

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 19, 2020**

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 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 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:** Cynthia Smith, Anne Marie Green, Brent Powers, Mike Anderson and Tim Oswald were present in the Auditorium. Jada Garris and 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 to consider employment recommendations for 2020-2021. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

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

**3.0 Adjourn Executive Session**

Chair Smith welcomed everyone to the May 19, 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	Green	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 19, 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 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 its 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. If we exceed our limit in the Auditorium, they will go to the Staff Development Room/Overflow Room, where they will observe social distancing guidelines.

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

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 Mike Anderson for the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Green	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

**6.0 Approval of Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Board Meeting**

Minutes of the April 21, 2020, regular board meeting 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 19 certified recommendations for the 2020-2021 academic school 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 two administrative recommendations for the 2020-2021 academic school year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

**8.0 Citizens' Participation**

Chair Smith read the guidelines for citizens' participation and invited community members to address the board of trustees at this time.

**8.0 Citizens' Participation (continued)**

Chris Threatt, 608 Cedar Field Lane, West Columbia, addressed the board regarding the purchase of the property on Two Notch Road for the proposed bus lot. Mr. Threatt said the property at 1668 Two Notch Road has four families in homes and a bar that is in operation. He brought signed petitions to oppose the purchase and asked if there was other land that could be purchased. He asked if there was any allowance for the buildings to stay on the property.

Charles Clayton, 1758 Two Notch Road, Lexington, addressed the purchase of property on Two Notch Road. He said there is a bar on the property that opened in July 2009 and has remained open until the Governor's current shutdown. There are people living in the house, trailer and camper. He asked if the land was not being fully used, why would the buildings be knocked down, the occupants displaced and the income from the business taken.

Brett Dennis Railing, 144 Pinestraw Circle, Lexington, addressed the purchase of property at 1668 Two Notch Road. He agreed with the comments of the previous speakers. He said the property consisted of low income housing and it would be difficult for those tenants to find another home in that price range. He asked if it would be possible to buy the larger parcel but not the 2.6 acre parcel so that the homes and business could remain.

Chair Smith requested that Mr. Salters call the community members to discuss their questions.

**9.0 Action Item**

**9.1 First Reading Proposed 2020-2021 General Fund Operating Budget - Jeff Salters, Chief Financial Officer**

Mr. Salters presented the first reading of the general fund operating budget. Mr. Salters said the General Fund operating budget is the district's revenues and expenditures received and spent for the day-to-day operations of the district. The capital budget consists of funds that are restricted by law or bond covenants and those funds are used for major building, technology and renovation projects as well as buses, library books and band instruments. Mr. Salters said the general assembly passed a continuing resolution to continue to fund districts the same as last year until it convenes in September. He anticipates a budget amendment after the General Assembly reconvenes. The budget presented is fiscally responsible in anticipation of general assembly adjustments due to the state of the economy and consequences of COVID-19.

The proposed budget provides for projected growth of 527 new students bringing projected enrollment to 27,034 students and an additional 847 preschool students. No salary or step increases are included at this time due to the uncertainty of state funding. We do not know what the impact of the pandemic will be but during the 2008-2009 recession we experienced higher growth numbers than in earlier years. The budget includes priorities to open and restructure the current building projects and to prepare for COVID-19 impacts and unknowns.

Mr. Salters reviewed the proposed net staffing changes of an additional 15.50 FTEs. Most of that staffing growth is to support special needs programs. Although Dr. Little worked to reduce student/teacher ratios, student growth and staffing changes will affect those ratios especially at the elementary level. Due to growth at the middle and high school level, staffing models would allow flexibility to assign staff to meet needs.

Mr. Salters discussed increases and decreases in programs and services resulting in a reduction in programs and services expenditures of \$899,810. Increases included an increase in unemployment compensation reimbursements due to COVID-19 and a new Employee Assistance Program for the district. He explained decreased expenditures were due in large part to the Finance team analyzing budget to actual numbers; looking at accounts that may not be utilized as much this year due to COVID-19; and, consolidating costs for supplies.

On the revenue side, Mr. Salters explained a projected decrease of \$8,022,405. He said the district is continuing to review school fees as it did in 2019-2020 which resulted in reduced middle school fees.

