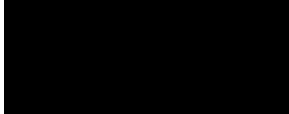




Katrina Goggins  
Director of Communications

June 26, 2017



This letter is being written as a follow-up to comments you made during the “Public Participation” portion of the June 12 meeting of the Trustees of School District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties and to a letter you wrote to Dr. Hefner, which was received on June 14.

Your responses are posted below.

1. Who, specifically, first proposed the purchase of Amicks Ferry Road site? Does this person have any interest, association or benefit in that site? What reasoning was presented to propose this site?

**The District hired a consultant to find a suitable site in the district’s Chapin Geographical Area. The District has no knowledge that the consultant has “any interest, association or benefit in that site.”**

**With many factors to consider, the District has determined that the land on Amicks Ferry Road is desirable to place a school in that area. Not only does it appear to fit all the criteria of a school site, it helps avoid a situation where the students west of Chapin are the Chapin Elementary population, the current Chapin Elementary students residing east of Chapin get moved to Lake Murray Elementary, and those students living in close proximity to Lake Murray are moved to a location further east.**

2. How many properties have been purchased by Lexington-Richland school district in the past ten years?

Per our records, four properties have been purchased in the past ten years:

- **Gibbes Street Property:**

This site includes two parcels of land: a 0.2-acre tract, which currently houses our Special Services Department and other district staff, and a 1.86-acre parcel, which was purchased to be a future entrance/exit and buffer for Irmo Elementary.

- **Mt. Vernon Church/Broad River Road Property**

Two parcels on this site were purchased in the past ten years: a 18.7 acre parcel and a 10.26 acre parcel. (This site now houses the Center for Advanced Technical Studies, Chapin Middle School and Spring Hill High School.)

- **Derrick Pond/Mt. Vernon Church Road Property**

Three parcels, including: a 22.62-acre parcel, a 2.67-acre parcel and a 22.12-acre parcel.

- **Palmetto Woods Property**

This is 7.32 acres and is located on Columbia Ave.

3. Was any member of the School Board or Trustees associated, in any way, with the purchase of those properties purchased in the past ten years? In other words, was any Board member or Trustee an owner, associate of the owner, or sales agent for any of those properties? If so, which properties and at what purchase prices (along with any commissions) were those and, specifically, who on the Board of Trustees was involved.

**District leaders have no knowledge of “any member of the School Board of Trustees associated, in any way, with the purchase of those properties purchased in the past ten years.”**

4. How many acres of property owned by the District are currently not in use? Why were these properties purchased?

**57.66 acres are currently not in use (47.41 acres on the Derrick Pond/Mt. Vernon Church Road Property site and 10.25 acres on the former Academy for Success site).**

**They were purchased as school sites or for future school sites and other construction.**

5. What is the current status of the property on Mt. Vernon Church Road? Specifically, why is this property not the primary consideration in building a new elementary school – if such a school is proven to be an actual need in the district?

**Dr. Hefner states: As Superintendent, I hope that this site (often referred to as the Derrick Pond/Mt. Vernon Church Road property) will one day be home to a school. I do not feel that this site is the most appropriate location for the next elementary school in the Chapin area. My recommendation is that the new elementary school be built on the west side of the Town of Chapin.**

**An additional elementary school is needed due to the increasing student enrollment in the Chapin geographical area. There was a need for a new school prior to 2008, when voters passed a bond referendum that included plans for a new elementary school in the Chapin geographical area. All indications are that the Chapin area will continue to grow, and the District must respond to this growth.**

6. Is there any association, what so ever, between the new housing development on Long Pine, the proposal of a school on Amicks Ferry Road, and a member of the School Board or Trustees?

**The district has no knowledge of “any association, what so ever, between the new housing development on Long Pine, the proposal of a school on Amicks Ferry Road, and a member of the School Board or Trustees”.**

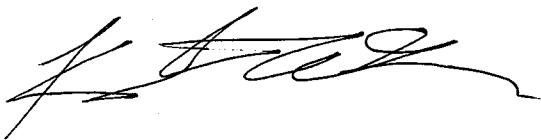
7. US Census data show that there are many people and households in the areas near Old Lexington than there are in the surrounding Amicks Ferry Road. What verifiable data exist to justify putting an elementary school on Amicks Ferry Road rather than Old Lexington” (This question was posed by a community resident in an email to Ms. Bergeson.”

**See answer to question one and question five please, with regard to school site selection and need for a new school.**

8. How often do Board members or Trustees recuse themselves from discussion or decision where any personal interest or benefit exists?

**We do not track or keep record of recusals by “Board members or Trustees.”**

Regards,



Katrina Goggins