2020 regular board meetings were included for approval. Chair Smith called for any additions or corrections to the minutes, other than those that had already been received. Hearing none, the minutes were accepted as presented.

11.0 Reports and Action Items from Executive Session

Employment Matters

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve 18 certified recommendations for the 2020-2021 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

Mr. Michael Stacey, Chief Human Resources Officer reported there are 24 certified positions, and one administrative position yet to be filled for 2020-2021.

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve one administrative recommendation for the 2020-2021 academic school year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

Legal Briefing on Potential Litigation

Chair Smith called for a motion to retain the firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell to represent the district as a plaintiff in the multi-district legal action established in the federal court in California against e-cigarette maker Juul Labs concerning what has become a vaping epidemic with our youth and in our schools. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Anderson	6 in favor; 1 opposed – Garris

Chair Smith said that the Fort Mill school district has already joined the suit.

12.0 Special Recognitions

Chair Smith, Superintendent Gregory Little and school board members recognized three principal retirees – Brenda Nichols, Melissa Rawl and Guy Smith, and an administrator retiree – Cheryl Layton. The 2020 Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year award was presented to Melissa Rawl, principal of Lexington High School.

13.0 Citizens' Participation

No one asked to participate in Citizens' Participation.

14.0 Action Items

14.1 Third Reading - 2020-2021 Proposed General Fund Budget - Jeffrey S. Salters, Chief Financial Officer

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the General Fund Budget for 2020-2021. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approve – 6, 1 opposed - Garris

14.1 Third Reading Proposed General Fund Budget (continued):

Discussion: Ms. Garris thanked Mr. Salters and his staff for the hours of work preparing the budget and answering her questions. She said she did not believe the board was legally restricted to provide step increases and that our district has the means to do so. She said the board should have been presented with budget options which included salary increases. She believes school funds need to be further reviewed and cannot approve a budget without further review of additional fees and budget line items. Chair Smith and Ms. Green believe the board could not act until the General Assembly convenes. Ms. Green said the budget is sound and responsible and places us in a position to continue to provide services to our students and keep staff employed in the event of reductions by the General Assembly or an economic downturn.

14.2 Second Reading - Policy BEC Executive Sessions/Open Meetings - Mary Beth Hill, Chief Communications Officer

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve Policy BEC Executive Sessions/Open Meetings as presented with changes. A motion was made and seconded. During discussion the board agreed to table this motion.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Anderson	Tabled

Discussion: Ms. Garris asked about language added to the policy since the first reading regarding electronic disbursement of documents in executive session. Ms. Green said she had asked for this language to be added. She said as we move into electronic disbursement of documents, it is important that documents in executive session remain confidential and be maintained in a confidential setting. Those documents do not belong to the board, they belong to the district. Ms. Garris said board members should hold the district accountable and without a paper trail that is not possible.

Dr. Guyton expressed that sometimes it is difficult to thoroughly review documents presented within the hour of executive session. He made a motion to table the policy change as presented, adding that the board members should lead this policy change as it is a policy about board self-governance. Ms. Green seconded this motion and the board approved unanimously. The policy will be tabled until the July 21, 2020 meeting.

Motion	Second	Action
Guyton	Green	Approved Unanimously

14.3 Report - Minority Business Enterprise Plan - Jeffrey S. Salters, Chief Financial Officer

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the minority business enterprise plan for 2020-2021. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Powers	Approved unanimously

Mr. Salters reported this plan is part of the procurement process. The district is required to set a goal of ½ of 1% for supplies and construction be directed to minority vendors. He said the dollar amount is determined by the state and the district applies this to the budget. When soliciting business, the district posts to a site for minority businesses to submit bids. The district has committed to taxpayers that we will not pay more just to meet this goal. The district accepts the lowest price that the open market bears.

14.4 Changes to 2020-2021 Academic Calendar - Gloria J. Talley, ED.D., Chief Academic Officer

Chair Smith said there would be no action on this agenda item to give the administration more time to evaluate the AccelerateEd recommendations for school reopening. There will be a special called board meeting on July 2, 2020 to take action on any changes.

Dr. Talley explained that State Superintendent Molly Spearman has suggested funding for five additional days for teachers of four-year Kindergarten through eighth grade for LEAP days to evaluate students for the fall semester. Additional funding could extend to high school if the district can support the funding. Since this has not been finalized, the district wishes to wait to make any changes. The district would like to post the original approved calendar with a start date of August 18, 2020 to give parents some guidance. There is flexibility to use these LEAP days any time during first semester. Chair Smith said the board would hold a special called meeting on July 2, 2020 to make any recommended calendar changes.

15.0 Superintendent's Report — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D.

15.1 Superintendent's Update - Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D

Superintendent Gregory Little told the board this is a unique update no one would ever have imagined. The 2020-2021 school plan being presented is purposeful, strategic and intentional. The goal is to maximize face-to-face time and offers strong instructional programs in a safe and secure environment to minimize risk for employees, students and the community at large. This plan is a framework and we must acknowledge that this could look completely different a month from now.

