

**LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 24, 2023**

The Lexington County School District One Board of Trustees held a board workshop on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, in the Lexington County School District One's Central Services Building One located at 100 Tarrar Springs Road in Lexington, South Carolina. 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, Mike Anderson, Vice Chair Kathy Henson, Katie McCown, Brent Powers, Chris Rice, and Secretary Beth Shealy.

**1.0 Call to Order 11:00 a.m.**

Chair Green called the workshop to order.

**2.0 Executive Session**

Chair Green called for a motion to enter executive session to discuss employment recommendation for the 2022-2023 school year. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

**3.0 Adjourn Executive Session**

Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn executive session and return to general session. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Henson	Approved Unanimously

**4.0 Call to Order General Session**

Chair Green called to order the general session of the January 24, board workshop at 11:15 a.m. The district is in compliance with the 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. Mr. Chris Rice 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 approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

**6.0 Reports and Action Items, if needed, from Executive Session**

**Employment Recommendations for the 2022-2023 Academic Year**

Chair Green called for a motion to approve eight certified recommendations for the 2022-2023 academic year. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Henson	Anderson	Approved Unanimously

Chair Green called for a motion to approve two administrative recommendations for the 2022-2023 academic year. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	McCown	Approved Unanimously

Chair Green called for a motion to accept the newly hired support staff report for 2022-2023 as presented by administration. A motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Rice	Approved Unanimously

**7.0 2023–24 Budget Planning Workshop — Jennifer Miller, Chief Financial Officer (110 minutes)**

Dr. Postlewait introduced Mrs. Jessica Buzhardt, Early Childhood and Title I Coordinator, to provide the board with a behind the scenes exercise that demonstrates how she utilized multiple funding sources to provide an additional five preschool classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year, which also increases capacity in the general fund.

Mrs. Buzhardt informed the board that there are currently over 500 students on the needs-based preschool waiting list. It is a priority of the district to expand preschool offerings and to add more classrooms in the Gilbert and Pelion area. She provided a handout with the current programs and proposed programs for 2023-2024. She performed an exercise which demonstrated shifts from current sources of funding and classroom full-time employees (FTEs) associated with those funds. One shift is to move three tuition-based classrooms to needs-based classrooms, therefore moving 60 students off of the waiting list. The district’s goal is to add five additional classrooms for 2023-24. Mrs. Buzhardt explained the method of funding to add these classrooms. Over the last two years, the State has awarded CERDEP funds to districts to serve preschool students at certain schools depending on a poverty threshold. Due to increases in the CERDEP award, she demonstrated how classrooms would shift from being funded by the district’s general fund budget to the CERDEP funding. Five new classrooms would be funded using the CERDEP funds, taking an additional 100 students from the waiting list. The proposed changes for 2023-24 would increase needs-based preschool offerings from 21 to 29 classrooms - 18 CERDEP funded classrooms and 11 general fund classrooms.

Jennifer Miller, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation on the proposed fiscal year 2024 general fund budget. The budget is a predetermined plan that always has variations and unexpected circumstances. As this is continually changing, the framework should be focused on the district's priorities. She reviewed the budget timeline which culminates in June 2023 with a public hearing, third reading and approval by the board. The budget will continually change up to that point based on state and local revenue projections. Ms. Miller explained that 90% of the budget is allocated to salaries and related fringe expenditures. Of the remaining 10%, another 30% is a fixed expense for utilities and property insurance. The remainder, approximately \$25 million (based on this year’s budget), is the portion that is allocated to programs and other expenses that can be set by the district. The board, district leaders, principals and the budget advisory council have the task of setting this portion of the budget. She explained challenges and factors in today’s national and local economy that will affect expenditures and revenues, such as staffing shortages, inflation and the State’s funding formula that will make the upcoming budget a difficult one. Ms. Miller indicated she does not, at this time, expect to see an increase in revenue from the State.

The board took five minutes in small groups to converse with senior leadership and review the information presented. They were asked to discuss what most resonated with or most surprised them based on what they heard. Then they discussed questions and feedback as a whole.

Ms. Miller explained the challenges with the new state funding formula which can affect the budget negatively. The new funding formula is based on a weighted pupil unit that is aggregated across all of the districts in the State. She shared the difference between the FY22 budget under the old funding formula versus this year’s budget under the new funding formula. Since the district would have incurred a loss of \$4.5 million under the new funding formula, the State decided to hold the district harmless and still fund the district at the same level as the previous year. Ms. Miller demonstrated how it is possible to grow as a district, but still lose money under the new funding formula. This scenario could happen this year, so it is important for the board to talk to legislators about the inequitable funding for the larger districts.

The board took five minutes in small groups to converse with senior leadership and review the information presented. They were asked to discuss how the charts helped to illustrate our current state more clearly. Then they discussed questions and feedback as a whole.

Ms. Miller reviewed the FY24 projections. At the moment, projected expenditures are higher than projected revenue by \$700,000. Some unknown expenditures may include the district seeing an increase in health insurance and retirement, and the governor’s proposal to increase teacher pay by \$2,500. While the governor would increase starting teacher salaries \$2,500, that is to the state’s salary scale, which currently starts at \$40,000. This would increase the state’s scale to start at \$42,500. If the district already pays more than the \$40,000, they will only fund the District up to the \$42,500.

The board took five minutes in small groups to converse with senior leadership and review the information presented. They were asked to discuss how this information directly impacts their work. Then they discussed questions and feedback as a whole. The board discussed talking to the county council about impact fees and to legislators about the harm of the new funding formula to Lexington One. The district will share with the board along the way the rationale for any changes to priorities and programs.

As the district works on finalizing priorities, collaboration with the board, district leaders and the finance team are key to developing the best budget. Dr. Postlewait concluded that the district will continue to work on identifying the programs that impact students the most and take care of personnel.

**8.0 Items for Board Information (Policy DA) — Jennifer Miller**

- 8.1 Monthly General Fund Financial Report — December 2022
- 8.2 Monthly General Fund Budget Transfers Report — December 2022
- 8.3 Monthly Capital Projects Reports — December 2022
- 8.4 Monthly Unauthorized Procurements Report — December 2022

Ms. Miller commented on the Unauthorized Procurement Report. She mentioned the increased number of unauthorized procurements, explaining that approximately 52% of those were due to departments not implementing the new forms. Her team is working to educate all involved.


**9.0 Adjourn**

Before adjourning, Chair Green mentioned the next board workshop (January 31), community meetings to gather feedback in the strategic planning process (February 2, 7, 9, 21 and 23) and the next regular board meeting (February 28).

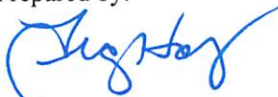
Chair Green called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Motion	Second	Action
Anderson	Rice	Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted:

  
 Beth Shealy  
 Secretary

Prepared by:

  
 Tracy Halliday  
 Executive Administrative Assistant