

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 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 6:00 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
Powers	Oswald	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 May 18, 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 May 18, 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 May 18, 2021, board meeting at 7:05 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. Dr. Little reported on security measures implemented since the May 4, 2021 board meeting. 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 yielded the floor to Ms. Jada Garris to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

Chair Green brought a request from citizen Katie Carter, to be added to the agenda to address the Board regarding the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget. Pursuant to policy BEDB, a majority of the board must vote affirmatively to grant this request. Chair Green called for a motion to amend the agenda and add item 8.1 Presentation by Citizen Katie Carter. A motion was made, seconded, and the motion failed.

Motion	Second	Action
Garris	Guyton	Motion Failed (2 in favor; 5 opposed)

Approval of the Agenda (continued):

Discussion: The board discussed Ms. Carter’s request. Ms. Carter followed protocol to be added to the agenda by making a request to the Board Chair and Superintendent. The board discussed the need for policies regarding public participation and citizens’ requests to add agenda items to be amended as they were inconsistent and outdated. While that is the case, the public participation session of the board meeting permits for the public to address the board. Additionally, all board members did not have information on the nature of the request as they had not been in communication with Ms. Carter. There have been five meetings since the 2021-2022 budget has been introduced with the opportunity to address the board. A public hearing upon third reading of the budget is designated for the board to receive input from the public.

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

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Powers	Approved Unanimously

6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the April 13 and April 20, 2021 Board Meeting

Minutes of the April 13 and April 20, 2021 board meetings were included for approval. Chair Green asked 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, if Needed, from Executive Session

Chair Green called for a motion to approve 39 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 recruiting and hiring efforts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Chair Green called for a motion to approve eight administrative recommendations for the 2021-2022 academic year. A motion was made to sever the 8 recommendations as a whole and separate the Chief Technology and Innovation Officer (CTIO) from that vote. A motion was made, seconded and the motion failed.

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	Garris	Motion Failed (3 in favor; 4 opposed)

Chair Green called for a motion to approve eight administrative recommendations for the 2021-2022 academic year.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approved (6 in favor; 1 opposed)

Discussion: Ms. Garris would have liked further opportunity to discuss the CTIO position.

8.0 Citizens’ Participation

Chair Green read the guidelines for Citizens’ Participation.

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Citizens' Participation (continued):

Lauren Pellington, Lexington, SC, district teacher, Lexington One SCEA representative, and parent of elementary students, addressed the board on continued safety precautions and masks in the district. She addressed the divide among the district teachers, parents and students.

James Reynolds, Lexington, SC, students in LOOLA, addressed his perceptions of the board and the superintendent's responsibilities and his concern about the people's voices being heard.

Katherine Reynolds, Lexington, SC, students in LOOLA, addressed her concerns about the board's decision making, CARES Act funding, and the curriculum that addresses drug and alcohol awareness.

Elijah, Joshua and Isaac Reynolds, Lexington SC, LOOLA students, reiterated their parents' concerns and said they missed school because they were in the online academy this year because of the mask mandate.

Dana Homesly, Lexington, SC, child will begin school next year, began reading Ms. Katie Carter's comments about board policy and the 2021-2022 budget. She discussed board policies and the need to update them.

Katie Carter Jeffcoat, Lexington, SC, parent of an elementary student, continued her comments regarding concerns regarding the board policy manual on finance and procurement policies and adherence to policy.

John Mew, Lexington, SC, students in private school, addressed the board on the events that transpired surrounding the dismissal of the mask policy and the Governor's executive order.

Steve McKenzie, Alcolu, SC, parent of elementary students, addressed the board on his children's excessive absences this year and the policies related to absences.

Everett Howard, Lexington, SC, grandparent of elementary students, continued to review Mr. McKenzie's concerns regarding his children's absences.

Julia Purvis, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary student, continued reading Ms. Jeffcoat's comments asking about the approval process of the grounds maintenance contract and possible use of ESSER funds to cover it.

