

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 17, 2020**

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 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. 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 Cynthia Smith, Vice Chair Anne Marie Green, Tim Oswald, Jada Garris, Kyle Guyton, and Mike Anderson. Secretary Brent Powers was not present. Anne Marie Green was appointed acting Secretary.

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

Chair Smith called the meeting to order and reported that due to an election recount of the Board of Trustees November 3, 2020 election results under South Carolina legislation, the new and re-elected Board members would not begin their term until November 19, 2020. She congratulated those elected and thanked all of the other candidates for their willingness to run for an elected position.

**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, second and approved unanimously.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Anderson	Green	Approved Unanimously

The board of trustees adjourned for executive session in the auditorium.

**3.0 Adjourn Executive Session**

Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn executive session and begin the general session of the November 17, 2020 board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Green	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

**4.0 Call to Order General Session of the November 17, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting**

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

Chair Smith called to order the general session of the November 17, 2020 board meeting at 7:00 pm.

She said the Board was meeting in compliance with CDC recommendations. The auditorium has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before the meeting and will be after the meeting also. District staff will also sanitize the microphone before and after staff presentations or individuals speaking during Citizens' Participation. All board members, employees or other individuals in attendance are encouraged to social distance and must wear a face covering at all times.

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There will be limited seating to maintain social distancing. Once that seating is filled, attendees will be asked to go to the Staff Development Room/Overflow Room, where they can watch the meeting while also observing social distancing guidelines.

The public was encouraged to watch the meeting on the district’s YouTube channel. After the meeting, the district will follow it’s previously established process by posting 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 Smith called on Dr. Kyle Guyton for the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

**5.0 Approval of Agenda**

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

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Green	Oswald	Approved Unanimously

**6.0 Approval of the Minutes of the October 6 and October 20, 2020 Board Meeting**

Minutes of the October 6 and October 20, 2020 board meetings were included for approval. Chair Smith asked 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 Report and Action Items from Executive Session**

**Employment Matters**

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

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Green	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

**8.0 Citizens’ Participation**

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

**9.0 Action Items**

**9.1 Temporary Modification of Board Policy IKAA Tests and Examinations - Gloria Talley, Ed.D.**

Chair Smith called for a motion to approve the administration's request to temporarily modify Board Policy IKAA - Tests and Examinations due to COVID-19. Under the guidance of Policy BDH - Suspension of Policies, which gives the Board the ability to temporarily suspend Board policies due to extreme emergencies, Mr. Oswald so moved that the Board approve administration's request to temporarily modify Board Policy IKAA - Tests and Examinations, due to COVID-19. The modification would temporarily adjust the cumulative, end-of-course examination weight to 10% in the final course average.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Oswald	Green	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Dr. Talley explained that the district received a memorandum from the State School Superintendent to waive the End of Course examination (EOC) grades or adjust them as the district deemed appropriate. The district has asked that the weighted grade be adjusted to 10%. Dr. Talley indicated she and Dr. Thomas Rivers, Secondary School Coordinator, consulted with administrators and teachers in making this decision. Dr. Talley took questions from the Board. Ms. Garris asked if the EOC could be eliminated and allow the teachers to create their own final examination. Dr. Talley indicated the memorandum from the State Superintendent did not allow the EOC to be waived but allowed for a waiver or adjustment of the scores. Dr. Talley addressed questions regarding other grading policies and practices.

**9.2 Proposal to Change December 8, 2020 Board Meeting to December 1, 2020 - Mary Beth Hill, Chief Communications Officer**

Chair Smith called for a motion to change the Board of Trustees meeting from December 8 to December 1, 2020.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Guyton	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Ms. Hill explained the rationale for changing the meeting. Lexington County Council has a public hearing on December 8, 2020 that district administrators and Board members may attend to give comment on a proposed stormwater utility fee which could impact the district. Administration will also be seeking action on a time sensitive financial matter, and the newly elected board member swearing-in ceremony would be conducted at that time. Dr. Guyton asked if the district's board meetings conflict with other county governing board. The board discussed that this normally is not a conflict; however, when adopting the new board meeting calendar for 2021-2022 that could be examined.

**10.0 Superintendent's Report**

**10.1 Superintendent's Update - Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D**

Superintendent Little reported that 7th and 8th grade students in the hybrid model transitioned to the 4 + 1 model on Monday, November 16, 2020. Additionally second semester scheduling choice survey

**10.1 Superintendent’s Report (continued):**

responses thus far indicate approximately 18% of Lexington One students are choosing LOOLA (the Online Learning Academy). He introduced Dr. Thomas Rivers, Secondary Schools Director to give an update on phase two academic reentry progress.

**10.2 Phase Two Progress - Thomas Rivers, Ph.D., Secondary Schools Director**

Dr. Rivers gave an overview of lessons learned during the first nine weeks of the academic year. These lessons showed that while quarantining is disruptive to the educational environment, the hybrid model is a stable educational experience for students, and that safety and social distancing is impactful and significant. Dr. Rivers reviewed the reentry transition timeline. As of November 16, 2020, all PreK through 8th grade students in the hybrid model have transitioned into the 4 + 1 model. He announced that high school students in the hybrid model will return to the 4 + 1 model on January 19, 2021 - the first day of second semester. Considerations were given due to the volume of students assigned to classes, larger staffing ratios, and the increased potential for quarantine due to the Thanksgiving and winter holidays. These factors could be disruptive to students when they return from winter break and prepare for semester one final exams. Dr. Rivers addressed plans to work with students who are struggling academically, including continuing to bring Online Learning Academy (LOOLA) students back, using Fridays for extra support sessions and home visits, and offering grade recovery for first semester assignments. Dr. Rivers reviewed quarter one grades for hybrid and LOOLA students. LOOLA student failure rate is higher than hybrid students, therefore work with those students would be intensified. Dr. Rivers took questions and comment from the Board including questions regarding the failure rate and social distancing comparisons for elementary students versus older students.

