



Minutes/ October 27, 2014

The Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties met at Chapin High School with the following members present:

Ms. Beth Watson, Chairman
Mr. Robert Gantt, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Ellen Baumgardner, Secretary
Mrs. Jondy Loveless
Mr. Jim Turner
Mr. Ed White
Dr. Stephen Hefner, District Superintendent

The following staff were in attendance:

Dr. Angela Bain, Chief Human Resources Officer
Mr. Mark Bounds, Chief Information Officer
Mr. Michael Harris, Chief Student Services Officer
Dr. Christina Melton, Chief Instructional Officer
Mr. Keith McAlister, Director of Design and Construction
Mr. Len Richardson, Chief Finance Officer

Chairman Beth Watson called the meeting to order and gave welcoming remarks.

The Invocation was given by Robert Gantt, Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Shayla Flores, Student Body President at Chapin High School.

The Board conducted the School Board Spotlight.

A welcome and brief overview of Chapin High School was given by Dr. Akil Ross, Principal.

During the Superintendent's Report, a special presentation was given regarding the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves Agreement by Scott Carlin; Len Richardson presented the Monthly Financial Reports (Exhibit B); and Scott Carlin presented the Quarterly Capital Reports (Exhibit C).

During the public participation time, George Camp spoke regarding FOIA; Kim Murphy spoke regarding the budget; and Irene Baerwalde spoke regarding electronic textbooks.

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE
OF
LEXINGTON AND RICHLAND COUNTIES

Meeting of October 27, 2014

		B A U M G A R D N E R	G A N T T	L O V E L E S S		T U R N E R	W A T S O N	W H I T E
1.	M. Baumgardner S. Turner Enter executive session to consider the following: a) selected employment items (Exhibit A); and b) contractual matters: regarding construction	X	A	X		X	X	X
2.	M. Baumgardner S. Loveless Approve the agenda	X	X	X		X	X	X
3.	M. Baumgardner S. Turner Approve the minutes of the October 13, 2014 board meeting	X	AB	X		X	X	X
4.	M. Gantt S. Loveless Approve the selected employment items (Exhibit A)	X	X	X		X	X	X
5.	M. White S. Baumgardner Approve first reading of proposed revisions to board policy JFBA "Intra-District Transfer and Withdrawal" (Exhibit D)	X	X	X		X	X	X
6.	M. Turner S. Baumgardner Adjourn at 8:25 p.m.	X	X	X		X	X	X

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**Open Letter to
Lexington Richland School District Five
Education Association**

Peter Lauzon, President
LR5EA
1906 Ann St.
West Columbia, SC 29169

Re: The Truth about Teacher Raises

Dear Peter:

I am addressing this letter to you requesting that you share this with your members. There has been a lot of rhetoric lately about the fact that this Board raised millage last year but failed to raise teachers' salaries at the same time. The implication of this rhetoric is that the Board is not supportive of paying our teachers competitive salaries. I believe the majority of this Board cares about paying competitive salaries to our teachers and that has been the policy of this Board for decades. The truth is that the millage increase that the Board approved last year was necessary to fund a deficit in our budget and that there are no available recurring funds that can be presently used for teacher raises. A harder truth is that we are currently facing new funding challenges with our budget unlike anything we have had to deal with in the past.

The challenges confronting our District include the fact that for the first time this year the Legislature implemented a formula to take money out of our normal allotment of revenues and give the money to districts with more free and reduced lunches. As noble as that objective is we still have to deal with the reality of the reduction in our revenues.

In addition to this new reduction, the Legislature does not consistently fund our budget based on the Base Student Cost ("BSC"), which is the per pupil cost that the Budget and Control Board publishes annually estimating the actual costs to fund our schools. If we were consistently funded at the BSC then it would be easier to fund our budget and pay competitive salaries.

Finally, the Board only has limited ability to supplement our budget since the passage of Act 388 which limits local control of revenues. Today we are only allowed to increase the millage in our budget by a limited amount representing the increase in the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") which is basically an adjustment for inflation. The CPI increase to our budget (the "CPI Budget Increase") is limited in amount but it is a recurring source of revenue that can be used to fund recurring expenditures of the District such as teacher raises.

Attachment 1 is included with the minutes of the 10-27-2014 meeting, at the request of Board member Ed White pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §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.

In our June 23, 2014 budget meeting the Board had extensive discussion about the need for voting to approve the CPI Budget Increase for this year and the necessity of having to raise it in subsequent years in order to be in a position to fund teacher raises. Steve Hefner weighed in on the discussion and made it clear that due to the restraints on our funding that it would be impossible to raise teacher salaries in the future if the Board does not approve the CPI Budget Increase each year for our budget. This is not a political position but the reality of our current circumstance.

I would recommend that you and your membership review the video of our budget discussion if you want to learn more about the truth about teacher raises. The address of the video and the exact location of Steve Hefner's statement pertaining to teacher raises is noted below:

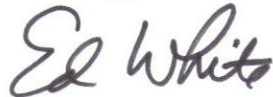
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMwv5OjgjZ8>
Dr. Hefner's comments start at 28:37 and run until 32:00.

Based on Dr. Hefner's assessment of our current financial circumstance: (i) a "Yes" vote for our budget with the CPI Budget Increase makes it possible to pay teacher raises in the future, and (ii) a "No" vote makes it impossible to pay teacher raises in the future. At the conclusion of the discussion the Board voted as follows:

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Jim Turner	No
Jondy Loveless	Yes
Ellen Baumgardner	Yes
Robert Gant	Yes
Beth Watson	Yes
Ed White	Yes

I hope this information helps your membership understand the truth about our ability to fund teacher raises in the future.

Sincerely,



Edward K. White