

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2019

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 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 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 the purchase of property for a new elementary school in the White Knoll area and for receipt of legal advice concerning a pending lawsuit.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Six in Favor (Ms. Green was not present at this time)

Ms. Smith called for a vote to enter into executive session and it was approved. 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 Dr. Brent Powers 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
Green	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

6.0 Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 19, 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 five 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

Chair Smith said there were two administrative recommendations for the 2019-2020 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Six in Favor and 1 Opposed (Garris)

Discussion: Ms. Garris said she opposed because the budget included a position for a coordinator and the recommendation was for a Director at a higher salary.

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.

No action was required as a result of this discussion.

7.0 Reports and Action Items from Executive Session (continued)

Property Contractual Matter White Knoll

Chair Smith said the board of trustees discussed a property contractual matter related to the purchase of property for a new elementary school in the White Knoll attendance area. She called for a motion regarding this contractual matter.

A motion was made that the board accept the administration’s recommendation to approve the purchase of a piece of property per an agreement dated April 9, 2019, with Linda Kay Mack and Jimmy R. Shumpert. The property is 35.0 acres and is known by Lexington County as TMS#007600-02-046. The consideration for this property is \$350,000. This total equates to \$10,000 per acre. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Guyton	Oswald	Six in favor one opposed (Garris)

Discussion: Jeff Salters said this property would be the site for a new elementary school. The prototype plan would be used to construct this building. The property is located at the corner of South Lake Drive and Bluefield Road. He reviewed topographical photos and plat and site rendering for information. Ms. Garris said she appreciated receiving the due diligence information prior to the meeting. However, she did not have time to review the traffic impact studies, etc., before taking a vote.

8.0 Honors and Achievements

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

Chair Smith said that occasionally we celebrate special honors, events, or moments by incorporating those into our board meetings, much like a “theme.” As we planned this meeting’s Honors and Achievements, we realized we would learn about our immersion program and celebrate several honors won by our German teachers and students. That led us to make this night a bit German. As you signed in, you probably picked up a packet of Haribo Goldbears invented by Haribo. To be exact, Hans Riegel, a candy maker from the German city of Bonn, invented the product in the 1920s and created the name Haribo by combining letters from his name with the name of his home city.

Special greeters met you at the door or inside the auditorium. These special greeters are all German students:

- Gilbert Middle Seventh Grader Bryson L. Cook,
- Pelion High Eleventh Grader Braxton P. Brazell,
- Pleasant Hill Middle Eighth Grader Erin Marie Koyle and
- River Bluff High Eleventh Grader Maryia V. Sikirzhytskaya

Chair Smith welcomed a fourth grade student from Deerfield Elementary, Theodore A. Ricciardelli, who gave a welcome in German and the following statement is a translation of what he said in German.

“My name is Theodore Ricciardelli.

I want to welcome you to the December meeting of the Board of Trustees and tell you just a little about the languages offered through the district’s Immersion and other foreign language programs.

I am part of the Immersion program at Deerfield Elementary, where I am learning German.

I am already fluent in English and German.

8.0 Honors and Achievements (Continued)

In fact, the district has 21,341 students currently enrolled in one or more foreign language classes.

There are many reasons to study other languages. Here are just a few.

1. A second language improves your skills and grades in math and English and on the SAT and GRE.
2. Our analytical skills, creativity, listening skills, and memory improve when we study a foreign language.
3. Foreign language study enhances our opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry, marketing, etc.

Thank you for coming tonight. We welcome you.”

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 ADC Tobacco and Nicotine-Free School District — Jeff Salters

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve Policy ADC Tobacco and Nicotine-Free School District for second reading. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Anderson	Unanimous

Discussion: Mr. Caldwell said the tobacco policies were presented in November for first reading and review. The three policies have the same language. Since the first reading, there has been conversation about staff consequences. The district’s Code of Excellence for staff already addresses consequences for staff members. For student consequences, we have adopted a more therapeutic approach to our discipline. Our goal is to change behavior. Instead of having a suspension out of school, we will have a one day in-school suspension and the student will be required to complete an online tobacco/vaping cessation course. The item would be confiscated and not returned. There is an administrative conference with parents and a referral to law enforcement because law mandates that reporting. Second offense will be six hours of community service at the school and a more involved cessation program through LRADAC and a law enforcement referral. A third offense is a recommendation for expulsion. At that point, the expulsion process may provide an opportunity to go to the Alternative Education Services. Anne Marie Green said she felt that wording should be included in the policy that requires a “by a licensed provider” to prescribe a tobacco cessation program.

Anne Marie Green made a motion to amend the policy language to add “licensed provider” to the policy. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Powers	Unanimous

10.2 Second Reading – Policy GBED — Tobacco and Nicotine-Free Workplace — Jeff Caldwell

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve Policy GBED Tobacco and Nicotine-Free Workplace with an amendment to included “by a licensed provider.” The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Powers	Unanimous

10.3 Second Reading — Policy JICG Tobacco and Nicotine Use by Students — Jeff Caldwell

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve Policy JICG Tobacco and Nicotine Use by Students with an amendment to include “by a licensed provider.” The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Powers	Unanimous

10.4 Student Travel Requests — Gloria Talley

Chair Smith said that Dr. Guyton submitted a letter of recusal from this vote. The recusal states: *“In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B), I hereby abstain from all votes, deliberations and other actions on the following matter(s): Beechwood Middle School request for permission of 50 students to travel to Washington, D.C, on May 29, 2020. The reasons for disqualification: Father to student who may be traveling on trip.”* She called for a motion to approve twelve student travel requests. A motion was made to approve the requests as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Oswald	6 in favor one recusal

10.5 02-04-2020 Board Meeting Calendar Change — Mary Beth Hill

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the February 4, 2020 calendar change. A motion was made to remove the meeting from the board meeting calendar.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Anderson	Unanimous

Discussion: Mary Beth Hill said that the board of trustees had voted to add six additional meetings to the board meeting calendar in addition to the regular meetings held the third Tuesday of each month. It was suggested that this meeting date be cancelled due to conflicts.

