

# September 8, 2023 - Board Brief

Gerrita Postlewait and Senior Leadership Team

## FINANCE

Our finance team has continued to work 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. A press release for the ratings on the Series 2023C went out on August 31, 2023 and is summarized below: (Click [here](#) for the full press release)

Moody's Investors Service had already assigned Aa2 underlying and Aa1 enhanced ratings to Lexington County School District One, SC's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023B, which have a proposed par amount of roughly \$16.5 million. Additionally, Moody's assigned a MG1 rating to the Series 2023C short term general obligation bonds. The outlook is stable.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources and Instructional Services are excited to partner again during the 2023-24 school year to offer the LEAD Forward Support Staff Leadership Development Program to another cohort of support staff employees. Piloted during the 2022-23 school year, LEAD Forward offers support staff employees a unique opportunity to develop their leadership skills through interactive professional learning experiences that are focused on effective communication, understanding team dynamics, building trust and collaboration among team members, working toward common goals, and handling conflicts effectively.

LEAD Forward is divided into two cohorts - supervisors and non-supervisors. Cohorts meet in-person throughout the school year. Sessions are usually three to four hours in length, but are always designed with frequent interactivity and group discussion. This year we will serve 22 support staff employees.

## INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

### Curriculum Effectiveness Audit Update

Last week we shared with you what the external Curriculum Effectiveness Audit Team will be doing the week of September 18. This week we want to share with you the why and desired outcomes. The purpose of the audit is to evaluate the strength of curriculum

alignment and implementation across grade levels and content areas. We want to make certain that students across the system have access to high-quality, standards-based learning experiences. The audit will allow us to take a close look at the content teachers and students have access to, the instructional and assessment methods used in classrooms, and the impact of the systems, policies and procedures that surround classroom instruction. More specifically, included in the audit is the evaluation of:

- The extent of coverage and quality of the school district's curriculum, programs, and services;
- Documentation of curriculum expectations to guide teachers' instructions;
- The appropriateness of curriculum expectations for learners;
- The effectiveness of the implementation of the educational program;
- How the system assesses student mastery of the intended learning objectives and evaluates the success of its educational programs;
- The scope and quality of policies and procedures for effective governance of the system;
- Connections and relationships among organizational components for consistency and parity of programs and services; and
- The use of staffing and resources for maximum productivity.

We will use the findings and recommendations from the audit to inform priorities and strategies in the next strategic plan and budget and also to enhance the implementation of the district's new instructional framework. Kudos to Dr. Erica Bissell who has shouldered the yeoman's share of the coordination effort.

## OPERATIONS & STUDENT SERVICES

### Operating Buses

When wind forces of 30 MPH or greater strike the side of a school bus, the forces exerted can exceed 500 pounds. Forces of this magnitude can greatly impact steering control and tracking of school buses in motion. This is true for sustained winds of 30 MPH or greater or wind gusts greater than 40 MPH. Predicted wind gusts, as well as conditions of miles of dirt roads with heavy rainfall, along with

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adequate advance notice to working parents, are important factors taken into consideration when we make decisions regarding school operations.

FOIA REQUESTS RECEIVED (*None*)

