

September 22, 2023 - Board Brief

Gerrita Postlewait and Senior Leadership Team

COMMUNICATIONS

Board Meetings to be Held in Pelion and LHS:

Dec. and Feb. board meetings will be held at district schools. Meet & Greets with Board and District Leaders will take place on December 12 at the Pelion Performing Arts Center and on February 20 at the Lexington Performing Arts Center. Both will precede the regular board meeting. If necessary, the start of the executive sessions will be adjusted in order to hold the community greet time from 5:30-6 p.m. Information about the Meet and Greets will be shared with employees and families in upcoming issues of *Inside Voice*.

ParentSquare Update

ParentSquare officially launched on August 1, 2023. In addition to providing one platform for classroom, school and district communications, ParentSquare provides a contactability dashboard for the district and schools. School employees, including our student data specialists, are working toward 100% parent participation. Only 99 family records need some updates to get to 100%. All of our schools are >95%.

FINANCE

The General Obligation Bonds, Series 2023C in the amount of \$23,100,000 were awarded to Jefferies LLC. at an interest rate of 3.68% (the lowest bid received) on September 14. Proceeds of this issuance will be used to make the Installment Purchase Revenue Bonds payments along with providing funding for the cost of acquiring, constructing, equipping and furnishing school facilities. Proposed capital project priorities will be presented to the board soon (hopefully on October 24).

HUMAN RESOURCES

Carolina TIP

The district continues a valuable partnership with the Carolina TIP program, USC's teacher induction program that is free to USC Columbia graduates who are in their 1st, 2nd or 3rd year of teaching in partner districts. Participants attend engaging professional learning sessions and even benefit from onsite

coaching and support. This year we have sixteen participants compared to nine participants last year.

Update on Substitute Fill Rates

Last year at this time we had a fill rate of 67.91%. The fill rate this year for the same time period is 79.92%. It is important to note that we have seen an increase in the fill rate even though there were 193 more absences this year during this one week time period.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Math Update

With a focus on accelerating students' learning in math, the district is implementing strategies to support staff and students in this area. The following two strategies are among other targeted efforts to improve math performance:

The **restructured Math Homework Help Center** allows each school to offer one-hour tutoring sessions before school and/or after school for a total of four hours of tutoring each week. The Center is staffed by certified teachers and is currently providing services in all middle schools, high schools, and The College Center.

The **graduate course, Teaching Mathematics Developmentally in PreK through Fifth Grades**, is currently being offered to 25 teachers. The focus of this NEW course is to increase instructional effectiveness. This includes knowing and understanding new South Carolina Standards. Participants will gain understanding of how to engage in meaningful mathematics as well as how the delivery of learning impacts student outcomes.

Governor's School of Science and Mathematics

Accelerate Program

Ten years ago Lexington One partnered with the Governor's School of Science and Mathematics to implement the Accelerate Program, a virtual dual enrollment engineering program beginning in a student's 10th grade year. Since then, the district has added The College Center, enhanced dual enrollment opportunities through USC Sumter and Midlands Technical College, and established a partnership with the Center for Advanced STEM Studies at the University of South Carolina's Center for Aerospace Engineering. Due to declining enrollment in the



September 22, 2023 - Board Brief

Gerrita Postlewait and Senior Leadership Team

Governor's School program the district will not recruit a new 10th grade cohort for next year, Students currently in the program will be able to complete it.

OPERATIONS & STUDENT SERVICES

Drug Testing According to Board Policy

Two student drug testing sessions (interscholastic athletic competitors & district student drivers) have occurred this school year. Results from the first administration, returned 2 positive results out of 115 tests.

SUPERINTENDENT

10-day Enrollment Trends

Linked [here](#) are 10-day enrollment trends by grade level for 2023-2024 compared to the two previous school years.

Alleged Bomb Threat Perpetrator Arrested

The alleged perpetrator of several bomb threats in Lex One is currently in police custody. A disciplinary hearing is planned, pending full investigation and due process.

FOIA REQUESTS RECEIVED

Gary M. Collins, News Researcher, Sinclair, Inc., 9/15/23:

Requesting the following:

The school district's sports emergency medical action plan.

- All public records showing the number of AEDs the district possesses.

- All public records showing the locations of the district's AEDs.

- The district's policies for use of AEDs.

- All public records showing the district's training for use of AEDs.

- All public records showing the availability of AEDs by sport.

- All materials provided to students relating to gender identity and sexual orientation.

- All materials provided to students containing the term "antiracism."

- All materials provided to students and staff containing the phrase "gender-affirming care."

- All materials provided to staff containing the phrase "restorative justice."

- All public records relating to drag performances sponsored by the district or held on school district grounds.

- Please note this request only pertains to the time period between January 1, 2022 and July 24, 2023.

The phrase "relating to," and all its permutations, when used in conjunction with this request, means embodying, recording, evidencing, summarizing, digesting, referring to, commenting upon, describing, reporting, listing, analyzing, studying, or otherwise discussing in any way a subject matter identified in this request. This request should be interpreted broadly and in accordance with its plain language, rather than narrowly construed, and includes all emails and text messages, including communications on private devices pertaining to city business. If you are uncertain as to the scope of this request, please contact me for clarification.



Lexington County School District One

Empowering each child to design the future