

LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE
Board Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2021

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees convened in executive session at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 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 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, and to receive legal advice concerning a pending legal matter in the case of the ACLU/Applesseed vs. McMaster, et.al. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Powers	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 September 21, 2021 board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Henson	Approved Unanimously

4.0 Call to Order General Session of the September 21, 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 September 21, 2021 board meeting at 7:00 pm. 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. Dr. Guyton led 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 was approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	Powers	Approved Unanimously

6.0 Approval of the August 17, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the August 17, 2021 board meeting were included for approval. Chair Green 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 Reports and Action Items, if Needed, from Executive Session

Employment Recommendations for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

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

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approved Unanimously

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

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Chair Green called for a motion to accept the newly hired support staff report as presented by administration. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Oswald	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Receipt of Legal Advice Concerning a Pending Legal Matter (Alvin Berry vs. Lexington County School District One)

Chair Green said during executive session they received legal advice on a pending legal matter in the case of the ACLU/Applesseed vs. McMaster, et.al. in which Lexington District One is a defendant. This was for informational purposes only and no action is required at this time.

8.0 Special Presentation — Mask Survey Results and COVID-19 Impact on Schools — Shane Phillips, PH.D., Accountability and Assessment Director and Amy Wood, R.N., Nursing and Health Services Director

Dr. Phillips and Ms. Wood gave an impact report on COVID-19 cases and quarantines comparing the 2020-2021 school year and the first 23 days of the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Phillips reported the number of positive COVID cases for students and staff, and the comparative data on average number of cases per day. Student and staff positive cases combined have already exceeded the total number of cases for the 2020-2021 school year. Average positive cases jumped from nine per day in 2020-2021 to 88 per day this school year. Ms. Wood gave a comparative report on in-school spread and transmission reporting that this school year 140 classrooms have already shifted to e-learning. Additionally, seven percent of students quarantined have tested positive as a result of the close contact. Ms. Wood explained that as layers of mitigation strategies are removed the district’s options of reducing spread remain with isolation/quarantine, vaccinations or shifts to e-learning.

Dr. Phillips presented the mask survey model and results. The purpose of the survey was to gauge families and staff opinion on the use of a temporary mask mandate during periods of high spread. The district received 12,985 responses from primary contacts - approximately 75% of households. Eighty-one percent of staff responded. 69.8% of household responses favored the board considering a temporary mask requirement in times of high spread, and 69% of staff responses also favored a temporary mask requirement.

The board discussed the survey and the budget proviso. Proviso 1.108 has prevented the district from issuing a mask mandate. The General Assembly believes the ability to issue a mandate should remain at the highest level and not allow the local boards the ability to make decisions for its stakeholders. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) holds authority in the state to regulate health guidelines on

COVID-19 including quarantine guidelines. The proviso and DHEC guidance contradict each other. The board's hands are tied - it cannot institute a mask mandate and it cannot waive close contact and quarantine guidance. The board will not vote against a law.

9.0 Citizens' Participation

Chair Green read the guidelines for Citizens' Participation.

- Erin Smith, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, addressed the board on mask survey results and advocated for protecting the community.
- Jennifer Watkins-Jeffcoat, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, addressed the board advocating against mask mandates and contact tracing and quarantines.
- Brent Jeffcoat, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, advocated against utilizing mitigation strategies since students aren't getting seriously ill.
- Stephanie Berquist, Lexington, SC, addressed the board on parent choice and advocated against masks and quarantine.
- Nicole McLinden, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, addressed the board in support of a mask mandate and vaccinations.
- Meredith Tashkandi, Columbia, SC, Lexington One teacher, advocated for a clear, specific return to school plan with more specific mitigation strategies and strict protocols and provided mitigation strategy suggestions.
- Dana Homesley, Lexington, SC, parent of an elementary student, spoke regarding board accountability, transparency and read information from board emails from a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.
- Ivelisse Ortiz, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, addressed the board advocating against masks and contact tracing and quarantines.
- Kathryn Reynolds, Lexington, SC, homeschool parent, addressed the board with concerns on curriculum and the negative impact of standardized testing.
- Tony Colson, Lexington, SC, parent of high school student, advocated against masks and that masks are detrimental to students' health.
- Danielle Bowers, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary, middle and high school students, advocated in favor of parent rights, responsibilities and freedoms and against mask mandates.
- Tripp Bowers, Lexington, SC, elementary student, spoke out for family/student rights on mask choice and instead teach a healthy lifestyle.
- Rebekah Godfrey, Lexington, SC, spoke against DHEC guidelines, vaccinations and advocated for the district to stop contact tracing and quarantine.
- Melissa Craps, Lexington, SC, parent of an elementary student, spoke against masks and against contact tracing and quarantine.
- Michael Brown, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, advocated against contact tracing and quarantine and that students are losing instructional time while in e-learning during quarantine.
- Nicole Donaghy, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary and middle school students, advocated against contact tracing, quarantine and masks and said that school supports/recognition are being missed during quarantine.
- Miriam Fleshman, Lexington, SC, parent of a high school student, advocated against masks and shared data that they are not effective.
- Janeen Connor, Lexington, SC, parent of middle and high school students, advocated against masks, especially for special education students and that there is no valid data on mask wearing.
- Benjamin Hughes, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary, middle and high school students, addressed the board about ineffective use of the mask survey.
- Susan Yates, Lexington, SC, parent of a high school student, addressed the board about the lack of local control by the board and she is urging legislative officials to return the control to the local board.
- Irene Baerwalde, Lexington, SC, parent of high school students, presented ideas for teacher appreciation while they are working through these difficult times. Schools do more than educate students and parents should follow rules.

