



Katrina Goggins &lt;kgoggins@lexrich5.org&gt;

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## Re: Public Participation Questions - March 18

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**Katrina Goggins** <kgoggins@lexrich5.org>  
 To: Juli Booth <julibooth@bellsouth.net>

Fri, Apr 5, 2019 at 7:16 PM

**Ms. Booth:**

**This email is in response to questions you submitted during a March 18 meeting of the School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties Board of Trustees. A letter also will be mailed to the address you provided, and the superintendent and the District Five School Board have been notified of this response.**

**As a point of reference, you were provided an initial response on April 1 pursuant to Board Policy BEDH Public Participation at Meetings. This correspondence is to respond to questions you raised and provide applicable documents. With regard to the production of documents, the District has determined in accordance with SC FOIA that there is no cost associated with providing any documents related to your inquiry.**

**Please see the responses posted under your questions below.**

3/18/2019

Questions for the Board of Trustees Dr. Melton and The Board of Trustees,

Rather than make a statement this evening, I would like to present you with a number of questions that the public has regarding recent developments during regular and special called Board meetings. I understand it is your policy not to answer questions posed by the taxpayers in a public forum. However, in the spirit of transparency, I would urge you to consider addressing these issues in a regular meeting, so all of the public could be made aware. If that is not possible, I would appreciate answers in a timely manner that I can pass along to the public.

1. It is rumored that you are looking for land for new elementary and middle schools in Chapin (primarily through a land swap)? I asked Dr. Harris about this and he says there are no plans. However, I have information from attendees at the recent Legislative Breakfast that plans were discussed.

**The District can not speak to “rumored” reports. However, to be clear, the District is not currently “looking for land for new elementary and middle schools in Chapin.”**

2. When are you planning on placing a referendum on the ballot to address the issues uncovered in the MB Kahn Facilities Study?

**As reported during a Special-Called School Board Meeting on Feb. 25, the purpose of the facilities study was to assess the District’s current facilities conditions, uses, and maintenance needs; offer options to address school operations issues, such as aging structures; and provide construction strategies responsive to future uses and learning methods.**

**The Board did not take action following the presentation.**

3. Will you do a formal enrollment study prior to discussions on the MB Kahn Facility Study recommendations?

**The Administration consistently monitors and reviews enrollment in School District Five throughout the academic year, and enrollment studies are part of the District’s annual process of preparing for the next school year.**

4. Who was on the committee who chose MB Kahn to do the Facilities Study? How much did the Facilities Study cost?

**Per the District Office of Finance, evaluation committee members included: Robert Gantt, Larry Haltiwanger, Anna Miller, Bruce Shealy, and Scott Carlin. The attached document provides a cost of the study. There is no cost associated with the production of this document, pursuant to the SC Freedom of Information Act.**

5. What are the rules that govern School Board trustees being entertained (while on retreat) by firms that the District is currently in negotiations with?

**Like all elected officials, all members of the Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties must adhere to and follow the laws governing public employment and the Rules of Conduct outlined in the South Carolina Ethics Act.**

6. As Trustee White said when the 2008 Referendum was on the ballot, "The biggest waste of money is to wait." Probably shouldn't have waited on the Derrick Pond Road school, so what do you plan to do with that property now? Will you sell it or build on it?

**During a February 11 School Board meeting, an attorney providing a report on the Derrick Pond Road property also provided the School Board with options for the property. Per the report, the options are posted below:**

- **Reapply for Approval with revised plans that comply with County requirements and build a school on the site.**
- **Investigate using the site for another district facility.**
- **Apply to rezone property to eliminate special requirements.**
- **Acquire / Swap additional property to have access from Mt. Vernon Church Road**
- **Sell property. Likely that value materially exceeds purchase price.**

**The full report on the Derrick Pond property can be found on the District website under the Board of Trustees tab. You may also visit [www.lexrich5.org/reports](http://www.lexrich5.org/reports) to view the PowerPoint from the report.**

7. What are the plans for the unutilized property that the District owns on Wescott Rd, Fork Ave, and the location of the former Alternative Academy in Chapin?

**School District Five Board Policy FEE establishes that "it is appropriate and necessary to identify and acquire land in a formalized manner to assure the most advantageous pieces of real estate are obtained" for the District. Therefore, the District is well within its own policy in having property for later use.**

**The District has made no decisions regarding the use of the referenced property.**

8. Can you provide the plans for what will be done with the gravel parking lot at Chapin High School? When I spoke with Dr. Ross in the past, he mentioned it was being converted to practice athletic fields, thus the reason for not paving it. Neither athletic fields nor paving has happened. It is nothing but potholes and mud. Students who park in this lot are required to pay the same parking fee as other students, but yet their parking lot is not maintained. Mr. Carlin has told me in the past that this gravel lot is not in the rotation for parking lot maintenance.

**There are no immediate plans to pave the graveled area on Chapin High School's campus.**

Juli Booth  
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On Mon, Apr 1, 2019 at 4:57 PM Katrina Goggins <[kgoggins@lexrich5.org](mailto:kgoggins@lexrich5.org)> wrote:  
Ms. Booth:

This email is in response to questions you submitted during a March 18 meeting of the School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties Board of Trustees. A letter was also mailed today (April 1, 2019) to the address you provided, and the superintendent and the District Five School Board have been notified of this response.

As a point of reference, questions submitted during school board meetings are offered response in accordance with Board Policy **BEDH Public Participation at Meetings** (A copy of the policy is enclosed). The policy states the following:

Questions asked during public participation will be given due consideration and care. Questions will be addressed as follows:

- Questions will be reviewed and answered in a timely manner following the FOIA time line.

- Questions requiring document research, document production, or the redaction of information will be considered a Freedom of Information Request and will be addressed through the district's FOIA process.
- Questions asked and answered in the last twelve months will not be answered again but will be directed to the district's website for previous answers.
- Questions deemed inappropriate will not be answered. Factors that would make a question inappropriate include but are not limited to:

- Asking a staff member to interpret the "will" or "mind" of the board is considered inappropriate. Decisions of the board are made after thoughtful and careful consideration of the entire board and only the board may speak to those matters.

- Asking questions that would inappropriately identify a student or family will not be addressed. Matters pertaining to protected personnel records will not be addressed.

- Asking questions that suggest illegal or unethical activity of a district employee or board member will not be addressed and will be considered inappropriate.

Since questions are "answered in a timely manner following the FOIA time line" per policy, please consider this correspondence an initial 10-day response and determination regarding your questions. More information about the SC FOIA timeline can be found online: <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t30c004.php>

While the District may not be able to address "rumored" reports, the District will in good faith respond to your questions and, in some cases, provide documents in response to your questions. With regard to the production of documents, the District has determined in accordance with SC FOIA that there is no cost associated with providing documents related to your inquiry. More information on the District's FOIA fee schedule and other processes can be found on the District website: <https://www.lexrich5.org/Page/9163>

Regards,



### **Katrina Goggins**

#### ***Director of Communications***

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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[www.lexrich5.org](http://www.lexrich5.org)



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