

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.

October 24, 2011

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 24th at Chapin Middle School, the school board began its meeting with a report from the administration regarding a rumor circulating in the community regarding the Pledge of Allegiance. A local blog is spreading erroneous information saying the school district is eliminating the citing of the Pledge of Allegiance from its schools. That information is completely wrong.

The district has been reviewing and updating its policies for several years and as a part of that process sections of policies are moved from one policy to another. In this case, School Board Policy IKD is being updated and the sections regarding the Pledge of Allegiance and benedictions and invocations are being moved from Policy IKD to Policy IMD. Policy IMD was scheduled before the board for approval at the next meeting but given the misinformation circulating, the board approved both policies at the meeting. The Pledge was never to have been out of policy and it continues to be a very important part of the school day.

The board also heard:

- A [Vision 2015 update](#) by the superintendent which contained timeline adjustments regarding our building plan.
- A monthly financial report and 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 October 19, 2011, the estimated cost of the lawsuit exceeds \$1.9 million.
- An explanation about the financial transparency for district expenditures including correct information about expenditures recently questioned in local newspapers.
- An update on the new CATE Center now under construction.
- Updates on the district's building program and a review of conceptual plans for renovations at Irmo High and Dutch Fork High.

Action items included:

- Approval of the administration's request to proceed with placing permanent walls at the Chapin Elementary School Media Center.
- First reading approval to a series of updated polices in the "I" and "A" sections.
- The assignment of delegates to attend the SC School Boards Association Delegate Assembly.

In other business, the board discussed:

- Proposed revisions to policies in the “J” section
- A proposal to name the new Career and Technical Education Center the *Center for Advanced Technical Studies*.
- A proposal to move school board meetings currently scheduled at the district office to a rotation schedule among middle schools in order to provide a bigger meeting space and additional parking.
- Proposed school calendars for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the school board will be Monday, November 14 at 7 p.m. at Chapin Elementary. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.