

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**October 6, 2020**

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees held a Board meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, in the Lexington County School District One's Central Services Building One Auditorium located at 100 Tarrar Springs Road in Lexington, South Carolina. The Board of Trustees opened the meeting in General Session at 6:00 p.m. for Citizens' Participation. The Board then convened for executive session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. Upon conclusion of executive session, the Board reconvened General Session. 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 Cynthia Smith, Vice Chair Anne Marie Green, Secretary Brent Powers, Tim Oswald, Jada Garris and Mike Anderson. Dr. Kyle Guyton participated via conference and video call.

**1.0 Call to Order 6:00 p.m.**

Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

**2.0 Call to Order General Session of the October 6, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting**

**2.1 Notification of Compliance with S.C. Freedom of Information Act**

Chair Smith called to order the general session of the October 6, 2020 board meeting at 6:00 pm.

She said we were meeting in compliance with the Governor's orders, CDC recommendations and Town of Lexington ordinance. 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 must wear a face covering at all times.

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

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

The district tapes the meeting for accuracy in preparing the minutes.

Chair Smith called on Anne Marie Green for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

**3.0 Approval of Agenda**

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

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

**4.0 Citizens’ Participation**

Chair Smith read the guidelines for Citizens’ Participation.

Lauren Pellington, Lexington, SC, Special Education teacher and parent of children at Pleasant Hill Elementary. Ms. Pellington said that it was reported at the last Board meeting that no elementary teachers except Related Arts teachers were teaching both in the hybrid and Lexington One Online Learning Academy (LOOLA) classes. She wanted it on the record that indeed Special Education teachers and other teachers teaching ESOL, EAGLES, Resource and RTI courses were indeed teaching in both environments. All teachers have been working very hard and Central Services staff have been supportive. In a special education class, teachers work online with students while instructional Assistants work with students in the class to meet IEP goals. She wanted to be sure the District recognized that many teachers are doing two jobs.

Ginger Garry, West Columbia, SC, parent of children at White Knoll Middle and White Knoll High schools, advocated for a return of five days face-to-face. She talked about the difficulty of students learning virtually and as an example indicated the difficulty of learning when instruction is not in the textbook. Students feel like they are failing or inadequate. She discussed the multitude and confusion of platforms that students need to use to access work. When those platforms are not working, work cannot be completed and students are marked absent. She believes it is not healthy for students to be virtual for so long and urged the Board to consider a five day face-to-face schedule.

**5.0 Executive Session**

Chair Smith called for a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Superintendent’s evaluation for 2019-2020. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Green	Powers	Approved Unanimously

**6.0 Adjourn Executive Session**

Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn executive session and return to the general session of the October 6, 2020 board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

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

**7.1 Superintendent’s Evaluation**

Chair Smith called for a motion regarding Superintendent Little’s evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year and an extension of his employment contract be amended to June 30, 2026. Mr. Oswald said that after reviewing information provided by Dr. Little to the Board regarding implementation and progress of the District Strategic Plan, and considering the Board members’ review of his performance, he moved that Superintendent Little receive an overall outstanding evaluation for the 2019-2020 school year and further that as a result of the outstanding evaluation, Dr. Little’s employment contract with the District be amended to extend his contract term for an additional year until June 30, 2026. This motion was seconded and approved.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Oswald	Powers	6 in favor; 1 opposed (Garris)

**Superintendent's Evaluation (continued):**

Discussion: Chair Smith said Superintendent Little's evaluation was complete and a press release will be posted. Chair Smith reviewed key information from Dr. Little's evaluation. The district currently serves 27,363 students from Prekindergarten to Grade 12 with more than 3,900 employees (not including substitutes) and 31 schools (17 elementary schools, eight middle schools, five high schools, one technology center). The district also has alternative education services designed to help students at risk of expulsion. In a board workshop and meeting held Sept. 15, 2020, the board reviewed in detail the district's progress on its 2018–2021 Strategic Plan by examining the district's academic achievements, lessons learned during COVID19, strategic plan key strategies, portfolio projects, and the goals for 2020–2021. The following are key factors of Dr. Little's effective performance and recommendation of an outstanding rating on his evaluation:

