

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, in the Lexington County School District One's Central Services Building One located at 100 Tarrar Springs Road in Lexington, South Carolina. The Board of Trustees reconvened for general session immediately upon conclusion of executive session. 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 Anne Marie Green, Vice Chair Brent Powers, Secretary Mike Anderson, Jada Garris, Kyle Guyton, Kathy Henson and Tim Oswald.

1.0 Call to Order 6:30 p.m. Executive Session

Chair Green called the meeting to order.

2.0 Executive Session

Chair Green called for a motion to enter into executive session to consider employment recommendations for the 2021-2022 academic year. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Guyton	Approved Unanimously

The Board of Trustees adjourned for executive session in the auditorium.

3.0 Adjourn Executive Session

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn executive session and begin the general session of the May 4, 2021 board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

4.0 Call to Order General Session of the May 4, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Chair Green called to order the general session of the May 4, 2021 board meeting at 6:45 pm.

The meeting was held in compliance with the CDC COVID-19 guidelines and district precautionary measures. All attendees were encouraged to social distance and were required to wear a face covering at all times. 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 Green yielded the floor to Dr. Kyle Guyton to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

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

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

7.0 Reports and Action Items, if Needed, from Executive Session

Chair Green called for a motion to approve 41 certified recommendations for the 2021-2022 academic

Action Items from Executive Session (continued):

year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Mr. Stacey gave an update on vacancies. Renewal contracts were issued on April 26, 2021, and due on May 10, 2021, and approximately 80% have been received to date.

Chair Green called for a motion to approve one administrative recommendation for the 2021-2022 academic year. A motion was made to approve the recommendations as presented. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

7.0 Citizens' Participation

Chair Green read the guidelines for Citizens' Participation.

The following citizens addressed the Board of Trustees advocating for making masks optional for students and demanding a vote by the board to do so. Individuals spoke about their right to make the medical decisions for their children. It should be parent choice if their child wears a mask or doesn't wear a mask. They discussed studies that show that masks don't work and refuted studies that indicate they do; and, they addressed low rates of COVID cases in children and low rate of spread by children. They expressed concerns stemming from wearing masks - social and emotional issues, mental health problems, issues with the masks and breathing, germs and headaches. Several students also advocated for making masks optional and shared their experiences and concerns about social issues and activities that have been limited, emotional and mental health issues, discipline at school for not wearing masks properly, headaches and difficulty wearing masks and breathing with them.

Stephanie Berquist, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school students
 Jennifer Watkins Jeffcoat, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students
 Brent Jeffcoat, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students
 Rebekah Godfrey, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school students
 Robin Vaughan-Parlor, Lexington, SC, grandparent of elementary student
 Derek Blizzard, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school student
 John Mew, Lexington, SC, students in private school
 James Reynolds, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Melissa Crapps, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary student
 Angie Peters, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students
 Madison Rogers, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary student
 Michael Astraochas, Lexington, SC
 Holly Alcamo, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and high school students
 Madison Holland, Lexington, SC, an elementary student
 Nicole Waters, Leesville, SC, parent of elementary student
 Debbie Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students
 Jacob Heim, Lexington, SC, high school student
 Matt Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students
 Pamela Gibbons, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Ali Purdy, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Kaleigh Purdy, Lexington, SC, middle school student
 Ginger Gary, West Columbia, parent of middle and high school students
 Garry Martin, Lexington, SC, granddaughter in elementary school

Citizens' Participation (continued):