15.2 Report - Stronger Together Back to School Plans – Natalie Osborne-Smith, ED.D., Professional Learning Coordinator and Shane Phillips, ED.D., Accountability and Assessment Director

Dr. Osborne-Smith and Dr. Phillips presented the reentry schedule options for 2020-2021. The Reentry drafting team and Central Services administrators studied plans from across the country and took into account feedback from the district's stakeholders in creating this plan. Dr. Phillips presented data from feedback gathered by Lessons Learned surveys, a Hanover Research Pulse survey, focus groups consisting of parents, teachers, the medical community, support staff and students, and a Thoughtexchange that solicited 8,666 comments. This resulted in two main viewpoints – those concerned with a face-to-face reopening and those that desire to return to school as normal with reasonable precautions. There were many viewpoints in common including the need for new learning, structure, clear expectations for staff and families and a manageable workload for teachers. From this feedback a plan was developed.

Dr. Osborn-Smith presented the plans beginning with elementary schools. Two models would be offered from which families would choose – a family model in which students come to school but stay in the classroom with their homeroom family with a distance learning day every other Wednesday; or, the home-based virtual learning model. In the family model, no social distancing or masks would be required. Multi-teacher teams, related arts and support services would come in to the classroom, breakfast and lunch would be in the classroom and multiple recess/movement breaks would be provided. School start time will be from 7:50 am to 2:00 pm to allow for staggered entry and dismissal times. If student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 or quarantined in a class, the district will follow guidelines from CDC and DHEC. If a class or number of students is quarantined, distance learning will continue. Elementary teachers will have distance learning collaborative time every other Wednesday to collaborate and plan. In the home-based model, instruction will be provided virtually in a variety of formats with accountability measures for progress monitoring and academic growth. Virtual support and social-emotional needs will be addressed.

15.2 Stronger Together Back to School Plans (continued):

At the secondary level, families would choose between one of two models – an A/B Hybrid model offering two days of face-to-face instruction and three days of distance learning; or, a 100% virtual instructional model. In the hybrid model, students are assigned to a cohort. Virtual learning days include a continuation of face-to-face learning, virtual common rooms and peer collaboration opportunities. Middle School hours will be from 9:00 am to 4:15 pm, high school hours will be from 9:00 am to 3:50 pm. Dr. Osborne-Smith provided sample schedules for both middle school and high school. Virtual learning Wednesdays will include virtual office hours for students, special education services and other support services. Wednesdays will also give teachers time to plan and collaborate with peers. Career and Technical Education courses offered at Lexington Technology Center (LTC) will continue to offer in-person hands-on learning. Students will still have the opportunity to receive career certifications for certain programs. To support these students, core classes will be offered at LTC. Transportation will be offered, but routes may be limited or eliminated. Families may provide their own transportation. The A/B Hybrid addresses safety by reducing building occupancy by half. The district will work with the CDC and DHEC to determine the best safety protocols and use of personal protective equipment. In the 100% virtual model, instruction will be provided virtually in a variety of formats with accountability measures for progress monitoring and academic growth. Virtual support and social-emotional needs will be addressed.

This presentation will be available on the website after the meeting and a list of question/answers is being developed as well. A survey will be sent to parents to see which option they will choose for their students. Superintendent Little said that as our reality changes, so does the plan. The district is in a better position to provide virtual learning this year. Teachers will be given time to prepare, collaborate and receive professional development in the virtual classroom realm. He said the district is consulting with the medical community and continuing to review PPE and safety protocols and the model at this time does not require the use of masks but things could change. Dr. Guyton said the medical field is working on in-office testing and a vaccination is in the pipeline. He believes this plan makes the best of the reality we are living in at this time.

Athletic Reentry – Mr. Jeff Caldwell – Chief Student Services Officer

Mr. Caldwell reported on athletic reentry plan which is already in progress. According to the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) and the district, it is essential to the physical and mental well-being of students to return to physical activity and athletic competition. As of Spring 2019, approximately 45% of the district's high school students participated in athletics. In late spring, David Bennett, Director of Athletics, Amy Wood, Nursing and Health Services Director and school athletic departments began planning for athletic return. In late May, SCHSL released guidelines for a three-phase reentry approach. Phase One began on June 15, 2020. Mr. Caldwell reviewed health and safety measures. Some of those include daily temperature checks and health screenings, students will be masked when not active and coaches are masked at all times. Middle school athletic reentry has been delayed until processes are established. Dr. Little indicated that fine arts reentry including marching band and chorus are being evaluated and will begin as soon as safely possible.

15.3 Report - Gilbert Elementary School Branding - GPS Principal William H. Moody, Jr.

Mr. Moody was introduced as the principal of the restructured Gilbert Elementary School (GES). Mr. Moody showed renderings of the newly renovated GES and mentioned some notable improvements including reconfigured car and bus drop-off lanes, an overhaul to the cafeteria and restroom upgrades. Additionally, the playgrounds have been upgraded making them accessible for all students. He revealed the new GES logo which incorporates characteristics of Gilbert Middle and Gilbert High school logos. He said GES will open as a Title I school with 816 students in grades 3K through 5th grade and approximately 117 staff. The school's mission is to empower students by developing the whole child through academics and leadership. Major initiatives for

15.3 – Gilbert Elementary School Branding (continued):

2020-2021 are arts integration, implementing Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) instructional practices and rebuilding the new GES family.

15.4 Report - Operations Update - Jeffrey S. Salters, Chief Operations Officer

The Operations update will be postponed until the July 21, 2020 meeting.

16.0 Items for Board Information

The remaining items are for board information only.

16.1 Monthly General Fund Financial Report - May 2020

16.2 Monthly General Fund Budget Transfers - May 2020

16.3 Monthly Capital Projects Report - May 2020

16.4 Monthly Unauthorized Procurements Report - May 2020

16.5 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Grants Report

17.0 Adjourn Open Session

Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn open session. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Green	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brent Powers