



Minutes/October 9, 2023

The Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties met at the Center for Advanced Technical Studies with the following members present:

Mrs. Elizabeth Barnhardt
Mrs. Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Chair
Mr. Matt Hogan, Vice Chair
Mrs. Catherine Huddle
Mike Satterfield
Kevin Scully
Kimberly Snipes, Secretary
Dr. Akil Ross, Superintendent

The following staff were in attendance:

Dr. Michael Harris, Chief Student Services and Planning Officer
Mrs. Tina McCaskill, Chief Academics Officer
Ms. Maddison Paul, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Amanda Taylor, Director of Communications
Dr. Tamara Turner, Chief of Human Resources
Mr. Dave Weissman, Executive Director of Operations

A livestream video link was provided to the public as a viewing option for the October 9, 2023, board meeting.

Chair Blackburn Hines called the regular meeting to order and gave welcoming remarks.

Rebecca Blackburn Hines, Board of Trustees, gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board conducted the School Board Spotlight.

During the Superintendent's report, Dr. Ross provided updates on the District FOCUS Strategic Plan for the years 2022-2023 to 2026-2027. Additionally, Dr. Ross recognized the new LR5 2023-2024 principals in honor of National Principals Month. Mrs. Sara Wheeler, Director of Magnet Programs, and Mr. David Prigge, Director of CTE, presented an update on Magnet/CTE Collaborations during the meeting, while Mrs. Lynn Collins provided a District 5 Foundation update.

During public participation Kim Weinbach spoke about book banning and the removal of books from libraries, and Kim Murphy spoke about excess tax dollars being collected.

The Board presented for discussion:

- June 30, 2023, Fund Balance Analysis and Assignment Recommendation (Exhibit F)
- New Board Policy JICFB "Gavin's Law Implementation" (Exhibit G)
- Revisions to Board Policy GBEB "Staff Conduct" (Exhibit H)
- Sales Tax Exemption for Capital Projects (Exhibit I)

www.lexrich5.org

1020 Dutch Fork Road • Irmo, South Carolina 29063 • (803) 476-8000

"We Love and Grow Our Students!"

A = Absent
AB = Abstain
N = No
X = Yes
R = Recuse

The Board presented for information:

- 2023-2024 Comprehensive Health Education Board Advisory Committee (CHEBAC) (Exhibit J)

A = Absent
AB = Abstain
N = No
X = Yes
R = Recuse

Record of Voting

**SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE
OF
LEXINGTON AND RICHLAND COUNTIES**

Meeting of October 9, 2023

		B A R N H A R D T	B L A C K B U R N H I N E S	H O G A N	H U D D L E	S A T T E R F I E L D	S C U L L Y	S N I P E S
1.	M. Hogan S. Snipes Approve the agenda.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.	M. Hogan S. Barnhardt I make the motion to enter executive session to consider the following: a.) Selected employment items (Exhibit A) (Action); b.) Selected employment items (Exhibit B) (Information Only); c.) Legal advice regarding retaining wall at Harbison West Elementary; d.) Legal advice regarding construction defects at Chapin High School; e) Legal advice regarding active lawsuits (Exhibit C).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3.	M. Hogan S. Snipes I move that we approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023, board meeting.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.	M. Hogan S. Snipes I move that we approve the selected employment items as shown in Exhibit A for action.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.	M. Hogan S. Huddle I move that the Board approve for bidding by the pre-qualified contractors for the new Irmo High School East Wing in Exhibit D.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

A = Absent
AB = Abstain
N = No
X = Yes
R = Recuse

**SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE
OF
LEXINGTON AND RICHLAND COUNTIES**

Meeting of October 9, 2023

		B A R N H A R D T	B L A C K B U R N H I N E S	H O G A N	H U D D L E	S A T T E R F I E L D	S C U L L Y	S N I P E S
7.	M. Hogan S. Snipes I move that the Board approve the first reading approval of proposed revisions to Board Policy IKF "Graduation Requirements" (Exhibit E).	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8.	M. Huddle S. Hogan Adjourn at 9:46 p.m.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

A = Absent
AB = Abstain
N = No
X = Yes
R = Recuse

Notes to be added to 10/9/2023 Minutes As Requested by Trustee Huddle

On 6/4/23 I sent the attached email to all board members and Dr. Ross including the attached spreadsheet which shows since 2017 the board has re-allocated \$8,865,606 from the Operating Fund Balance to Capital Expenditures.

This information showed our existing operating fund balance was too high and the planned tax collections for 23-24 were underestimated, which together would cause us to overtax our taxpayers and increase the fund balance even more. We still passed that tax increase. There were many arguments for and against. I know everyone was doing what they thought at the time was best for our district. However, we now know for certain that we increased the operating millage rate too much.

Now we are again, looking at reallocating operating fund balance to capital expenditures. This time the request is \$3,500,000. If passed, this will put the total operating fund balance moved to the capital budget since 2017 at over \$12 million.

We now know with 100% certainty that our district has consistently over collected taxes for the operating fund. As Trustees I believe we have a duty to be transparent with finances:

- If the overcollection of operating taxes to fund construction is intentional, we should build it into the budget that is discussed and voted on each spring – not slide \$ over every 1-2 years when people aren't really paying attention.
- If the overcollection is not intentional, we are consistently misjudging the millage rate needed and failing to incorporate excess fund balance into setting the millage rate – something we should correct through policy and action.