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. We began our meeting with German flair. We want to continue that discussion with a presentation about the future of world language immersion. Lexington One has been a leader in South Carolina and the nation in world language immersion. Last year, we had our first graduates from our immersion program in French and Spanish. We are envisioning what the future will hold.

11.2 Report — Immersion 2.0 — Gloria Talley, Ed.D. and Liza Speece, Ph.D.

Dr. Liza Speece, Coordinator of World Languages, said that in Lexington One we have an elite and progressive foreign language program. In spite of the challenges and barriers for language immersion programs, in Lexington One we are developing bilingual student who can read, write, speak and think globally. Last year 103 students earned the Seal of Biliteracy, twice the number of any other district in South Carolina. We had 220 students attend a district-wide summer immersion camp. The camp had a waiting list in all four languages. Last year 52 immersion students received Advanced Placement credits in world language.

11.0 Superintendent's Report (continued)

11.2 Report — Immersion 2.0 — Gloria Talley, Ed.D. and Liza Speece, Ph.D.

We have study abroad partnerships and formal agreements with sister schools in France, Germany and China. Dr. Speece reviewed impressive data that shows our immersion students exceed the national average in reading, writing and speaking.

The vision for Lexington One is to grow the immersion program in four areas. We want to increase the number of students and the retention of students. We want increase language proficiency and academic achievement. We will work to increase access to enrichment opportunities and close the achievement gap for English learners through two-way immersion. Dr. Speece believes that language immersion is making Lexington One a destination for teachers and families who value a World Class education.

11.3 Report — Staff Conduct Update — Mike Stacey, Human Resources

Chief Human Resources Officer, Mike Stacey, said that we had discussed some situations with staff conduct and we have been reviewing the policy. We will be bringing for first reading policy GBEB Staff Conduct. Changes in that policy will align with the most recent SCSBA model policy and will reference our Code of Excellence.

11.4 Report — Early Childhood Education Centers — Eric Bissell Jessica Buzhardt

Dr. Bissell said that they were asked to provide an update on the timeline for the early childhood centers for Gilbert and Pelion and to explain the research being done. The goal is to open centers that are exemplary and that provide amazing early childhood opportunities for all children. There is consensus among many agencies that early childhood experiences, especially between ages 0-5, have a huge impact on a child's ability to thrive for the rest of their lives. Some children who come to us in kindergarten come with deficits. We need to focus on birth to age five. That is where there is a substantial potential for growth. The lack of high-quality affordable childcare for working and middle class families is in crisis and we want to be able to help and support that need and provide equity. We want to provide the number of opportunities, the quality of opportunities and ensure the equitable experience of all students. When we talk about reading intervention and retention in third grade, many times it is because a child did not have early childhood experiences in reading. Gaps began after birth. For the past three years, 66 percent of students entering kindergarten in Lexington One were not ready for kindergarten. We can substantially decrease that number as well as the number of children in retention and intervention.

They reviewed research being conducted on building designs and program needs specifically for early childhood. The district is considering an expansion of our parenting program so that we can provide services to all areas of our community. We are proposing that an additional FTE for 4K at Centerville and the new elementary school in Gilbert be added to the budget. They reported that they have a waiting list for 4K.

In 2021, a preschool inclusion initiative will be piloted. We will finalize the building design and begin renovating the GES campus and begin community engagement in anticipation of an August 2022 opening in Gilbert and an August 2023 opening in the Pelion Attendance Area.

11.5 Report — Operation Update — Jeff Salters

Chief Operations Officer, Jeff Salters, reminded everyone that Centerville Elementary will be a Pre-K4 to Grade 5 school. We will be repurposing Gilbert Elementary and it will open as a Pre-K3 to Grade 5 school. We will be renaming Gilbert Primary School to Gilbert Elementary School. Both are slated to open in the fall of 2020. Mr. Salters shared photographs of construction progress at Centerville Elementary School, the new Pelion Middle School. He reviewed photograph of track at Pelion 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) Animals for Instructional Purposes — Mike Stacey

Mike Stacy said a committee reviewed policies and realized we did not have a policy for animals in schools to address this. The SCSBA model policy primarily addresses service animals in the classroom. We will bring a policy for first reading and review in January.

12.2 First Reading – 2020-2021 Board Meeting Calendar – Mary Beth Hill

Chief Communications Officer, Mary Beth Hill said that the board of trustees policy requires that the board meet on the third Tuesday of each month. The administration presented for first reading the 2020-2021 board meeting calendar and suggested additional meetings. Ms. Garris suggested student honors and achievements be awarded at a time other than a board meeting. She suggested doing them four or five times a year rather than each month. She felt it would be a better use of time and we have outgrown the space for the large crowd. Dr. Guyton said that additional meetings and board visits to schools can be difficult for working board members. He suggested that board meetings be held in schools.

13.0 Items for Board Information

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

Chair Smith said that Dr. Powers, Dr. Guyton and she attended a middle school musical review and it was wonderful. Dr. Little held parent forums in Gilbert. The board toured Pelion Middle School.

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	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Brent Powers, Secretary