Elementary and high school fees will be reduced in the proposed budget. He is projecting a \$5 million decrease in local revenue due to property and vehicle taxes and low investment rate returns. The district is not recommending a millage increase for operations as local businesses are facing challenges. The legislature has not yet approved the budget so we are basing our budget on revenue received for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Overall operating expenditures are projected at an \$8 million decrease. Although there are no salary cuts in this budget, we will experience a lower base budget due to retirements and attrition and using a fill rate of 98 percent for hiring projections.

Mr. Salters congratulated the finance staff for receiving an outstanding award on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 24th year in a row.

The second reading of the 2020-2021 general fund budget will be held on June 2, 2020 and a budget hearing will be held on June 16, 2020 at the regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Board will take action on the 2020-2021 general fund operating budget following the budget hearing on June 16, 2020.

**10.0 Action Items**

**10.1 Nomination of Board Member for a SCSBA Position as an Officer for 2021–2022 — Chair Cynthia S. Smith**

Chair Smith called for a motion to nominate Board member Anne Marie Green for the SCSBA treasury/secretary position for 2020-2021. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	5 in favor; 1 opposed – Garris; Green abstained

Chair Smith said Ms. Green expressed an interest in the position. Chair Smith explained she was bringing her recommendation to the Board to nominate Ms. Green for the position. A Board nomination is required for Ms. Green to become a candidate.

**11.0 Superintendent’s Report**

**11.1 Report — Superintendent’s Update — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, Ed.D.**

Dr. Little told the Board the district is hard at work preparing for the remainder of the school year and for graduations. He mentioned Glow for Grads on May 20, 2020 at 8:20 p.m. The community is encouraged to turn on porch lights to celebrate graduates. Senior athletes will have a parade near the stadium. The district is planning for the 2020-2021 school re-entry. The district is working under guidance of the Department of Education and reviewing other district plans and research based suggestions. He hopes to update the board on the re-entry plan at the June 16, 2020 board meeting.

**11.2 Report — Operations Update — Jeffrey S. Salters, Chief Operations Officer**

Mr. Salters reported on the construction progress of Centerville Elementary School and Pelion Middle School. He reported on Pelion High School athletic improvements, Oak Grove Elementary’s addition of 8 classrooms and site development at the new Lexington Middle School. He highlighted projects from the bond referendum that are beginning this summer. All progress is updated on the Lexington One website.

**11.3 Report — Middle School Schedule Update — Ryan Pool, Secondary Schools Director**

Mr. Pool reported on a middle school strategic scheduling plan that focuses on the students’ use of time, space and place in learning. The objective was to give students choices for exploring a wider range of programs to meet their goals and add face-to-face time in core classes. He reviewed a three

elective schedule that was piloted this year in four middle schools. Feedback from the principals has been positive. Students did not have to give up extracurricular connections to get additional core academic assistance. Academic data from STAR 360 tests and other assessments that look at numeracy and literacy would measure progress; however, due to the shortened school year, we will not have the full picture of results until the following year. The plan is to implement this in seven of the eight middle schools next year; however, the plan may need to be altered depending on the re-entry plan for students.

**11.4 Report — Lexington Middle School Rebranding — Casey B. Calhoun, Principal**

Mr. Calhoun said that as Lexington Middle School (LMS) became a full feeder school to River Bluff High School (RBHS) and construction began on the new school, there became a need to look at rebranding LMS. Surveys and discussions with students, staff, School Improvement Council and parents support a complete rebrand and fresh vision for the new school. Honoring the history of LMS was also extremely important especially to the staff. The district will come back to the board with suggestions for a name change and will follow the process for consideration of a name change including community feedback.

**11.5 First Reading — Policy BEC Executive Sessions/Open Meetings — Mary Beth Hill, Chief Communications Officer**

Ms. Hill presented the Board with the first reading of Board Policy BEC regarding confidentiality in executive sessions. She provided the existing policy with proposed changes. The revisions are based on the SCSBA model and recommendations of the district's attorney.

**12.0 Items for Board Information**

The remaining items were for Board information.

**13.0 Adjourn Open Session**

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

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brent Powers, Secretary