

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2019

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 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 in General Session in the Auditorium. A video of the entire 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: Chair Cynthia Smith, Vice Chair Anne Marie Green, Secretary Dr. Brent Powers, Michael Anderson, Jada Garris, Dr. Kyle Guyton and Tim Oswald

Media:

1.0 Call to Order 6 p.m. Executive Session

Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

2.0 Executive Session

Chair Smith said that before they enter into executive session she wanted to remind everyone that board member Jada Garris has submitted a statement of recusal dated December 4, 2018, thereby abstaining herself of all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter: *Jada Garris, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated vs. Lexington County School District One, Case No. 2017-CP-32-04435*. The recusal states the reason for the disqualification is that Ms. Garris is a litigant in the above-mentioned matter, who possesses a financial interest in its outcome. Therefore, Ms. Garris will not be present during this discussion in executive session.

Chair Smith called for a motion to enter into executive session. A motion was made to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing employment recommendations for 2019-2020, to discuss a property and contractual matter related to a request from FBF Holding LLC and for receipt of legal advice concerning a pending lawsuit.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

Ms. Smith called for a vote to enter into executive session and it was approved unanimously. The board of trustees adjourned to the boardroom for executive session.

3.0 Adjourn Executive Session

Chair Smith called for a motion to come out of executive session and enter into general session. A motion was made to do so. The motion was seconded and carried.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

4.0 Call to Order General Session

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

Chair Smith said the district tapes the meeting for accuracy in preparing the minutes and is in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act as the district has notified the media of the date, time and place of the meeting. Chair Smith called on Jada Boatwright Garris to give the invocation.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

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

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

6.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the September 10, 2019, board workshop and the September 17, 2019, regular board meeting were included for board 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.

7.0 Reports and Action Items from Executive Session

Employment Matters

Chair Smith said there were three certified recommendations for the 2019-2020 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

Receipt of Legal Advice Concerning Pending Lawsuits

Chair Smith said that the board of trustees received legal advice on a pending legal case. As a reminder, board member Jada Garris had submitted a statement of recusal dated December 4, 2018, thereby abstaining herself of all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter: *Jada Garris, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated vs. Lexington County School District One, Case No. 2017-CP-32-04435*. The recusal states the reason for the disqualification is that Ms. Garris is a litigant in the above-mentioned matter, who possesses a financial interest in its outcome. Therefore, Ms. Garris was not present during this discussion in executive session.

Chair called for a motion regarding that discussion. A motion was made that the board of trustees decline to accept the settlement proposal presented to the board this evening by the Plaintiff in the case of *Garris vs. Lexington County School District One*.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	6 in favor 1 abstention (Garris)

7.0 Reports and Action Items from Executive Session (continued)

Property Contractual Matter Related to a Request by FBF Holdings, LLC

Chair Smith said the board of trustees discussed a property contractual matter related to a request by FBF Holdings, LLC. She called for a motion regarding this contractual matter.

A motion was made that the board authorize the administration to issue a Quit-Claim Deed to FBF Holdings, LLC, based on a boundary survey prepared by CEC Consulting/Engineering/Surveying and Planning dated September 1, 2015, bearing job #14068 recorded May 6, 2016 in the Lexington County Register of Deeds office in Plat Book 18372 at page 293. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Oswald	Approved unanimously

Discussion: Jeff Salters said that property in question is adjacent to River Bluff High School. He reviewed an original plat dated in the 1950s showing the property across the street. The district's property description shows that we purchased 91.225 acres of land and is based on our boundary survey. In no way does our purchase show any ownership of property west of the road. The rightful property owners are asking that the district issue a Quit Claim deed for the property west of Corley Mill Road. No money will be exchanged. We believe this property was not included in our property purchase and we are recommending the issuance of the requested Quit Claim deed. The Quit Claim deed will say that we do not hold ownership to this property. As Dr. Guyton said, we are quitting claim to something we never claimed to own.

8.0 Honors and Achievements

Chair Smith, Superintendent Gregory Little and school board members recognized honorees present to receive state and national awards.

9.0 Citizens' Participation

Chair Smith read the guidelines for Citizens' participation. She asked if any one wished to address the board of trustees. No one addressed the board at this time.

10.0 Action Items

10.1 Second Reading — Policy IKA-R Grading/Assessment Systems — Gloria Talley

Chief Academic Officer, Gloria Talley, presented Policy IKA-R Grading/Assessment Systems for second reading and approval. Dr. Talley said the policy reflects changes that the South Carolina Department of Education made on May 14, 2019, to clarify the uniform grading policy. She said that credit recovery is offered as a chance for students who have mastered the material in a course but not passed the course. Students are given an opportunity to study the material more and take an exam. If they pass the course, the transcript reflects a "P." This option would not be available for a student athlete as it does not apply according to NCAA rules. In addition, we get students who come to us from other states or other institutions and we are sent grades for those students. According to the policy, we must record those grades on a transcript. If we receive a transcript that indicates a student has earned a passing grade in any course with a numerical average lower than a 60, we must record it as a "P" on the transcript. Likewise, if we receive a transcript that indicates a failing grade and that student has a grade of 60 or above, we must record the grade as an "NP" on the transcript. The policy further indicates that if we receive a transcript from a non-accredited school, the district can award an elective transfer credit for a course that does not match one

10.0 Action Items

10.1 Second Reading — Policy IKA-R Grading/Assessment Systems — (continued)

that is approved by the state. In that case, we contact the sending school. We examine the work the student has done to determine the rigor and quality of work. We ask for artifacts and student work samples in order to determine a grade.

