

Board Briefs

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road • Irmo, South Carolina • 476-8000

Synopses of meetings of the Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties are provided for your information by the Office of Community Services.

March 14, 2011

At the March 14, 2011 school board meeting, the following took place:

- The school board unanimously voted to direct Chair Robert Gantt, along with the board's attorney, to begin contractual discussions with Stephen Hefner to provide a long-term superintendent's contract. The board plans to finalize the contract at their next meeting on Monday, March 28.
- An [update](#) on the cost of the lawsuit brought by Kim Murphy, *Murphy vs. School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties and DHEC*, was provided. As of March 14, 2011, the estimated cost of the lawsuit exceeds \$1.63 million.
- The board approved a motion to direct the superintendent and the board chair to direct our legal counsel to communicate with Kim Murphy's legal counsel to determine if there is a possible settlement of the above named lawsuit.
- Superintendent Steven Hefner reported that the district has successfully purchased all land for the new elementary school that was approved for construction by the voters in the 2008 Bond Referendum. The school will be located at the intersection of Mt. Vernon Church Road and Derrick Pond Road. In October 2010, the district was able to purchase 44.7 of the 47.5 acres desired for the elementary school site. Title issues prohibited the purchasing of 2.67 acres in October, but those issues have been resolved without court involvement. The district will now acquire all 47.5 acres.
- The board approved revisions to board policies JIB "Student Involvement in Decision Making," JICEA "School Related Student Publications," JICG and JICG-R "Tobacco Use by Students," and JICH "Drug and Alcohol Use by Students."
- First reading approval was given to revisions to board policy BEDG "Minutes of Board Meetings."
- Final approval was provided to JICA and JICA-R "Student Dress," JICF "Secret Societies/Gang Activity," JICFA "Hazing" JICFAA "Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying" and JICA "Weapons in School."
- First reading approval was given to revisions to board policy ADF "School Wellness."
- The board approved their meeting dates for the 2011-12 school year.
- A resolution was passed that states, "The Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties disapproves of the lawsuit brought by Mrs. Kim Murphy, *Murphy vs. School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties and DHEC*, which has cost the School District, as of March 14, 2011, in excess of \$1.63 million in professional fees and estimated increased construction costs and \$4.5 million in estimated increased bond interest costs over the life of the construction bonds (20 years), and is

delaying the renovations to Chapin High School and denying students the timely use of much needed facilities. The Board also disapproves of the appeal filed by Mrs. Kim Murphy on January 20, 2011, requesting that DHEC deny a construction permit for the sewer system which permit is necessary to begin renovations at Chapin High School. After DHEC's denial of that appeal, her appeal filed on March 11, 2011 appealing that decision to the Administrative Law Court. The Board requests that Mrs. Murphy abide by the vote of the majority of the Board of Trustees to proceed with the renovations at Chapin High School and drop all of her appeals."

- Proposed revisions to board policy JICDA-R "Code of Conduct" were discussed.
- A report on the proposed [2011-12 Capital Projects Budget](#) was provided.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the school board will be Monday, March 28 at 7 p.m. at the district administration building. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.