- increasing the number of students taking advantage of rigorous coursework opportunities. Since the 2017–2018 school year, students enrolled in dual credit courses has grown from 357 students to 526 students. The number of dual enrollment courses taken has risen from 985 to 1,542 courses, with students earning 4,426 college credits in the 2019–2020 school year for an estimated college savings of about \$2.3 million.
- implementing a general fund budget for the 2019–2020 school year that showed a commitment to teachers and classrooms by maintaining student-to-teacher ratios, reaching the district's Drive to \$35 goal of starting teacher pay at \$35,000, and making salaries across the district more competitive by including a step increase for all eligible employees, adding 77.55 positions (including Beechwood Middle School) to accommodate growth and provide more generous support for our students with the greatest needs, and continuing to protect the safety of staff and students by providing more School Resource Officers and mental health counselors across the district.
- working to continue to decrease middle school fees in 2019–2020 and followed that in the 2020–2021 budget by eliminating the \$6 kindergarten consumable fee, high school \$5 consumable fee, and \$5 language arts parallel reading fee. The district also reduced the \$25 parking fee at high school to \$5 and the \$28 fee in grades 1–5 to \$20.
- making progress in 2019–2020 on the district's two portfolio projects (areas of focus based on the strategic plan). As part of Project Hope, the district committed to a full-time mental health counselor at each school and additional staff training for mental wellness issues. These resources played a significant role as the district entered the pandemic. The Lexington District One Executive Leadership Program's training and recruitment, as well as the hiring of teachers and administrators, are more critical than ever due to the increased number of end-of-career teacher and administrator retirements and a shortage of college education graduates.
- adding The College Center, housed at Gilbert High School, where a cohort of freshmen are immersed in a rigorous college-readiness curriculum, paired with high levels of academic and social-emotional support within Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) electives with the goal of partnering with the University of South Carolina Sumter, other local businesses and community groups, and AVID.org, to identify students who may benefit from a non-traditional approach to both high school and college-readiness preparation.
- increasing participation in rigorous coursework by our historically underrepresented groups. Since the 2017–2018 school year, the number of minority students enrolled in honors coursework increased by 25% and 47% in AP, IB, and dual credit courses.
- encouraging teacher leaders to advocate and creating an atmosphere where teachers feel valued and appreciated. For instance, they held a second annual Pizza and Policy night event focused on advocacy for legislators and other key community leaders.

**Superintendent’s Evaluation (continued):**

- successfully constructing and opening a new elementary school, Centerville Elementary, remodeling/rebranding of Gilbert Elementary, and building new Pelion Middle and Lexington Middle schools, adding classroom wings at Oak Grove Elementary and White Knoll High, beginning construction of new performing arts centers at Gilbert High and White Knoll High.
- his skill in creating meaningful partnerships with Nephron, the USC Palmetto College, Chamber of Commerce, Lexington County Council, and other private and public sector businesses and governmental agencies in order to expand educational opportunities for students.
- adding lab sites and model classrooms and redesigning the middle school day to capture more time for instruction.

Scores released by the South Carolina Department of Education show Lexington County School District One continues to outpace national and state averages on nationwide assessments with a combined average SAT score of 1051 with 1,111-student test-takers.

In September, Lake Murray Elementary was named one of the highest achieving schools in the United States and recognized its high scores on national and statewide standardized assessments when named a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School.

The board recognized Dr. Little’s leadership in the face of the March closure of all buildings due to COVID-19 and the immediate switch to an e-learning initiative. The district successfully planned and provided five high school graduations in a safe environment. They commended his nimbleness and willingness to create and roll out the district’s first Online Learning Academy and hybrid (AA BB) model, to transparently anticipate and answer parent questions through the district’s Together Talk series, to provide, as available, technology and the software needed for e-learning, and to serve 819,380 meals from March 18 to August 14 to students.

Superintendent Little thanked the board for their kind words and encouragement during these difficult times. He said he had never been more proud of the accomplishments made across the district and that everyone, regardless of their position, stepped up for the good of the District and community. All of these accomplishments highlighted this evening could not have happened without the amazing Lexington One team who work diligently and go above and beyond. He is proud to be their teammate. He looks forward to more opportunities for “each child to design their future”.

**14.0 Adjourn Open Session**

Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn general session. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Anderson	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brent Powers