Rebekah Godfrey, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school students, asked the board to make decisions on the next school year and guarantee that masks and vaccines will be optional and wants contact tracing eliminated.

John Beatty, Jr. Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students, addressed the optional masks and vaccines and he is concerned about critical race theory becoming part of curriculum.

Madison Rodgers lives in Lexington, parent of elementary student, concerned about the next school year regarding practices around optional masks and vaccinations.

Irene Baerwalde, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, asked for more communication with the community by a possible public/board response section on the website and asked the board to allow virtual students to be able to participate in the arts programs.

Debbie Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, addressed the superintendent's update from the May 4, 2021, board meeting and public health guidance information on masks.

Matt Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, advocated for continued open communication with the board and advocated for the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children.

Ivelisse Ortiz, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, addressed her concerns about masks and what will be required next school year and she disagreed with the mask video with the DHEC epidemiologist.

Citizens' Participation (continued):

Danielle Bowers, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary, middle and high school students, addressed bullying and discrimination for those students that don't want to wear masks and requested mask and vaccine policies.

Tripp Bowers, Lexington, SC, elementary student, advocated for teacher's choice to wear masks and doesn't want to be separated from students who wear masks.

9.0 Second Reading — 2021–2022 General Fund Operating Budget — Jeff Salters, Chief Operations Officer

Mr. Salters presented the second reading of the 2021-2022 general fund operating budget. This is the operating budget that supports the day-to-day operations of the district and follows the district's system requirements. Changes to the budget from first to second reading include:

- \$1,000 salary increase per step for salaried employees based on the South Carolina Senate appropriations bill
- \$1 per hour increase for support staff, based on days worked (minimum increase would be \$1,080 increase)
- 5% salary increase for bus drivers based on the Senate bill in addition to the \$1 per hour increase in the first reading
- Increase in health insurance premiums to fund well visits for employees based on Senate bill
- Decreased projected investment income by \$130,00 based on continued decline of rates of returns
- Increases in revenues due to increase in the Senate version of appropriations bill

Recruitment and retention strategies, targeted staff ratios and projected enrollment remain unchanged from first reading. Mr. Salter said the real estate and home building market could suggest a lower student growth that could reflect even lower student/teacher ratios than projected. He reviewed the targeted staffing ratios. If the district should see lower enrollment these student/teacher ratios could be lower.

In expenditures, there was a shift moving 17 positions from the Lexington One Online Learning Academy (LOOLA) to in-person positions due to a lower anticipated interest in LOOLA and one administrator allocated to LOOLA that will now be allocated to Gilbert Middle School due to the LOOLA enrollment shift. The Director of Nursing position is for information only, as it will be covered through Medicaid reimbursements. Mr. Salters reviewed increases and decreases in programs and services and provided a summary of each item and how they are associated with the costs. He reminded the board that contracts are annual contracts. There is a non-appropriations clause in each contract, so if a line item should be cut the district is not obligated to the long term contract. Overall operating expenditures increased by \$6.3 million due to the proposed salary changes from first to second reading. Mr. Salters explained the strategy to staff the payroll at a 97% fill rate based on environmental and industry conditions.

Revenue projection changes since the first reading include a \$2,516 base student cost as proposed by the Senate Appropriations bill, a decrease in local sources of \$130,000 due to lower investment rates of return and an operational fund balance increased to cover the salary adjustments. The district anticipates a surplus in 2020-2021 that will decrease the fund balance needed.

Mr. Salters told the board that while the General Assembly may not finalize the State budget until June 29, 2021, administration will hold a public hearing and third reading on June 22, 2021, with the most up-to-date information available. The timing of the ESSER III funding will not coincide with the third reading of the budget to make any line item adjustments to reallocate to ESSER funds. While the ESSER III fund allocations have been released, stipulations and spending criteria have not yet been provided to the districts.

10.0 Action Items

10.1 Act 155 — Diploma Request — Jeff Caldwell, Chief Student Services Officer

Chair Green called for a motion to approve one individual request to receive a South Carolina High School diploma pursuant to Act 155 of 2014.