- Madison Rogers, Lexington SC, parent of an elementary student, spoke about retaining parent rights and responsibilities and the choice to wear masks and advocated against the board resolution to the General Assembly.
- Nicole Waters, Leesville, SC, parent of an elementary student, advocated against masks, close contact and quarantines.
- Lauren Pellington, Lexington, SC, Lexington One teacher and parent of an elementary student, advocated for reversal of mask proviso. She addressed difficulties for teachers and parents when students are in quarantine and when a school transitions between e-learning and in-person learning.
- Kelly Buck, Gilbert, SC, parent of middle and high school students, addressed the board as frontline health care worker and a parent. She said schools are there to make policies and adhere to healthcare rules and they should be followed.
- Kathryn McCown, Lexington, SC, parent of elementary, middle and high school students, said the board does not have power to implement a mask mandate and that close contact and quarantine protocols should stop.
- Debbie Heim, Lexington, SC, parent of a high school student, addressed the board about transparency and the Terrace Metrics, SEL survey. She shared concerns regarding the assessment, questions and how results would be utilized.
- Matthew Heim, Lexington SC, parent of a high school student, spoke about the freedom of parent choice regarding masks, and about the powers of the school board.
- Michael McCown, parent of elementary, middle and high school students, addressed the board about the mask survey and felt it was subjective and addressed quarantine instruction.
- Leesue Kim, Lexington, SC, parent of a high school student, advocated against the quarantine of healthy students.

The board took a brief break.

10.0 Action Items

10.1 Instructional Materials Adoption — Mary Gaskins, Chief Academic Officer

Chair Green called for a motion for the board to adopt the recommendations of the District Instructional Materials Adoption Committees. A motion was made that the board approve the recommendations of the District Instructional Materials Adoption Committees as district-adopted instructional materials for 2021-2022 - English Language Arts 9-12, World Language K-12, Visual and Performing Arts K-12, and Career and Technology Education 6-12. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Ms. Gaskins indicated the State Board of Education released an additional list of approved instructional materials upon approval of additional State funding. The district followed the instructional materials selection and adoption process to present this list of materials for board approval.

10.2 Student Travel Request — Mary Gaskins

Chair Green called for a motion to approve one student travel request. A motion was made that the board approve the recommendation of one student travel request. The field trip request was reviewed and is in compliance with board policy. The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Guyton	Powers	Approved Unanimously

Discussion: Ms. Gaskins indicated that the district is considering travel requests during high spread for athletics, the arts or leadership competitions.

10.3 Board Resolution Urging the South Carolina General Assembly to Repeal 2021–2022 Budget Proviso 1.108

Chair Green called for a motion that the board adopt a resolution urging the South Carolina General Assembly to repeal the 2021-2022 budget proviso 1.108. A motion was made that the board adopt a resolution of the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees urging the South Carolina General Assembly to repeal 2021-2022 budget proviso 1.108. The motion was seconded. Vice Chair Powers read the resolution. After discussion the motion was tabled.

WHEREAS, South Carolina is among the top 10 states in the nation having the highest number of COVID-19 cases per capita, averaging 5,500 cases a day; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Children’s Hospitals Collaborative recently stated that the number of children ages 0 - 17 in the state requiring hospitalization, including critical, for COVID-19 is rising at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, in Lexington County School District One, the number of students and staff who have tested positive so far this school year is 2,280, which has resulted in the quarantine of 13,028 students and staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status; and,

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) strongly recommends universal mask wearing for teachers, staff, and parents in schools; and,

WHEREAS, local school boards and superintendents, who ultimately bear the responsibility for the well-being of students and staff need flexibility – not limitations – when carefully weighing health and safety guidance at the local, state and federal levels to make decisions for the students and staff in their communities; and,

WHEREAS, local school district leaders are best positioned to monitor and modify safety protocols and make the best decisions to keep students and employees safe; and,

WHEREAS, mitigation measures are vitally important to maintain in-person, full time education to ensure students do not fall behind scholastically or socially; and,

WHEREAS, Proviso 1.108 serves as a barrier for school district leaders to consider every recommended mitigation measure available for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees, by this resolution, strongly urges members of the South Carolina General Assembly to reconvene immediately and repeal Proviso 1.108.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution are being furnished to members of the Lexington County Legislative Delegation and communicated to our parents, businesses and school supporters.