Chair Smith called to approve policy IKA-R for second reading. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Unanimous

10.2 Student Travel Requests — Gloria Talley

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve twenty student travel requests. A motion was made to approve the requests as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Anderson	Unanimous

11.0 Superintendent's Report

11.1 Report — Superintendent's Update — Dr. Greg Little

Dr. Little said that there were several reports on the agenda.

11.2 Report — Bond Referendum Capital Funding Update — Jeff Salters, Chief Operations Officer

Chief Operations Officer, Jeff Salters, said that in 2018 Lexington One passed a bond referendum. Mr. Salters introduced Mike Gallagher of Compass Municipal Advisors to present information about the recent bond sale as a part of that referendum. Mr. Gallagher said that the district sold bonds on October 8, 2019. A closing will be held on October 29, 2019. He reviewed the district's ratings. For the bond sale, the district received nine bids. As a result of the bond sale, the district was able to borrow \$165 million for 2.25 percent for a 25-year term.

11.3 Board Members' Report — Anne Marie Green, Vice Chair

Vice Chair, Anne Marie Green, said that board members Mike Anderson, Tim Oswald, Cynthia Smith, and Dr. Little attended a SCSBA regional advocacy meeting to prepare for the legislative session held at the Early Childhood Learning Center in Lexington School District Three. In addition, Ms. Green and Mr. Anderson attended a SCSBA Beyond the Basics training entitled Conflict and Collaboration. They heard an excellent presentation about working collaboratively as a board. The board of trustees has had a busy few weeks in board training and learning. All of the training materials and information are on the SCSBA website and available to everyone. Ms. Green said that she was eager for the legislative session to begin. The funding plan has been released. We know that school funding in South Carolina is broken and we invite everyone to participate in advocacy for funding education. During training, we learned that this past year the teacher pay raise 2019 was the largest teacher pay raise in 35 years. That is significant and at the same time sad that it took 35 years to get a substantive pay raise for teacher. What they are doing with three and four year old children is exciting. Since our bond referendum included an early childhood center, it was great to see one in action.

11.0 Superintendent's Report (continued)

11.4 Report — Data Update — Shane Phillips

Dr. Shane Phillips provided an annual accountability update. Prior to the 2017-18 school year, a new report card was designed by the state but was not used. It provided an outline of information about a specific school. It did not provide a rating or grading of a school. At the same time, the SC READY test was initiated. This was a shift in the content of that test and caused a shift in our instructional approach. In 2017-18 the Educational Oversight Committee redesigned the accountability system and a new report card. The new report card has several components. One of the components is a student progress measure which is a value added measure by a SASS process called EVAAS. It provided a measure of certainty about whether or not a school improved or declined. However, it did not measure how much the school went up or down. In addition, when a student transfers from high school to an adult education class, they were excluded from the graduation calculation. That exclusion was eliminated for the 2018-19 report cards. We saw a drop in the graduation rate statewide for that year because those students were now included in that calculation. In addition, that same year the English I test was changed and the grades were alternated for science and social studies testing. The changes and adjustments made it difficult to gauge progress over years in various subjects. This past year, the contract supplier for EVAAS was changed. The process and calculation metric is completely different from past years. We are in a transitional phase of testing processes and we know that more changes will be made. It becomes difficult each year to compare report card results from one year to the next. Next year, there will be a proviso to eliminate all social studies testing for the goal of saving money. We are transitioning high school from an English I end of course test to an English II end of course test. Some students will be taking English I end of course tests and some will be taking English II end of course tests. This causes additional challenges in calculations. Next year, report cards must be in by September 1.

When the report card system was being designed, they were designed to provide a comprehensive look at schools based upon the South Carolina Profile of the Graduate. What came about was something a bit different. There are several components for different levels, elementary, middle and high school. Dr. Phillips explained the differences between the former accountability system and the new system.

11.5 Report — White Knoll Middle Priority School Update — Guy Smith, Principal

Principal Guy Smith said that White Knoll Middle School's Priority status was based upon the 2018 School Report Card. Our school report card released on October 1, 2019, indicated that White Knoll Middle School's status arose two levels on the report card to Average this year. Even though this is great news, Average is not what we celebrate. The rise in status represents a better measure of who we are and what we have been able to accomplish. We saw improvement in 4 of 5 areas rated. Improvements were made in academic achievement, English learner's progress, student progress and student engagement. We saw a slight dip in social studies scores. A new class schedule is in place. We are moving away from a "pull out" model to a "push in model" for special education and RTI. Most of these students are being served by a resource teacher or a special education teacher in a regular education class. We are implementing the workshop model (student engagement model) in ELA and Math and we are seeing student growth. Because of our status, we received additional funding from the state. This additional funding allowed us to do a few more things this year. A portion of that funding allowed us to add a math instructional coach. We have increased out classroom library books for reading. Some funding was used for math training for our teachers. We had a summer enrichment program in 2019 for 25 specially chosen students.

