
No subject

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 9:47:16 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton I am truly disappointed at the amount of time spent on an issue that turned into a courtroom atmosphere of attacking a fellow board member. That could have been an item for another meeting and certainly not when all focus and worry of our learning environment and the future of our student's school day should have been the focus. The public feedback has been anger at our board. I am frustrated that my fellow board members appear to focus on vendetta type actions and not working together to support you. It is sad and maybe only a change in leadership will solve the problem. I will share my concerns with the officers in a separate email and I understand your position. The majority of the public is not happy and I want to support you but your board majority is not helping your image at all. I don't understand putting you in the middle. I think we need experts at a meeting giving data on the virus. That would appear to be proactive and on target to gather evidence for your decision on reopening schools.

Sincerely

Jan Hammond

No subject

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 7:27:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "bhutchison@lexrich5.org Beth Hutchison" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org Michael Cates" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

So happy to see Molly Spearman understands the need to get our children back to 5 day face to face school. Also a bill has been co-signed by Chip and Nathan.to get our schools back to providing the education all students deserve . That was what the largest number of parents chose in the survey conducted in D5 and thank goodness now their choice will be honored. For health concerns there will still be virtual. I remain shocked and frustrated that our board used the valuable time of hard working employees to stay at a meeting until 1130 just to turn the meeting into i a court room against a fellow board member. It was insensitive to the pandemic crisis our parents feel in their plea for leadership from this board. The experts that should have been in that room the other night was heath care workers on COVID information. Suicide and other mental problems, social problems and low income and poverty issues are information we all need to hear . I am well aware that the core 4 of this board always moves forward with your own agenda with no care of what some of us think. However i am thankful this issue seems to have been solved at the state level.

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 8:49:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Cc: email: "bhutchison@lexrich5.org Beth Hutchison" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org Michael Cates" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Well said. Mental health takes constant efforts of all to keep in the forefront. Less spending on ginned up courtroom style theatrical antics and district legal expenses means more FTE's for the classroom! I believe the that we may finally be reaching the point where important things that need to be discussed can finally happen. I am ready for a fresh new start. Out with the old and in with the new!

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020, 7:27 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

So happy to see Molly Spearman understands the need to get our children back to 5 day face to face school. Also a bill has been co-signed by Chip and Nathan.to get our schools back to providing the education all students deserve . That was what the largest number of parents chose in the survey conducted in D5 and thank goodness now their choice will be honored. For health concerns there will still be virtual. I remain shocked and frustrated that our board used the valuable time of hard working employees to stay at a meeting until 1130 just to turn the meeting into i a court room against a fellow board member. It was insensitive to the pandemic crisis our parents feel in their plea for leadership from this board. The experts that should have been in that room the other night was heath care workers on COVID information. Suicide and other mental problems, social problems and low income and poverty issues are information we all need to hear . I am well aware that the core 4 of this board always moves forward with your own agenda with no care of what some of us think. However i am thankful this issue seems to have been solved at the state level.

Re: Face to Face Instruction and Notification of Changes in School Operational Status

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: "mspearman@ed.sc.gov Spearman, Molly"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 4:06:44 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Yeahhhhhh

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 3:54 PM Spearman, Molly <mspearman@ed.sc.gov> wrote:

District Superintendents and School Board Members,

As we move further into the 2020–21 school year, our focus must be on ensuring students have every opportunity to be successful while maintaining safety conditions in and outside classrooms to mitigate and protect against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. While

many students and their families have chosen virtual options and are able to successfully navigate this new instructional environment, others are struggling and desperately need a return to face to face learning as quickly as possible. To this end, I strongly

encourage you to prioritize offering a return to face to face learning in as traditional a model as possible for those students who need it the most. These populations include, but are not limited to, students with disabilities, English learners, students

who are homeless, in foster care, or group homes, students in kindergarten through fifth grades, students who are academically delayed, and those with poor or intermittent internet connectivity at home. These student populations encompass those who are learning

the integral building blocks of their educational futures, including the fundamentals of reading, which simply cannot be taught well virtually as well as those that rely on our public school system for wrap-around and supplemental supports.

Many have expressed concern over the high rate of virus spread in some counties as defined weekly by South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. While these reports are important decision making tools, we cannot make all operational decisions

based on any one document. Please also consider parental choice of face to face and virtual learning environments, faculty and staff availability, and personal protective equipment and supplies. Districts operating face to face in high spread areas have shown

how to do this successfully by strictly following the guidance and safety precautions put forth by public health experts. As you consider this request, I encourage you to call on me and the South Carolina Department of Education to assist you. The agency is

willing and able to support you by providing the resources needed.

Please continue to confer with and notify Dr. David Mathis, dmathis@ed.sc.gov, of all reopening plan changes. Unless an emergency warrants an immediate change in the school schedule, the district must provide parents

a minimum of five calendar days before changes are implemented.

Sincerely,

Molly Spearman

State Superintendent of Education

The information contained in this transmission is intended only for the use of the person(s) named above. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email. The South Carolina Department of Education is neither liable for the proper and complete transmission of the information contained in this communication nor for any delay in its receipt. Communications to and from the South Carolina Department of Education are subject to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, unless otherwise exempt by state or federal law.

