

Board Briefs

School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

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

Synopses of meetings of the Board of Trustees of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties are provided for your information.

November 16, 2020

During the November 16, 2020 school board meeting the following took place:

Dr. Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and offered clarification that she would preside as Chairman over the meeting until the election of board officers in accordance with board policy BD, "Organization of the School Board."

Dr. Melton called for a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Hammond made a motion to approve the agenda, with Mrs. Gardner seconding. Mr. Loveless requested an amendment to the agenda to introduce a discussion item regarding step increases for all eligible employees. Following discussion, Mrs. Gardner seconded the motion to amend the agenda. The amended agenda was approved.

Dr. Melton offered welcoming remarks which included a recognition of veterans in honor of Veterans Day, acknowledgement of American Education Week, and a brief update regarding the district's redistricting focus. Two virtual, interactive community events regarding redistricting were announced for November 19 and December 3, with additional information to follow via social media, news releases and the district website.

Board member, Mrs. Jan Hamond, gave the invocation and also led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Swearing in of new board members was facilitated by Mrs. Katrina Goggins, Director of Communications, with Representative Chip Huggins and Representative Nathan Ballentine in attendance. Mrs. Rebecca Blackburn Hines was sworn in by Representative Chip Huggins, who administered the oath of office. Mr. Matt Hogan was sworn in by Representative Nathan Ballentine, who administered the oath of office. Mrs. Catherine Huddle was sworn in by Representative Chip Huggins, who administered the oath of office.

During the election of board officers, Mrs. Jan Hammond was elected Chairman, Mr. Ken Loveless was elected Vice Chairman, and Mrs. Nikki Gardner was elected Secretary. A brief recess followed (7:24 p.m. -7:33 p.m.).

Mrs. Hammond called the meeting back to order at 7:33 p.m.

The minutes of the October 12, 2020 board meeting were presented and approved.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Melton congratulated Mr. Len Richardson, Chief Finance Officer, and Mr. Bruce Shealy, Director of Finance on their upcoming retirement. Mrs. Cassy Paschal, principal, provided a report on the Piney Woods Elementary School logo and school colors. Mr. Michael Guliano, Chief Instructional Officer and Mrs. Sarah Wheeler, Magnet School Program Director, provided a Magnet Program update. Mr. Vann Holden, Director of Accountability, presented an Online Testing Waiver Request. Finally, Dr. Christina Melton provided an update entitled: *2020-2021 School Reentry Overview: Part VIII*. Mrs. Catherine Huddle presented a motion regarding reentry.

During public participation, the following people spoke regarding school redistricting: Rolling Creek children (group), Melissa Brice, Christian Simensen, Allen Bullard, Gina Summer, Melissa Spearman, and sixth grade student, Katelyn Ricottilli. Yolanda Welbon spoke regarding school schedules, class sizes, social distancing and COVID-19. Student Anna Grace Mensch spoke regarding the hybrid model. Finally, Amy Carter spoke regarding teacher input moving forward.

ACTION AGENDA

The proposed Superintendent's 2020-2021 Goals were presented and approved.

A proposed revision to board policy IC "School Year" was presented by Mr. Katrina Goggins for final reading approval.

Board Members entered Executive Session at 9:17 p.m.

Mrs. Hammond called the meeting back to order at 10:33 p.m.

ACTION AGENDA

Action was taken as necessary or appropriate on matters discussed in Executive Session: Selected employment items shown in Exhibit D, for Action; selected employment items shown in Exhibit E, Information Only; Employment matter re: hiring for Chief Finance and Operations Officer position shown in Exhibit F; and Request for Instruction at a Place Other Than School, shown in Exhibit G.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Mr. Clay Cannon, Director of Facilities Operations, presented an update regarding a proposed Lexington county stormwater user fee.

Board members had a discussion regarding step increases for all eligible employees, as introduced by Mr. Loveless. Mrs. Blackburn Hines and Mr. White requested clarification and suggested the term to use may be "bonus" instead of step increase. Following the discussion, a request was made to add this item to the Action agenda on the December 14 board meeting agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

INFORMATION AGENDA

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be December 14, 2020. Location to be determined.