

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2020

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 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 in open 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: Cynthia Smith, Anne Marie Green, Dr. Brent Powers, Mike Anderson, Tim Oswald were present in the Auditorium. Jada Garris and Dr. 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 said that before entering 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 to consider employment recommendations for 2020-2021, discuss a property contractual matter related to a bus transportation facility and to receive legal advice on pending claims and other matters covered by attorney-client privilege. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Green	Approved Unanimously

The board of trustees adjourned for executive session.

3.0 Adjourn Executive Session

Chair Smith welcomed everyone to the May 5, 2020 meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn executive session and begin open session. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

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 to order the general session of the May 5, 2020 board meeting.

She said the Board was meeting tonight in compliance with the Governor's orders and CDC recommendations. The board will allow no more than 10 people in the auditorium at one time. The auditorium has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before the meeting and will be after the meeting also. Any board member attending in person will take part in social distancing by

Notification of Compliance with S.C. Freedom of Information Act continued:

maintaining a safe social distance from any other board member. All board members, employees or other individuals attending the meeting in person are encouraged to wear a face covering at all times.

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

Individuals coming to the board meeting are also encouraged to wear a mask. They will go to the Staff Development Room/Overflow Room, where they will observe social distancing guidelines.

The district will place a lectern at the back of the auditorium for the speaker. A district employee will sanitize the microphone after each speaker.

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 Smith called on Anne Marie Green for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

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

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

6.0 Reports and Action Items from Executive Session

Employment Matters

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve 28 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

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve six administrative 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

Report Regarding a Contractual Matter Related to a Bus Transportation Facility

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the land contractual matter. Mr. Oswald brought a motion for the board to authorize the administration to amend the Option Agreements related to two parcels, known by Lexington County as TMS # 005498-07-014 containing approximately 44.27 acres with Royalty Holdings 1, LLC and TMS # 005498-07-015 containing approximately 2.61 acres with Royalty Properties, LLC for the purpose of relocating the district transportation facility by adding Exhibit B which establishes the purchase price of \$1,500,160.00. This is \$32,000 per acre. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Green	6 in favor; 1 opposed - Garris

Discussion: Mr. Salters said the board approved the original option agreement in February 2020 and received the appraisals and proposed purchase price at the April 21, 2020 meeting. He referenced the facilities study that recommended relocating the bus transportation facility on Barr Road to a central location that would not only serve Lexington High School and River Bluff High School, but would also include the White Knoll attendance area. Mr. Salters mentioned that an industrial area was preferred due to the nature of the routes, good sight lines and access points with separate entrances for buses and employees. He reviewed the proposed site maps showing access to each attendance area. He reviewed the topography of the land showing that site development for buildings and training facilities would be on the upper portion of the land. Development would include a training facility for drivers and office space similar to the current facility layout. Mr. Salters referenced the two independent appraisals that had been done that set the price presented in Exhibit B and for which the motion has been made to establish the purchase price. If approved by the board, the district will complete due diligence and will then bring another motion to the board to close the property and finalize the purchase arrangement.

Mr. Salters explained that the proposed lots provide room for additional growth. The lot will serve 130-140 buses including activity buses and as the school attendance areas grow the district would have room to add to its fleet of buses. The appraisal determined the buildings on the 2.6 acre parcel held no value and did not impact the purchase price. In comparing the 7.5 acres at the Barr Road facility to the proposed site, Mr. Salters mentioned the current Barr Road facility only serves Lexington High School and River Bluff High School. White Knoll High School currently houses buses in its parking lot which is not conducive for proper care and maintenance of the buses. Additionally, the new lot would provide better drainage than that which is currently in place at the Barr Road facility.

Legal Matter

Chair Smith said the board of trustees received legal advice during executive session.

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. Ms. Garris was not part of this discussion in executive session nor would she be voting on this matter.

Chair Smith called for a motion regarding the legal matter. A motion was made regarding the legal action, Garris vs. Lexington School District One, authorizing the district’s attorneys to file an appeal on behalf of Lexington County School District one concerning the attorneys’ fees awards in this case. The motion was seconded and approved.

Legal Matter continued:

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Powers	5 in favor; 1 opposed - Guyton; Garris abstained

7.0 Citizens' Participation

Chair Smith invited community members to address the board of trustees. There was no one present to speak.

Chair Smith reminded the community that all members have their contact information online and are available in lieu of attending a meeting.