Regardless of our long-term plan to correct this habitual issue, we are now again faced with at least \$3.5m in excess operating funds (after funding an employee bonus).

I encourage us to use the operating fund for the purpose it was intended for – operating our schools. We have huge needs and we have the \$ at our disposal to make a difference. We have a choice between using that \$3.5m for buildings or directly for the benefit of our students and teachers.

If we spend that money on tutoring, at \$50 an hour plus benefits (estimated at a total of \$75 an hour), we could provide 46,000 hours of tutoring for our students or almost 3 hours of tutoring per student. Teachers who wished to volunteer would also be able to generate additional income. Especially when so many students scoring under proficient in English and Math, this would be a win-win for our students and teachers.

Attachment #1, pg. 2 is included with
the minutes of the 10-9-23
meeting, at the request of Board member
Cathy Studdler
pursuant to South Carolina Code
Ann. Section 30-4-90(a)(4)
and Board Policy BEDG. The Board majority
did not approve, disapprove, or otherwise
act upon the contents of this attachment.



Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Option 4 Budget Consideration

Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Sun, Jun 4, 2023 at 7:17 PM

To: Akil Ross <aross@lexrich5.org>

Bcc: Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Kimberly Snipes <ksnipes@lexrich5.org>, Elizabeth Barnhardt <ebarnhardt@lexrich5.org>, Michael Satterfield <msatterf@lexrich5.org>, Kevin Scully <kscully@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Ross, Please note that I have blind-copied all of the other trustees.

Attached is an Option 4 that I hope the administration will consider. Basically, this is Option 2 (the administration's preferred option) with the CHS portables, new positions and HVAC increase removed and using a more accurate tax collection rate.

This would allow us to keep the millage rate the same and still have over \$700,000 available for allocation to new positions and/or HVAC once there has been more time to evaluate those needs.

In addition, because we have a fund balance of 25.4% we have almost \$11,000,000 excess funds in our operating fund balance. \$11m is the difference between the 25.4% and the high end (18%) of the 15-18% recommended by policy. These excess funds would allow us to vote to increase the budget later this year if needed for additional positions. Even if we added the remainder of the \$2.1m in requested positions (\$2,100,000 - \$700,000 available discretionary = \$1,400,000) we could pull the \$1,400,000 from the fund balance and still be able to fund those positions from the excess fund balance for the next 7 years.



I believe this is the right way to approach the budget as \$2.1m in additional positions and the possibility of portables deserves careful consideration before moving forward. In addition, I don't think the public expects us to keep extra in our "piggy bank" while we ask for a millage increase.

Thank you for your consideration. I know this has been a lot of work for the administration and finance staff.

Cathy

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

2 attachments

-  **FUND BALANCE LR5.xlsx**
21K
-  **Option 4 for 23-24 Budget.xlsx**
11K

Attachment #1 pg. 3 is included with the minutes of the 10-9-23 meeting, at the request of Board member Cathy Huddle pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Section 30-4-90(a)(4) and Board Policy BEDG. The Board majority did not approve, disapprove, or otherwise act upon the contents of this attachment.

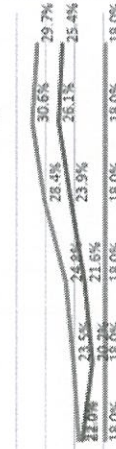


Open with

FUND BALANCE LR5.XLSX

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	LEXINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE							
2	FUND BALANCE							
3								
4	YEAR	Budget	Fund Bal	Fund Bal w/o Trans	Fund Bal % Budget	Fund Bal % w/o Trans	TRANSFERS TO BUILDING FUND	
5	2017	174,506,667	38,336,237	39,336,237	22.0%	22.5%	1,000,000	
6	2018	181,714,755	36,655,331	42,655,331	20.2%	23.5%	5,000,000	
7	2019	187,823,296	40,533,048	46,533,048	21.6%	24.8%		
8	2020	194,794,553	46,518,549	55,384,155	23.9%	28.4%	2,865,606	
9	2021	196,524,672	51,205,387	60,070,993	26.1%	30.6%		
10	2022	204,968,206	52,089,114	60,954,720	25.4%	29.7%		
11							8,865,606	
12	2024 at 18%	226,126,621	40,702,792		18.0%			
13	Excess Fund Balance		11,386,322					
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
19	Fund Bal % of Budget	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
20	Fund Bal % w/o Trans	22.0%	20.2%	21.6%	23.9%	26.1%	25.4%	
21	Policy Minimum	22.5%	23.5%	24.8%	28.4%	30.6%	29.7%	
22	Policy Maximum	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	15.0%	
23		18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	18.0%	
24								
25								
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								

Fund Balance as % of Annual Budget



Attachment #1 pg. 4 is included with the minutes of the 10-9-23 meeting, at the request of Board member Cathy Huddle pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Section 30-4-90(a)(4) and Board Policy BEDG. The Board majority did not approve, disapprove, or otherwise act upon the contents of this attachment.