

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 2020**

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, 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. 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:** Cindy Smith, Ann Marie Green, Brent Powers, Mike Anderson, Tim Oswald were present. Board members Jada Garris, Kyle Guyton joined the meeting remotely.

**1.0 Call to Order 6 p.m. Executive Session**

Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

**2.0 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 2020-2021 and to hear a report on a property contractual matter related to a bus transportation facility. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Powers	Approved Unanimously

The board of trustees adjourned to the boardroom for executive session.

**3.0 Adjourn Executive Session**

Chair Smith welcomed everyone to the April 21, 2020, meeting and indicated the slight delay in the start time was due to technical difficulties. Ms. Smith thanked all for coming remotely. She thanked the staff for the hard work since the beginning of the quarantine. She called for a motion to adjourn executive session and begin open session.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

**4.0 Call to Order General Session**

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

Chair Smith called the meeting of the general session of the April 21, 2020, board meeting.

Chair Smith reported that the board was meeting in compliance with the Governor's orders and CDC recommendations. The board would allow no more than ten people in the auditorium at one time. The auditorium has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before the meeting and would be after the meeting also. Any board member attending in person would take part in social distancing by maintaining a safe social distance from others. All board members, employees or other individuals attending the meeting in person were advised to wear a face covering at all times.

Due to the Governor's restriction on public gatherings related to COVID-19, the public was encouraged to watch the meeting on the District's YouTube channel. After the meeting, the district would follow its previously established process by posting a video of the meeting to the YouTube channel, LexOne Video site and our own website.

**Call to Order General Session (continued):**

Individuals coming to the board meeting were to meet in the Staff Development Room/Overflow Room, where safe social distancing guidelines would be observed.

Individuals coming to speak during Citizens' Participation would also wait until time to talk. The district would place a lectern at the back of the auditorium for the speaker. A district employee would sanitize the microphone after each speaker.

The district is in compliance with the South Carolina 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 minutes. Chair Smith called on Dr. Brent Powers to give the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by board member Dr. Brent Powers.

**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, carried and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

**6.0 Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the March 3, 2020, and March 17, 2020, regular board meetings 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 called for a motion to approve 27 certified recommendations for the 2020-2021 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve 2,147 returning certified recommendations for the 2020-2021 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Chief Human Resources Officer Mike Stacey indicated that prior to the end of April each year, the board approves continuing contracts for the next year.

**Employment Matters (continued):**

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve one administrative recommendation for the 2020-2021 academic school year. A motion was made to approve the recommendation as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

**Report Regarding a Contractual Matter Related to a Bus Transportation Facility**

Chief Operations Officer Jeff Salters said that at the meeting of February 18, 2020, the board approved an option agreement and the next step was to ratify the price. Two independent appraisals have been done. The first appraisal was \$30,766, and the second was \$31,997. Both appraisals are close to the asking price of \$32,000. As part of the bond referendum, a facility study was recommended to consolidate the Lexington, River Bluff and White Knoll area transportation lots. Currently, the Lexington and River Bluff lots are on property leased by the district from the South Carolina State Department of Education. The White Knoll lot is being repurposed as part of renovations to White Knoll High School. The new location would be 4.1 miles from WKHS, 6.9 from LHS and 8.7 from RHBS. An industrial area was recommended because of early start times and multiple driveaway access for employees and buses. Mr. Salters reviewed a map of the proposed site. He said his report was for information only. The board of trustees will be asked to approve the agreed upon price on May 17, 2020. After approval, the due diligence process will begin. After due diligence is complete, the board will be asked to take action to purchase the property.

Cindy Smith mentioned that bus drivers have expressed excitement for the opportunity to have new facilities and training centers.

**8.0 Citizens' Participation**

Chair Smith invited community members to address the board of trustees at this time. No one addressed the board of trustees at this time.

Chair Smith said that even though the community cannot attend at this time, they were encouraged to contact any board member or Dr. Little by telephone, email or mail with concerns or feedback.

**9.0 Superintendent's Report**

9.1 Report - Superintendent's COVID-19 Update - Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D.

Dr. Little expressed appreciation for everyone's patience with new technology tonight and committed to improving the process for future meetings. Dr. Little reported on the district's response to COVID-19. Teamwork has been essential to how the district has handled the pandemic. He reported the instructional program and food service delivery model as examples. The new instructional model has involved collaboration between content coordinators, instructional coaches, administrators, teachers and the IT department. Two instructional packets have already been distributed and a third is being prepared if needed for the remainder of the year. Additionally, the district has conducted professional development for teachers on e-learning. The focus now includes not only academic content but also balancing academic,

socio-emotional needs. Teachers spending time connecting with students is as equally important as content at this time. Teachers are communicating and connecting with students using Facetime, Zoom, Google Hangouts, email, pre-recorded videos and a number of other solutions to make connections. District-wide professional development has been launched on student social and emotional monitoring, student growth and self-monitoring and student self and social awareness. Dr. Little reported this has taken teamwork and collaboration and he is proud of how staff have stepped up in this defining moment. It has been a leap of faith in new delivery models and delivery methods.

Dr. Little reported the food service program is providing meals at seven locations and approximately 24 buses are making over 100 stops each day. As of April 17, the program has served 134,473 meals. Along with food service and transportation staff, a large number of other district employees and school board members have volunteered to help with the program. The program began serving five meals per week and has moved to a two day a week schedule to reduce exposure and protect our employees. Employees are now wearing masks and nurses are taking temperatures to minimize exposure. This has been a significant undertaking and we are discussing whether it would carry throughout the summer or transition to the summer feeding program.

Dr. Little said the office of Human Resources has had to change how to conduct business. This includes a first ever virtual principal search, a first virtual job fair with 35 participants and virtual benefits, onboarding and retirement meetings. The Communications Department has prepared a number of letters from the Superintendents' office as well as videos, social media postings and generally keeping the community and public aware at every step.

Dr. Little said the district is also focusing on mental wellness. This will be the topic for the next district-wide letter and video. At this point is it uncertain if schools will be closed the remainder of the year. Dr. Little said the decision to open or close schools comes from the Governor with the input of State Superintendent Molly Spearman and the State Board of Education. The district is preparing for "end of year" procedures, such as pick-up of materials, book returns, sports uniforms, band equipment and all other processes.

Dr. Little discussed the importance of high school graduation and senior celebrations. There is a team working on how to best recognize seniors. It is a difficult time for this group of students and the district is committed to celebrating their accomplishments. The district will work under the guidance of the Governor's office on what this can look like.

Dr. Little expressed appreciation to Representative Chris Wooten and reported that he raised \$5000 to purchase gift cards to local restaurants. Partnering with the district's social workers, they will identify families in need and distribute these gift cards. This is a win-win situation for our community, local restaurants and families. This is another example of our working and coming together.

Dr. Little said he has heard the word "unprecedented" used often during this time. Dr. Little said we have responded and worked together to meet the needs of our students and families in an unprecedented way. Dr. Little said a note from a parent said of his child's teacher, "She has been so unbelievably and unselfishly supportive." This sums up the work being done every day in Lexington One. This has changed our lives but it has been an unprecedented response by our staff who are always meeting two of our core commitments of putting children first, and all means all.

Mr. Anderson thanked the district's food service staff and bus drivers who assisted the Lexington District Three food service program when that district's department was quarantined for 14 days.

**10.0 Items for Board Information**

The remaining items were for board information only.

**11.0 Adjourn Open Session**

Chair Smith closed by saying we are praying for families around the world with COVID-19. As we are starting to see a glimmer of hope and flattening of the curve we are looking forward to the future.

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

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Green	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Powers,Secretary