8.0 Action Item

8.1 Changes to 2019–2020 Academic Calendar — Gloria J. Talley, ED.D., Chief Academic Officer

Chair Smith called for a motion to change the academic calendar for 2019-2020 for the last day of school for students from June 4, 2020 to May 29, 2020.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Dr. Talley said upon the Governor's order to close schools from March 16-31, 2020 the district started to prepare for e-learning. The district prepared instructional learning packets for Kindergarten through Grade 5 and e-learning for Grades 6 through 12. On March 19, 2020 the district distributed instructional packets and launched e-learning, followed by Phase 2 and Phase 3. Dr. Talley said the 2019-2020 academic calendar calls for the last day of school to be June 4, 2020. The administration requests the board take action to change the last day of school from June 4, 2020 to May 29, 2020. This change gives schools that last week to focus on student and staff mental wellness, virtual activities that will ceremoniously bring closure to the school year and to celebrate school faculty and staff for the good work they have performed in this most unusual year. The State Superintendent has waived the minimum number of school days this year.

9.0 Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Little said this has been an incredibly challenging time for seniors. The district created a task force to plan and create opportunities to celebrate seniors' work and achievements and to mark this momentous time of their lives. Senior yard signs are being distributed and social media frames are online. Most of the celebrations will take place May 18-22, 2020. The district collaborated with other districts and community partners on a county-wide event called Glow for Grads. At 8:20 pm on May 20, 2020 all schools will light up their athletic fields. Neighborhoods, homes and businesses are encouraged to participate. The goal is to light up Lexington County and recognize graduates. Seniors will be able to drive through campus and senior athletes will be recognized at that time.

Dr. Little said most of the uncertainty for seniors and their families has surrounded graduation. The task force surveyed seniors and overwhelmingly heard that they wanted to be together as a class. The goal became to create as authentic an experience as possible while working to protect people in attendance and our community at large. Dr. Little announced the district will hold modified commencement ceremonies for each high school in their respective high school football stadium.

Superintendent's COVID-19 Update continued:

Ceremonies will be at 8:00 a.m. and each graduate will be limited to two admission tickets. The ceremonies will be livestreamed so all family and friends not in attendance can participate. The event will be posted to the district website and graduates will receive a DVD at a later date. Strict social distancing guidelines will be in place involving masks, specific points of entry, hand sanitizer, temperature checks and assigned seating six feet apart. The graduates will follow the tradition of walking across the stage in cap and gown. At the conclusion of the ceremony, people will process out of the stadium in a socially distanced manner. Dr. Little presented the ceremony dates and rain dates.

9.2 End of Year Instructional Update - Gloria J. Talley, ED.D., Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Talley said communications have been sent to families regarding school closures and ending dates. The seniors' last day of school is May 15, 2020 and there are plans to celebrate the following week. During the last week of school teachers will be working on cumulative folders, collecting missing work and continuing e-learning. Teachers will have the opportunity to reflect and provide input as it relates to guidelines from the State on returning to school. The district will analyze academic and behavioral data and anticipate social and emotional needs as we move forward. Dr. Talley said she is proud of all of our school and district staff and asked that everyone thank a teacher during National Teacher Appreciation Week.

9.3 College Center Update - Brandon L. Baskett, Dean for Higher Education Services

Mr. Baskett was introduced as the new leader of The College Center at Gilbert High School. Mr. Baskett updated the Board on preparations for the 2020-2021 school year. In collaboration with district graphic designers, they have created a brand for the Center, also called TCC. This conveys the goal of the program which is to bridge the opportunity gap for students, often first generation college students, to transition from high school to successful college students.

Phase 1 of the program included visiting 7 of the 8 middle schools prior to the COVID-19 school closure. TCC received 150 student recommendations from teachers and counselors. Recommendations were based on criteria including students identified in the 40th percentile on state English and Math scores and students exhibiting core AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) principles.

Phase 2 included recruitment and selection for the 30 spots available in the year one cohort. As of May 4, 2020, TCC had received 24 student applications. There have been challenges during the closure due to home internet access, but Mr. Baskett and school counselors have been reaching out to families to encourage them to apply. Mr. Baskett shared demographics of applicants. Of the 24 candidates almost all would be first generation college students. In addressing the rate of return on applications, Mr. Baskett indicated that he did not have the opportunity to meet with students and families prior to the school closure to promote the program and generate excitement for it. He said transportation will operate similar to the current centers of study. Students will go to their home school and be bused to Gilbert High School.

Phase 3 of implementation from May through July will include finalizing the schedule, identifying students that may need an Honors English class over the summer and a virtual student orientation this summer. The TCC teachers will be current Gilbert High School staff. They will go through AVID training this summer. He is continuing to reach out to students to fill the remaining 6 spots for the 2020-2021 year. Board members expressed an interest in comparing assessment scores from the first year cohort and those students that were recommended but did not submit an application.

10.0 Adjourn Open Session

Chair Smith wanted to reassure the community that the Board is looking to the future and preparing for the August school opening under the guidance of the Governor and CDC. As this is National Teacher Appreciation Week, board members recognized the hard work of our teachers especially during this time. She expressed excitement in celebrating the district's seniors and appreciation to the Communications team for making these virtual board meetings possible. She 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,

Dr. Brent Powers, Secretary