

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Workshop Minutes
September 7, 2021

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, in the Lexington County School District One’s Central Services Building One located at 100 Tarrar Springs Road in Lexington, South Carolina for a board workshop. 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, Acting Secretary Kyle Guyton, Jada Garris, Kathy Henson, and Tim Oswald. Mike Anderson was not present.

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A motion was made to open the meeting. It was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Henson	Approved Unanimously

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

Chair Green said 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. Vice Chair Powers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

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

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

3.0 2020–2021 Year in Review

3.1 Introduction — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D.

Superintendent Little introduced the presentation of the year in review and said that strategic plan goals would be reviewed at the September 21, 2021 board meeting.

3.2 Data Overview — Shane Phillips, PH.D., Accountability and Assessment Director

Dr. Phillips presented student achievement data and standardized testing scores for the 2020-2021 school year. He indicated EOC data would not be presented due to the limitations on the data from the previous two school years, and that the district’s academic recovery plan has goals and strategies to utilize interim assessments to identify instructional growth opportunities and gaps in achievement. In reviewing SC Ready data in English/Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and SC PASS Science, Dr. Phillips pointed out that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no data for 2020 due to test cancellations, and in 2021 fewer students took the tests. While there was a decline in SC Ready scores from 2019 to 2021, the district outperformed statewide scores. Dr. Phillips indicated that middle school math will be emphasized in academic recovery. He reviewed high school achievement for English II, Algebra I, Biology I and U.S. History. He reviewed high school graduation data and reported in 2021 90% of high school students graduated on time and reported an adjusted graduation rate of 91.5% based on the graduation calculation rate which takes into account special education students who receive a certificate and adult education students who receive a GED.

3.3 Strategic Plan Updates

Dr. Phillips reviewed strategic plan progress. Strategic plan numbers were impacted due to the COVID pandemic. Prior to the 2019-2020 academic year, data was trending positively; however, data shows measures dropping for the last two school years due to the pandemic at the elementary, middle and high school level. He indicated intervention goals will be revised due to the increased need for more intervention. He shared data for on-time readiness for high school graduation with 98% of juniors on target to graduate on time. He reported on chronic absenteeism due to the pandemic and online learning and hybrid learning accountability. Dr. Phillips addressed questions from the board.

a. PowerSkills — Shane Phillips, PH.D.

Dr. Phillips, co-chair of PowerSkills Committee, gave an update on the Power Skills portfolio project. The committee has worked with Hanover Research to develop rubrics specifically for Lexington One and they are specific to grade band. The committee will reconvene and fine-tune the scoring system and will pilot with schools this fall. The measurement tool will help identify opportunities to grow in each power skill.

b. All Means All — Brandon Baskett, Higher Education Services Dean

Mr. Baskett, co-chair of the All Means All Committee, gave an update on the All Means All portfolio. The committee's goal is to take an inquiry stance on what is going well, how the district can improve, remove obstacles to student outcomes, develop critical thinkers and empower each child to design the future. He outlined the goals of the three sub-committees which are to increase opportunity knowledge and access to rigorous and advanced coursework, refine practices to recruit and retain a more diverse teaching staff, and create and develop classroom conditions where students thrive.

c. Supportive Enrichment for Lexington District One Families (SELF) — Albert Robertson, Social Studies Coordinator

Mr. Robertson gave an update on Supportive Enrichment for Lexington One Families (SELF) which is designed to cultivate relationships with support staff and their middle and high school age children with career awareness, academic and social emotional enrichment and access to services, learning experiences and program. Cohort One began this summer and includes twenty-six 6th - 12th grade students of food service, maintenance and transportation staff across all feeder patterns. Recruitment for Cohort Two will begin in the late fall/winter. Mr. Albertson addressed questions from the board. The goal is to impact relationships and reduce turnover of support staff and to be inclusive to as many students as possible.