Justin Silver, Gilbert, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Anderson Stumpf, Lexington, SC, elementary student
 Jackie Bruce, Gilbert, SC, parent of high school student student
 Monica Lee, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Theresa Goff, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary student
 Thomas Caslio, grandparent of students in elementary and middle school
 Kenneth Nicewonger, Lexington, SC, grandparent of elementary and middle school students
 Gregory Lepley, Gilbert, SC, parent of middle and high school students
 Sean Daughtry, Gilbert, SC, student in private school
 Aaron Berquist, parent of middle school students
 Michael Sineni, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students
 Silvia Giarusso, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students
 Michael Travis Brown, parent of elementary students
 Richard Wilson, Lexington, SC, parent of high school student
 Michelle Feagin, Lexington, SC, parent of charter school students
 Julia Purvis, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary student
 Alyssa Aleman, Lexington, SC, parent of high school student
 Ivelisse Ortiz-Hernandez, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Travis Bethune, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school students, also concerned about critical race theory
 Cary Snyder, Lexington, SC, parent of middle and high school students
 Ric Bailey, Lexington, SC, parent of high school student
 Michael Oxner, Lexington, SC, parent of middle and high school students
 Michael Barrett McCown, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school student
 Katherine McCown, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Sarah May, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students
 Braylon Bowers, Lexington, SC, elementary student
 Lisa Bostick, Lexington, SC, parent of high school student
 Tricia Evans, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students
 Chris Neely, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary student
 Brian Minogue, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school student
 Angela Kruer, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students
 Chandler Morris, Lexington, SC, a middle school student
 Braden Pittman, Lexington, SC, a high school student
 Kathryn Viehweg, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary student
 Debbie Myers, Lexington, SC, grandmother of students in the district
 Jake Soles, Lexington, SC
 Brittany Little, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary students

Lauren Pellington, district teacher, South Carolina Education Association representative, and parent of elementary students, and Nicole Rotureau, Lexington, SC, parent of middle school, advocated for continuing the mask policy for the health and well-being of the teachers, staff and students and that the district should continue to adhere to the CDC guidelines. They also discussed data that shows masks work and advocated for vaccinations to protect children and staff.

Board of Trustees took a five minute break.

8.0 Superintendent's Report 8.1 Report — Superintendent's Update — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, Ed.D.

8.2 Report - Mask Safety

Superintendent Little gave a report on mask safety. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the district has taken deliberate and purposeful steps with every decision that has been made to minimize student and staff exposure and to keep them safe. The district has relied on the guidance and expertise of the CDC, DHEC, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) and other medical experts. Masks have been an essential part of the successful return to a five day a week in-person schedule for all students.

Mask Safety (continued):

Masks and other safety measures along with data-driven decision making have been the main reason the district has been able to keep the schools open. Dr. Little reviewed statements and guidance by the CDC, DHEC, SCDE, the South Carolina School Administrators and local medical experts that recommend keeping masks through the remainder of the year. Dr. Little played excerpts from the video the district released with Dr. Jane Kelly, DHEC assistant state epidemiologist, that reiterated the importance of keeping masks. Dr. Little said the district would continue to follow science and the SCDE guidelines through the remainder of the year. With so many events and activities remaining in the last weeks of school, the intent is to not disrupt any of the progress made or the ability for students to participate in events such as prom, graduation, testing, sports and arts events. He understood families' frustrations, but when looking at all of the factors and the recommendations of the medical community, the district administration felt it was best to continue with masks for the remainder of the school year. Dr. Little asked the board to share comments.

Ms. Garris explained that the district did not have a mask policy in place for the board to vote on and that there are processes for adding items to the agenda. The board hasn't voted on any COVID related issues or COVID funding. She was asking for transparency and the ability to have access to schools and for more individuals to be able to attend the meetings. She encouraged individuals to continue to come to board meetings.

Mr. Anderson expressed understanding of everyone's concerns. He reiterated that there is no mask policy to vote on but that the district is following the state department of education mandate requiring masks in schools.

Ms. Henson explained that she has been in schools this year throughout the Midlands through her work at University of South Carolina. She gave her perspective of unique educational opportunities students have had this year despite the stricter protocols and masks. While she looks forward to the day that her children don't have to wear a mask, the district and board need to rely on the medical experts.

Dr. Guyton said COVID has pitted people in the community against each other. As a physician, there is something about the mitigation strategies combined that are working. He has seen two cases of the flu this year. As a board member, the state department of education has mandated masks in school. The governor signed a bill that says a district can't be sued if following DHEC guidance and the SCDE. It forces the liability back to the district level if we don't follow their guidance.

Dr. Powers said there is no perfect answer. The guiding factor this year has been to get children in school and to keep them in school. As a medical professional in the hospital setting, Dr. Powers said they do many things collectively to control infection as is the case with COVID. By utilizing these collective strategies it has allowed our businesses and schools to stay open. The community has a moral commitment to do the same.

13.0 Adjourn

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Guyton	Approved Unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Prepared by:

Mr. Mike Anderson/MEA
Secretary

Tracy Halliday/TAH
Executive Administrative Assistant