Act 155 – Diploma Request (continued):

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Mr. Caldwell explained that prior to 2014 students had to pass an exit exam to get a diploma. If students didn't pass this exam, students only received a certificate of completion. Act 155 allows individuals to request a diploma who meet all the graduation requirements with the exception of the exit exam. The counseling department has verified the requirements for this individual.

11.0 Superintendent's Report**11.1 Report — Superintendent's Update — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D.**

Superintendent Little reported on the Governor's executive order to make masks optional. Since this was an overnight shift in practice, the district is working with families to accommodate students with or without masks. School administrators are working with parents of all students to make their students' last days of school successful and accommodating students as much as possible. He reported that as of this meeting, approximately two-thirds of students continue to wear masks.

11.2 Operations Update - Jeff Salters

Mr. Salters shared photos and gave a progress report on the new Lakeside Middle School. He gave an update on the classroom addition and performing arts center at White Knoll High School and shared aerial photos and progress on the new performing arts center and athletic improvements at Gilbert High School.

12.0 New Business**12.1 First Reading — Recommendations Regarding Policy GCF, GCF-R Professional Staff Hiring — Mike Stacey, Chief Human Resources Officer**

Chair Green called for a motion to untable GCF, GCF-R Professional Staff Hiring.

Motion	Second	Action
Guyton	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Ms. Garris withdrew the original motion for approval from the January 19, 2021 meeting. There were no objections. Chair Green said the policies would revert to an amended first reading. This first reading includes recommendations from the ad hoc committee that had been developed to review the policies. Dr. Guyton and the committee reported their recommendations. The primary language change pertained to the posting of all positions for all job vacancies rather than allow freedom of the district to fill certain vacancies without posting. Dr. Guyton directed the board to the exceptions that have been recommended to the posting requirement. He reported no material changes to GCF-R, the administrative rule.

12.2 First Reading — Recommendations Regarding Policy GDF, GDF-R Support Staff Hiring —Mike Stacey, Chief Human Resources Officer

Chair Green called for a motion to untable GDF, GDF-R Support Staff Hiring.

Motion	Second	Action
Guyton	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Ms. Garris withdrew the original motion for approval from the January 19, 2021 meeting. There were no objections. Chair Green said the policies would revert to an amended first reading. This

Recommendations Regarding Policy GDF, GDF-R (continued):

first reading includes recommendations from the ad hoc committee that had been developed to review the policies. Dr. Guyton and the committee reported their recommendations. The language change pertained to the practice of bringing newly hired support staff to the board as information only versus board approval and that the requirement to do so under state law is ambiguous. The new policy language would require the board to ratify newly hired support staff within 45 days of employment. This would allow the district to hire support staff without delay, but the Chief Human Resources Officer would bring their names to the board for approval within 45 days. Support staff are on a 90 day probationary period, so if a hire was not approved, it would fall within the 90 day window. The committee reported no changes to GDF-R, the administrative rule.

12.3 First Reading — Policy EBCB Safety Plans and Drills — Jeff Salters

Mr. Salters presented the first reading of Policy EBCB - Safety Plans and Drills. This policy stems from SC Code of Law 59-17-160 implemented in 2018. This law changes requirements for drills and documentation procedures related to drill... The district is currently following the practices in this model policy. Policy EBCB would replace current board policy EBBC and needs to be implemented by July 1, 2021.

13.0 Items for Board Information

Items are for information only.

- 11.1 Monthly General Fund Financial Report — April 2021**
- 11.2 Monthly General Fund Budget Transfers — April 2021**
- 11.3 Monthly Capital Projects Report — April 2021**
- 11.4 Monthly Unauthorized Procurements Report — April 2021**

14.0 Adjourn

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Guyton	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Mike Anderson/MEA
Secretary

Prepared by:

Tracy Halliday/TAH
Executive Administrative Assistant