**10.3 Report - Operations Update - Jeff Salters, Chief Operations Officer**

Mr. Salters gave an update of ongoing capital projects. He showed photos of the new Pelion Middle School and shared that it is close to move-in ready and final inspections were complete. Students and staff will occupy the building on January 4, 2021. He showed aerial photos and reported progress on the new Lexington Middle School. Mr. Salters showed photos of the new classroom additions at Oak Grove Elementary and White Knoll Elementary and improvements to the welding lab at Lexington Technology Center and canopies additions that create additional outdoor learning space for lab classrooms. He showed photos of progress on the White Knoll High School classroom addition and the new performing arts center. Mr. Salters shared information regarding the failed retaining wall at River Bluff and the repairs and rebuild. The retaining wall is ten years old and there is no guarantee on the work at this point. The Board asked about additional projects. Mr. Salters reported that plans for the Gilbert High School Performing Arts Center, weight room and wrestling room are complete and the district is in negotiations with the contractor. The district is beginning conversations regarding an additional elementary school for the River Bluff attendance area.

**10.4 Report - Lexington County Stormwater Utility Fee - Jeff Salters**

Mr. Salters provided information on a proposed stormwater utility fee and potential impact of this fee on the district. He shared pieces of presentations and information provided at Lexington County Council meetings. Lexington County is proposing a stormwater utility fee for commercial and residential property owners to support a budget deficit to pay for stormwater system repairs and

**10.4 Lexington County Stormwater Utility Fee (continued):**

improvements. The proposal includes an estimated assessment of \$6.50 per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) with the commercial ERU based on 2,800 square feet of impervious surface. There may be some credits applied to commercial property. Mr. Salters gave examples which demonstrate the potential financial impact this could place on the district. District-wide estimates are \$477,477 annually which would begin with assessment on October 2022 tax statements. In order to fund this tax assessment, the district is limited by Act 388 which would place an assessment by the district primarily on businesses. Lexington One has proposed recommendations to the County to exempt any taxing authority and to modify the ERU multiplier to make up lost revenue from this action. This would spread the impact over all taxpayers and not just those limited by Act 388. Mr. Salters said there is a public hearing and second reading on December 8, 2020 which is the meeting that administration and board members can provide public feedback on the district's position. All Lexington County Superintendents and school boards have been discussing this issue. Ms. Green said she is working to unite all Lexington County school districts to present a united front.

**10.5 Report - Policy JFABF - Students in Foster Care Policy Introduction - Jeff Caldwell**

Mr. Caldwell provided an introduction to a new policy that provides the framework for the district's protocol for working with students placed in foster care. The policy provides for keeping the student in his/her home school if it is in the best interest of the student.

**10.6 Report - Policy GBEBDA Criminal Record Checks Introduction - Mike Stacey, Chief Human Resources Officer**

Mr. Stacey informed the Board that the policies being introduced are model policies from the South Carolina School Board Association which will incorporate the district's existing policies and make necessary updates.

Mr. Stacey introduced Policy GBEBDA, a new policy specific to employee background checks. The policy includes language that the district must lawfully conduct a SLED background check, National Sex Offender Registry check, Department of Social Services Child Abuse and Neglect Registry check and an immigration check for all new employees to the district.

**10.7 Report - Policy GCF, GCF-R Professional Staff Hiring Introduction - Mike Stacey**

Mr. Stacey shared changes that would be adopted to Policy GCF that removes the language regarding the policy on background checks. Policy GBEBDA which is a new, stand-alone policy that addresses background checks specifically. Mr. Stacey said changes to GCF-R, address notifying applicants after the application deadline, and grants more authority to principals and supervisors in the interview and hiring process.

**10.8 Report – GDF, GDF-R Professional Staff Recruitment Introduction – Mike Stacey**

Mr. Stacey said changes to Policy GDF are the same changes as that proposed in Policy GCF but now specifically for support staff versus professional staff. He identified new language specifically identifying licensed professionals in GDF-R.

**10.9 Report - Policy GCE, GCE-R Professional Staff Recruitment Introduction - Mike Stacey**

Mr. Stacey shared that changes to Policy GCE are added language for additional positions to include Central Services staff and changes that place more emphasis on non-discrimination practices. GCE-R updates include strategies utilized for recruitment to be more electronic in nature.

**11.0 Items for Board Information**

Chair Smith indicated these items were presented for information only.

**11.1 Monthly General Fund Financial Report - October 2020**

**11.2 Monthly General Fund Budget Transfers - October 2020**

**11.3 Monthly Capital Projects Report - October 2020**

**11.4 Monthly Unauthorized Procurements Report - October 2020**

**12.0 Adjourn Open Session**

Chair Smith called for a motion to adjourn general session. A motion was made, seconded and approved at 8:35 p.m. unanimously.

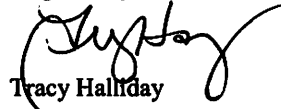
<b>Motion</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Action</b>
Anderson	Green	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted:



Ms. Anne Marie Green  
Acting Secretary

Prepared by:



Tracy Halliday  
Executive Administrative Assistant