Motion	Second	Action
Powers	Guyton	Tabled

Discussion: Dr. Guyton made a motion to table voting on the resolution in order to give the board additional time to make recommendations that provide solutions and measures not only for masks but for the boundaries of state and local oversight. Chair Green addressed the urgency of voting on the resolution if the board wanted this to be brought to the General Assembly before convening in October or it would not

be addressed until the General Assembly convenes in February. The motion to table the resolution was made, seconded and approved. Chair Green asked board members to submit recommendations/changes to the resolution for review at the October 19th board meeting.

Motion	Second	Action
Guyton	Anderson	5 in favor; 1 opposed

11.0 Superintendent's Report

11.1 Report — Superintendent's Update — Superintendent Gregory D. Little, ED.D.

11.2 Strategic Plan Update — Natalie Osborne-Smith, ED.D., Director of Leadership Development and Continuous Improvement and Shane Phillips, PH.D.

Dr. Osborne-Smith and Dr. Phillips reported on the district's current strategic plan and the impact COVID-19 has had on plan targets and results. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, the district will develop a revised strategic plan to address the past 16 months of learning disruptions. Dr. Osborne-Smith presented the timeline of work resulting in resubmission of the plan to the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) in April 2022. Dr. Phillips reviewed the types of revisions and data points that could be expected in the current plan. Dr. Osborne-Smith reported that the district will also undergo its accreditation in May 2022. The updated strategic plan will be submitted as evidence for the Cognia review. The results of the Cognia engagement review will provide feedback for the creation of the new strategic plan that will be developed, with board feedback, in 2022-2023, for implementation in the fall of 2023.

11.3 Operations Update — Matt Warren, Operations Director

Mr. Warren gave a progress update and shared photos of construction at the new Lakeside Middle School, the White Knoll High School Performing Arts Center, and Gilbert High School Performing Arts Center and athletic facilities. He also shared progress on projects at Lake Murray Elementary, Carolina Springs Middle School and Gilbert Middle School. Mr. Salters informed the board that the district received a Merit Award in New Construction for Beechwood Middle School by the Association for Learning Environments.

11.4 Dual Modality and Staff Payments — Jeff Salters, Chief Operations Officer and Mary Gaskins

Mr. Salters and Ms. Gaskins presented a plan regarding dual modality and staff payments for board review and reaction. Ms. Gaskins reviewed the definition of dual modality and compensation as outlined by the SCDE for a provision of bill S.704 passed by the General Assembly in the spring of 2021. Lexington One teachers are providing dual modality instruction by providing support with virtual instruction for students in quarantine and in-person classroom instruction. All certified teachers, instructional assistants, office staff, Central Services and others are pitching in to help with instruction, covering classes, offices, cafeterias and other duties during this time of high spread. Mr. Salters laid out a district-wide compensation proposal as follows:

- For full-time employees, we are proposing a \$2,000 gross payment amount to be split into two payments of \$1,000 (must be employed as of November 15, 2021 for first payment and May 15, 2022 for second payment.)
- For part-time employees, we are proposing a \$1,000 gross payment amount to be split into two payments of \$500. (must be employed as of November 15, 2021 for first payment and May 15, 2022 for second payment.)
- For substitutes, we are proposing a \$500 payment for working 45 days per semester.

Administration would bring a general fund budget amendment to the board on October 19th for approximately \$10,600,000 to be re-appropriated from district surplus funds. Mr. Salters and Ms. Gaskins addressed questions and comments from the board. The board was encouraged to provide feedback to the superintendent prior to the October board meeting.

12.0 New Business

12.1 Lexington One Educational Foundation Board Member Vacancy — Anne Marie Green, Board Chair

Chair Green informed board members that there is a vacancy on the Lexington One Educational Foundation.

12.2 Delegate Assembly/Advocacy Conference — Anne Marie Green

Chair Green informed board members that the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) Delegate Assembly is on December 5, 2021 in conjunction with the SCSBA Legislative Advocacy Conference. At the October 19th board meeting, the board must certify its delegates who will represent the district. If interested in being a delegate, board members should submit their name to Chair Green.

Ms. Henson shared information from the SCSBA School Law Conference that she and Chair Green attended on August 28th and 29th, 2021.

13.0 Items for Board Information

- 13.1 Monthly General Fund Financial Report — August 2021
- 13.2 Monthly General Fund Budget Transfers - August 2021
- 13.3 Monthly Capital Projects Report — August 2021
- 13.4 Monthly Unauthorized Procurements Report — August 2021
- 13.5 Quarterly Grants Award Report

14.0 Adjourn

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn at 10:42p.m. A motion was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at pm.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Oswald	Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

Prepared by:

Mr. Mike Anderson/MEA
Secretary

Tracy Halliday/TAH
Executive Administrative Assistant