

# August 25, 2023 - Board Brief

## Gerrita Postlewait and Senior Leadership Team

### COMMUNICATIONS

[A Day in the Life of Middle School](#)

### FINANCE

The finance team has been working closely with our financial advisors and bond attorney on the recently approved debt issuances. Part of that process is obtaining bond ratings from rating agencies. The press release for those ratings went out on August 22, 2023 and are summarized below: (Click on each link for the full press release)

- [S&P Global Ratings](#) assigned its 'AA' long-term rating and 'AA' underlying rating to Lexington County School District (SD) No. 1, S.C.'s series 2023B general obligation (GO) bonds in the amount of \$16.5 million. The outlook is stable.
- [Moody's Investors Service](#) has assigned Aa2 underlying and Aa1 enhanced ratings to Lexington County School District 1, SC's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023B, which have a proposed par amount of roughly \$16.5 million. Moody's maintains Aa2 issuer and Aa3 lease appropriation ratings for the school district. The outlook is stable.

### HUMAN RESOURCES

#### Kelly Services Update

In Spring, 2023 we began transitioning to Kelly Services for our substitutes. 263 subs joined Kelly Services then. The Kelly list is now at 412 active substitutes. We continue to fine tune our work with them, but right now we are at a roughly 90% fill rate.

#### ParaPro Exam

Our instructional support staff employees are required to have one of these qualifications: 60 semester hours of accredited higher education **OR** an associate's degree (or higher) **OR** pass the ParaPro assessment. The Adult Education division has been partnering to administer the ParaPro exam to Lex 1 employees and also to many employees throughout the state. ParaPro charges employees \$55 per test. In an effort to further support [Lex One](#) employees, we are examining ways to reimburse them from this point forward if they need to take the parapro exam.

### INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

#### Erin's Law

A board member requested additional information regarding the district's plan to comply with Erin's Law. When Erin's Law, (59-32-20(B)), passed in 2014, the district began implementing the required lessons. Elementary counselors have been teaching the 4K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade lessons since the start. Until this year, Erin's Law lessons were taught as part of the health curriculum for all secondary schools. We are revising middle school lessons plans. Middle school parents will receive notification when planning is completed and before lessons are implemented. Middle school counselors will teach grade level lessons annually. Beginning this year, Pathways to Healing personnel will provide the lessons to high school students in order to ensure HS students receive the lessons per statute. Erin's Law does not provide parents with an opt out option, but they may request to preview the curriculum. Each individual school sets the exact dates for lessons at each grade level.

#### Preschool Update

Currently, we have 405 students on our waiting list for our 4K programs. It is noteworthy that 130 of these students meet either Medicaid eligibility criteria or are at or below 185% of the federal poverty level, underlining the need for accessible preschool programs.

#### SGES - 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant

Saxe Gotha Elementary was recently awarded a 4-year, \$469,533 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC) after school program grant to serve 75 students in grades 2-5. School administrators and staff are focused on garnering improved outcomes for participants by implementing targeted instruction through a comprehensive literacy intervention program, as well as a research-based math program aligned to state math standards. The Lexington County Public Library and Lexington County Sheriff's Department are our proposed partners for the afterschool program, so that the school is well poised to serve the youth and their families in the Red Bank community.



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### OPERATIONS & STUDENT SERVICES

#### DHEC to Provide Schools with Naloxone (Narcan)

House Bill 4122 directed DHEC to distribute certain life saving medications that school nurses and trained staff are authorized to use in schools. DHEC has provided naloxone (narcan) for each school in our district. We are awaiting their training guidelines and protocols before proceeding.

Kyle McKee, 8/21/23: Video from the gym [at Pleasant Hill Elementary] where the children are sent for dismissal to the hallway the children leave out of. Between the time of 2:05 pm and 2:20 pm on Monday August 21.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### Enrollment Count

The total enrollment count for Day 10 was 26,545 students in grades K-12. That's an increase of 601 students from the 1st day of school. Click [here](#) for 2023-2024 enrollment information to date.

### SUPERINTENDENT

#### Book Study Sept. 19 Meeting

The *Good to Great* monograph is about 35 pages long, so hopefully everyone will have adequate time to read it in the next 3 weeks. If time permits, we plan to hold a discussion of the book in conjunction with the Sept. 19 Board Meeting. Leadership team members will participate in the book discussion with board members.

#### Lex One Principal is Superintendent Finalist

The Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees announced the 5 finalists for their Superintendency. Heath Branham, Centerville Elementary's Principal, has been named as one of 5 finalists for that position. Congratulations, Mr. Branham!

### FOIA REQUESTS RECEIVED

Chris Joseph, WIS News, 8/21/23: All documents, video (in color and with sound), photos (in color) or other records produced, obtained, or possessed by Lexington 1 related to the firing of teachers due to inappropriate physical contact or communications with students from April 1, 2023 to August 21, 2023.



Lexington County School District One

Empowering each child to design the future