3.4 Academic Supports

a. 2021 Summer Programming — Hilary Morgan, Mathematics Coordinator

Ms. Morgan gave an update on the 2021 summer programs. She reviewed the details and outcomes of the summer programs including Summer Connections programs for rising 1st, 2nd and 4th grade students, elementary special education parallel programs, immersion camp, Summer Connections for 7th - 9th grade students, special education empower camp, music camps, and Digital Promise and Cognition virtual math tutoring for 6th graders. Additional K-12 summer programs included Rising Stars and ESOL Summer Connections. Approximately 1,500 students were impacted and 415 staff were involved in providing these programs.

b. Lexington One Online Learning Academy (LOOLA) — Howard Bissell, Instructional Technology Director

Mr. Bissell gave a review of the Lexington One Online Learning Academy (LOOLA) which was created in 2020-2021 to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and create a virtual school for the district. The program served approximately 7,300 students in the fall 2020 semester. Three distinct programs were developed to serve the elementary, middle and high school grade bands. Despite a large number of students returning to the face-to-face model in the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, LOOLA numbers remained high

servicing approximately 3,515 students. Mr. Bissell described how LOOLA has evolved since the 2020-2021 school year. LOOLA merged with Alternative Educational Services to become Lexington One Personalized Learning Pathways Program and enables one administrative team to support the program. LOOLA 2.0 was designed for middle and high school students. In the spring of 2021, 300 students expressed interest in LOOLA for the fall 2021 semester. As the summer COVID surge rose, the district determined the need to open enrollment for the program again and to include an elementary option. Numbers rose to 501 for middle and high school, at this time, there are approximately 511 students. Mr. Bissell addressed questions and comments from the board.

c. Dual Enrollment — Brandon Baskett

Mr. Baskett shared an update on dual enrollment programming and the district's higher education partnerships with Piedmont Technical College, the University of South Carolina Sumter, and Midlands Technical College. In addition to offering dual enrollment courses for high school students, the district is developing plans to increase middle school students' awareness of career pathways. The district has focused on improving student access to higher education by simplifying the application process. Due to multiple measures considered for student eligibility, the district now has more than 700 students participating in dual enrollment programming. The College Center, offers first-generation high school students the opportunity to earn an associate degree in high school. Mr. Baskett addressed the financial impact and savings to students and their families. State funding typically ensures that courses are entirely free for students, with no tuition costs for their families if students take two courses per semester. The potential cost of tuition savings in the last year was approximately \$2.7 million. To further improve student access, the district is exploring options to assist financially with textbooks. Mr. Baskett addressed questions and comments from the board.

3.5 Wraparound Supports

a. Middle School Athletics — David Bennett, Athletics Director

Coach David Bennett gave an update on the development of LexTen, the middle school athletic conference which includes the district's eight middle schools, Batesburg-Leesville Middle and Sandhills Middle. The conference has a North and South division. The program offers a coaches academy for training and mentoring. Each year the conference continues to grow. The goal is to increase participation and average two teams for each sport. In the last two years, participation has grown by 30%. The impact will be seen in the high school programs as middle school students have the opportunity to gain valuable experience at an earlier level.

b. Employee Support — Kimberly Freeman, Human Resources Director

Dr. Little said the board and leadership team prioritized employees to acknowledge the difficulties they faced through the 2020-2021 school year. Ms. Kimberly Freeman provided a recap of the employee supports over the last 16 months and thanked the board for their support beginning with the one-time payment to eligible employees in December 2020 and incentive to substitutes. She reviewed the extended COVID leave for employees approved by the board once the emergency paid sick leave provision of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) expired in December 2020, and, the extension of COVID leave in the Spring 2021 for employees experiencing side effects in the 48 hours following COVID vaccinations. She reviewed the district's partnership with Nephron Pharmaceuticals to provide free COVID testing to employees. Additional supports included employee childcare during the hybrid instructional model and an employee assistance program (EAP) instituted in 2020-2021 which is free to employees. Ms. Freeman addressed questions and comments from the board.

4.0 Adjourn

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Henson	Approved Unanimously

Submitted by:

Prepared by:

Dr. Kyle Guyton/RKG
Acting Secretary

Tracy Halliday/TAH
Executive Administrative Assistant