



*Minutes*  
**Board Meeting – November 16, 2020**

The Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties conducted an in-person meeting at Dutch Fork Middle School with the following members present:

Mrs. Rebecca Blackburn Hines  
Mrs. Nikki Gardner  
Mrs. Jan Hammond  
Mr. Matt Hogan  
Mrs. Catherine Huddle  
Mr. Ken Loveless  
Mr. Ed White  
Dr. Christina Melton, District Superintendent

The following staff members attended:

Mrs. Katrina Goggins, Director, Office of Communications  
Mr. Michael Guliano, Chief Instructional Officer  
Dr. Michael Harris, Chief Planning and Administrative Officer  
Dr. Tamara Turner, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Mr. Len Richardson, Chief Finance Officer

A livestream video link was provided to the public for the meeting.

Dr. Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and offered clarification that she would preside as Chair 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.

**Record of Voting**

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties</b> Meeting of November 16, 2020</p>		Blackburn Hines	Gardner	Hammond	Hogan	Huddle	Loveless	White
		1.	<p>M. Hammond                      S. Gardner</p> <p>Approve the agenda</p> <p>M. Loveless                      S. Gardner</p> <p>Amend the agenda of tonight’s November 16, 2020 board meeting to move item #16, Adjourn, to item #17, and replace item #16 with: Discussion of STEP Increases for All Eligible Employees.</p> <p>Vote on original motion</p>					
		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.	<p>Election of Board Officers</p> <p>Mr. White nominated Mrs. Hammond for Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Blackburn Hines</p> <p>Mrs. Huddle nominated Mr. Loveless for Vice Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Gardner</p>							
		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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

Mr. Loveless nominated Mrs. Gardner for Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Blackburn Hines	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
3. M. Loveless S. Gardner  Approve the minutes from the October 12, 2020 board meeting	AB	X	X	AB	AB	X	X
4. M. Gardner S. Loveless  Approve Online Testing Waiver Request as shown in Exhibit A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. M. Huddle S. Gardner  I move we direct the Superintendent to move forward with the re-entry plan presented today, November 16, which provides for face-to-face instruction five days a week beginning February 1, 2021, while continuing with the FIVE remote learning option. Furthermore, if there is evidence of an increase in COVID positive tests within the zip codes in the District 5 portion of Lexington and Richland counties that may cause safety issues, a request for a revised plan can be made to the board after the evidence of an increase is presented, discussed and approved by the board	X	X	X	X	X	X	N
6. M. Loveless S. Hogan  Approve the proposed Superintendent's 2020-2021 Goals as shown in Exhibit B	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7. M. Loveless S. Gardner  Approve second and final reading revisions to board policy IC "School Year" as shown in Exhibit C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Blackburn Hines	Gardner	Hammond	Hogan	Huddle	Loveless	White

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	Blackburn Hines	Gardner	Hammond	Hogan	Huddle	Loveless	White
8. M. Loveless                      S. Gardner  Enter Executive Session to consider the following: 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	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9. M. Loveless                      S. Hogan  Approve selected employment items as shown in Exhibit D, Action	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10. M. Loveless                      S. Huddle  I move we authorize the superintendent to reorganize to create positions A & B as discussed in Executive Session (shown in Exhibit F)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. M. Gardner                      S. Hogan  Approve the Request for Instruction at a Place Other Than School as shown in Exhibit G	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
12. M. Gardner                      S. Huddle  Adjourn at 10:53 p.m.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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