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.

August 8, 2011

At the August 8, 2011 school board meeting, the following took place:

- At the start of the meeting, Chairman Robert Gantt made the following statement,

"I would like to make a statement regarding an article that appeared in *The State* last week regarding executive sessions.

This school board is very aware of the provisions in the SC Freedom of Information Act and its requirements…and we adhere to those requirements. We also are aware that, for good reason, this act provides this school board and school boards across the state an ability to meet in executive session, for specific purposes, to protect the very public we serve. In this district those purposes are generally contractual matters, legal briefings, student matters and personnel matters. While in executive session, we limit our discussions to those specific matters, no votes are taken, and when we return to regular session we vote in public to take any action needed.

In the article I just referred to, individual board members were encouraged to challenge the board when a member believes that the topic being discussed is not appropriate for executive session discussion…and I do encourage members to do so. However, the chairman has the responsibility at that time to make a determination regarding the objection and if the chairman determines the board is within the parameters for executive session matters, the ethics of executive session remain in force and board members are obligated not to talk about, record electronically or in handwritten notes, the content of and/or topics discussed.

It is important for our community to know that board members will not be allowed to disrupt an executive session in the manner encouraged by the author of this article. Disagreements on this board over the interpretation of the SC Freedom of Information Act will be decided by our chairman, with input from our attorneys, and not the interpretations of any individual board member."

- 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 August 1, 2011, the estimated cost of the lawsuit exceeds $1.78 million.

- The school board received an initial FY 2011-12 Capital Budget Report.

- A monthly construction update was provided. Demolition at Irmo Elementary is complete and construction of the new building is taking place. Front office renovations are being completed at Ballentine Elementary, River Springs Elementary and Lake Murray Elementary and should be completed before the first day of school. Clearing continues at the site of the new high school and Career and Technical Education Center.

- The school board approved revisions and additions to policies IB "Academic Freedom," IHAE "Physical Education," IHAF "Arts Education," IHAG "Music Education," IHAH "World Language Education," IA "Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives" and IE "Organization of Instruction."

- The school board discussed the administrative rule for policy IB “Academic Freedom,” and discussed proposed revisions and additions to board policies JLA “Student Insurance Coverage,” JLCC “Communicable/Infectious Diseases,” JLCDA “Individual Healthcare Plans,” JLCDA-E “Indemnification/Hold Harmless Agreement for Self-Administration of Medication,” JLCE “First Aid and Emergency Care,” and JLCFA “Training of Unlicensed Personnel for Select Nursing Tasks.”

- The board discussed revisions to policy ADF “School Wellness.”

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the school board will be Monday, September 12 at 7 p.m. at Ballentine Elementary. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.