

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2021

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened for a Board Workshop at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, in the Lexington County School District One's Central Services Building One located at 100 Tarrar Springs Road in Lexington, South Carolina. The meeting was open to the public and 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 p.m. General Session

Chair Green called for a motion to open the general session of the Board Workshop. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

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

Vice Chair Green called to order the general session of the February 2, 2021, board meeting at 6:00 pm.

She said the meeting was in compliance with the CDC COVID-19 guidelines and district precautionary measures. All attendees are encouraged to social distance and must wear a face covering at all times. The district will post 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 Green called on Ms. Jada Garris for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

3.0 Introduction - Chair Anne Marie Green

Chair Green opened the meeting with the purpose of the board workshop. She said that Dr. Little has seen a complete turnover in his tenure as Superintendent. All of the current board members have been elected to his/her seat in the last four years and the average tenure of a board member is 37 months. Training is a critical investment for the board and success of the district; and, team building is essential to build productive and constructive working relationships between board members and with the Superintendent. Research indicates strong relationships between the Board and Superintendent improves student achievement.

4.0 Team Building Exercise - Compass Points Activity, Mary A. Gaskins, Leadership Development and Continuous Improvement Director

Ms. Gaskins introduced the team building Compass Points exercise. She explained that board working relationships have a different context than family relationships. The outcome of the compass exercise is to identify the leadership style of each board member - North, South, East or West. Board members were

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Team Building Exercise (continued):

presented with a list of characteristics of each and asked to review and share with each other which style they gravitate to. They were asked their perception on the strength of their chosen style, the limitations of that style, which style is most difficult to work with, what others should know about them so they can work together effectively and what they know about the other three styles. The result of the team building was to have a better understanding and respect for others and to understand that the board's goal is the same but their perspective may be different.

5.0 Break - No break was taken.

6.0 Board Training - Andrea E. White and Molly Flynn, White & Story, LLC

Chair Green introduced education law attorneys, Andrea White and Molly Flynn of White & Story, LLC, to provide training on the role of the Board and the role of the Superintendent under law, policy and contract. Ms. Flynn reviewed the role of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent under the guidance of South Carolina Code Section 59-19-90, "General Powers and Duties". One of the roles that generated questions and discussion was policy development and revisions and review of policy. She said most school boards operate under a two reading adoption/revision of policy and give the Superintendent the ability to adopt or suspend a policy in an emergency. Dr. Guyton asked about three readings and Ms. White recommended an introduction to the policy or revision prior to the first reading. Ms. Green said the district had begun doing this recently. Ms. White recommended a review of Section B, Board Policies, of the district's policy manual. Ms. Flynn reviewed the role of the Superintendent as CEO, managing daily operations of the district and to supervise and manage staff. In discussion, Dr. Powers indicated the board and superintendent should support each other for a harmonious working relationship. Ms. Flynn reviewed the functions of the board, one of which is most importantly the budget.

Ms. Flynn discussed that all board powers lie in action as a group and she reviewed the responsibilities, protocols and policies of board meetings. During discussion of the board agenda, Ms. Garris asked about how to get items on the agenda. Chair Green said the board chair holds an agenda setting meeting with the Superintendent. Ms. White recommended adding a section of the agenda for future meeting items. The Board could discuss and take a vote of the majority on topics to be added for future meetings. There was discussion on board packets, timeliness of receiving packet materials, and presentation materials. Ms. White said it is standard protocol to receive packets the Friday prior to a meeting, which is current practice of the district. The district has started to include presentations in the packet but that assumptions should not be made prior to the presentation. She said they should not address the presenter with questions prior to the meeting, but rather, let the presentation unfold in conjunction with the narrative. Ms. White reviewed the goals and protocol for board meetings. Ms. Garris prompted discussion about executive session and either moving it to the end of the meeting or starting general session immediately upon the end of executive session. Ms. White said it can be done either way but the board should take into account what works best for the district. Ms. Green said the standard for the district was to do executive session at 6:00 pm and general session at 7:00 pm for consistency and courtesy for the community.

Ms. White reviewed common FOIA questions. There was discussion regarding requirements for ad-hoc committees falling under FOIA. Ad-hoc committees need to post agendas and those meetings would need to be open to the public. Dr. Guyton inquired if a meeting with senior leadership and a few board members would need to be FOIA compliant. Ms. White indicated that if the Superintendent brings a recommendation before the board as a result of that meeting it is not covered under FOIA; however, if that committee reports directly back to the board it would be covered by FOIA. She reviewed what is considered public record, types of communications that fall under FOIA, FOIA penalties and burdensome FOIA requests. She reviewed agenda requirements and executive session rules for permissible discussion during executive session. She

Board Training (continued):

reviewed common ethics questions including when board members should recuse themselves from a discussion or vote, rules for dinners with vendors or gifts from vendors.

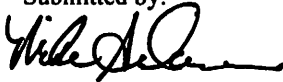
Ms. White presented potential landmines to avoid as a board member including role of a parent/family member overlapping role as a board member, school visits, confidentiality of information in executive session and failure to accept the vote of the board majority. Ms. White addressed communication between the Board and Superintendent and encouraged weekly or bi-weekly updates. Questions between board meetings could be addressed with the Superintendent individually; however, when responding, responses should be shared with the entirety of the board. She discussed requests of information from a board member. She said questions should be addressed quickly, however, if detailed or time consuming information is requested, the Superintendent can ask the Board member to request that information at a board meeting. If the majority of the board wants that information then it would be provided to all. Ms. Garris asked for clarification on the SC Code regarding Board approval of employment recommendations and if it includes support staff. Ms. White said that is a very old law and can be interpreted differently. Her interpretation is that support staff should be ratified and the board can do this by a list presented at the next meeting.

7.0 Adjourn

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Oswald	Approved unanimously

Submitted by:



Mike Anderson
Board Secretary

Prepared by:



Tracy Halliday
Executive Administrative Assistant