11.0 Superintendent's Report (continued)

11.5 Report — White Knoll Middle Priority School Update — (continued)

Mr. Smith said that the school has submitted the application for funding for the upcoming year. Mr. Smith said the priority plan for 2019-2020 will be to continue funding math instructional coach, providing summer enrichment program for 2020, to begin training for AVID, to continue growing classroom libraries and to purchase additional materials for math classrooms.

11.6 Report — Vaping Update — Jeff Caldwell, Chief Student Services Officer

Mr. Jeff Caldwell said that he was providing an update on the feedback received as we work to amend the policies that address vaping. He said that in May the district received a memorandum from the South Carolina Department of Education that required changes to our policy. At the July meeting, we amended three policies: ADC Tobacco Free School District, GBED Tobacco Free Workplace, JICG Tobacco Use by Students. At that time a request for an update in October was made. Since that meeting, we have received stakeholder input. We met with our Parent Advisory Council, Student Advisory Council and Teacher Leadership Council and received feedback from community members. At those meetings we gave participants the old and new policies and asked them to partner with someone and tell us what they liked and did not like about the policies and what they would like to see in them. Most responses were about student discipline infractions. Some asked for the return of a community service option. Mr. Caldwell said that responses from teachers regarding discipline infractions were much more lenient than the responses from students. Some suggested cessation counseling after the first offense rather than the second. Regarding staff infractions, some wanted a specific order of the consequences. If a suspension was a consequence, some wondered how long that suspension would be and if nicotine patches would be allowed. Some asked the cost of a cessation program, the quality of the program, how would vaping be enforced as the restrooms seem to be the vaping place of choice. Mr. Caldwell said that in Lexington One the tobacco violations (including vaping) more than doubled between the 2017-18 school year and the 18-19 school year. This year, about 95 percent of all of our tobacco violations are vaping. Cigarettes are a thing of the past and vaping is the tobacco offense of choice. Nationwide, according to the Wall Street Journal, over 1000 persons have been hospitalized and 19 deaths related to vaping. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports 1299 lung injury cases and 26 confirmed deaths. A small district (600 students) in Washington state has filed an 80 page complaint multi-plaintiff suit. And our attorney has been contacted to see if we would be interested in joining the complaint. This is not a Lexington One or South Carolina problem. Dr. Powers said that he felt that DHEC would be addressing this at the state level at some point. They are actively requesting from hospitals the number of vaping associated disease deaths in the state as they are considering it a state crisis. Mr. Caldwell said that there is now a category for vaping called E-cigarette and Vaping Associated Lung Injury (EVALI). In fact, the word JUUL is now a verb rather than a noun. JUUL owns 70 percent of the market share of a \$10 billion industry that grew four times faster than Facebook and are building a facility near our school district. Mr. Caldwell reviewed some of the safety concerns of using E-cigarettes. He said the next steps for the district include increasing student and parent awareness of the dangers of vaping, hosting programs to highlight the dangers of vaping, research the feasibility of vape detection devices for school restrooms and increase the visibility of administrators and other staff in high incident vaping locations. Mr. Caldwell listed suggestions for amendments to current policies as a result of feedback gathered from the advisory groups. He will present revision of these policies for first reading and review at the November 2019, board meeting.

11.0 Superintendent's Report (continued)

11.7 Operations Update — Jeff Salters

Chief Operations Officer, Jeff Salters, reminded everyone that we will be renaming Gilbert Primary School and moving those students to Gilbert Elementary School. Gilbert Elementary School will be a K-5 school. Centerville Elementary will be a K-5 school giving us two elementary schools in Gilbert. Both are slated to open in the fall of 2020. He shared photographs of construction progress at Centerville Elementary School, the new Pelion Middle School and roofing completed at Lexington High School. He encouraged everyone to follow the building plan progress online at <http://www.lexington1.net/about/creating-building-plan>

12.0 New Business

12.1 First Reading — Policy (TBD) Municipal Securities Continuing Disclosure —

Chief Operations Officer, Jeff Salters, presented a policy for first reading. The policy does not yet have a codification identified by SCSBA yet so the codification designation is TBD which means that the policy codification is to be determined. He said the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) Rule 15-C2-12 is a continuing disclosure rule that has recently been enacted. The SEC did an amendment to this rule related to continuing disclosure as it relates to bond sales and investors. This policy is presented for first reading and review.

13.0 Items for Board Information

- 13.1 General Fund Financial Report — September 2019
- 13.2 General Fund Budget Transfers — September 2019
- 13.3 Capital Projects Report
- 13.4 Monthly Unauthorized Procurements Report

14.0 Adjourn Open Session

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

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Guyton	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Brent Powers, Secretary