Re: IT and Virtual Concerns

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

To: email: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 8:35:55 PM Eastern Daylight Time

[REDACTED] I have read and am getting the picture. I will try to address through the Superintendent. Thank you soooo much for giving us incite. I gor one have no other way to know what is going on because Nikki, Hzn and I are excluded. Ken

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020, 7:27 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Nikki, Jan and Ken,

As we all know each other I am sending this solely as one of many concerned parents for your informational purposes only. We have tremendous trust and faith in the teachers and staff at Lake Murray Elementary and trust our specific concern today from the email chain below will be addressed appropriately at that level...in fact it already has with [REDACTED] teacher calling me directly this afternoon to provide information for [REDACTED] to review but also to ensure we were able to access the classroom link for tomorrow morning. However, [REDACTED] and I felt we needed to forward this to you to illustrate the true face of what virtual/hybrid instruction looks like as we have experienced it thus far within our family and at the elementary school age group. If you read the chain below you will see what has led me to finally send these concerns to you all. I've also included several other concerns leading up to this that have troubled me for weeks but I did not feel warranted sending to you all at the time with so much already on your plates until our incident today culminated the two weeks of frustration and disappointment as parents. With regards to those previous concerns, I apologize for the bullet point list but couldn't think of a better way to organize my thoughts as far as our experience so far so please forgive me for the informality:

- The day we received the Chromebook I was already suspect of proper measures and settings being in place given both the rush of the decision to go hybrid/virtual and lack of time the

District IT department was faced with. As such, when we first got the Chromebook I did not allow our 2nd grader [REDACTED] to use it until I checked privacy and security settings as well as put it through a couple of trial paces to test the District protocols (supposedly in place). Needless to say I found any number of physical machine settings as well as virtual access settings completely turned off, not set properly for elementary age, or otherwise. Some of these included allowing access to both integrated camera/microphone/speakers from outside parties via internet connection with no authentication required as well as local and virtual network port sharing among others.

- Putting the web browser to the test I found I could go to any number of age inappropriate websites. Granted I didn't go too extreme purely out of self-respect but also not wanting [REDACTED] to potentially get falsely accused and in trouble I want to be direct in that I was still able to bring up search results, videos, images, etc from websites like Palmetto State Armory, and similar sites with content absolutely not appropriate for an elementary schooler.
- Through the google or yahoo homepage search engines I could bring up any number of thumbnails, videos, search results and links to age inappropriate websites and links, particularly disturbing was that legitimate news websites did not seem to be censored at all and news stories and photographs to graphic events around the globe as well as content we do not want our 2nd grader reading or having access to without appropriate supervision and discussion were readily accessible. I was even able to access the fake news website "The Onion" in it's entirety for those who have ever heard of it. This is completely unacceptable.
- I was able to access the pages to set up actual new user accounts on Amazon, eBay and other similar eCommerce sites with no verification or security blocking. (Not so concerning for a 2nd grader like ours but imagine a middle schooler or high schooler who steals a parent's credit card or bank account login).

- [REDACTED] Music teacher managed to kick herself out of the meeting and taking several minutes to finally rejoin while leaving the kids all in an open audio and visual forum without any supervision. Thankfully some of the parents were monitoring and stepped in until she returned.
- The episode today from below is only the latest for our family specifically.

The list goes on and on and we've heard similar stories and many much worse than our own experiences over the past two weeks. While I have some empathy for what the District IT department faced in such a short timeline as the re-entry plan continued to change in July and August, the bottom line is that they didn't even accomplish the very basic IT responsibilities when it comes to a minimal level of protecting our students in the online and virtual world. That alone is unacceptable and valuable teaching instruction days are being missed and that is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the potential threats of the lack of online security we have already witnessed firsthand. Again, I'm sending this to you three not because I demand any kind of action for my child, but because I know you three know me well enough to trust me in our own experience and that this is a real and major problem that needs to be addressed immediately for the sake of all of the families and children in our District. Thank you for taking the time to read and for all you three are trying to do standing up for the students and families in our community. You are welcome to use any of the above information as you see fit and I am happy to provide direct evidence of everything described above but please redact our families' name if you choose to do so.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:34 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Kelly Reese (kreese@lexrich5.org) <kreese@lexrich5.org>; Brian Scott <bscott@lexrich5.org>; [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: [REDACTED] - VIRTUAL ABSENCE 9-16-2020

Hi [REDACTED]

I just picked up [REDACTED] from Gateway Baptist where he is participating in the facilitated learning classrooms they have offered for hybrid students on virtual days. [REDACTED], the Director who contacted you earlier, pulled me aside when I was picking him up to make me aware of the issue with him not being able to login this morning so I asked her to forward me the details so I could try and look into it. I know this is difficult and new to all of us and please know that we are so sorry to have already had a mishap on our end resulting in [REDACTED] not being online this morning with the rest of his class. [REDACTED] did say they tried to find lessons in ABCYa that aligned with what the other students were doing as best they could. However, if there is any material or exercises I can do with him this afternoon to catch him back up before tomorrow please email them to me (or call me if that's easier) and I will make that priority this afternoon and evening with him!

As far as the technology issue, after getting home and opening his Chromebook and following the instruction below from [REDACTED]'s response below I kept running into the same issue. Exiting the session and restarting continually brought me back to the LMES Resources login and no option to change user and no sign of his name or user ID anywhere. As a last resort I found the option to add a "new person" from the startup screen and after navigating a couple of additional prompts it finally allowed me to re-register him on the machine completely from scratch with his original district assigned email and password. I admittedly am not completely familiar with the Chromebook platform and how user ID's are set up but it appears that his prior user name was completely removed/deleted somehow since yesterday leaving only the LMES Resources option until I manually added him back. I am not sure what could have caused this but it may be worthwhile forwarding this to the District IT staff to prevent a similar issue from happening in the future with others.

Again, I apologize and anything I can do today to catch him up on what he may have missed this morning please let me know and I will certainly do so here at home. [REDACTED] and I would also respectfully ask that today not be counted as an absence against him as it was out of his control and [REDACTED] and the staff at Gateway tried to provide what parallel instruction that they could given the circumstances. We have also arranged to have him here at home tomorrow with us monitoring personally to ensure everything is working properly again before returning to Gateway Friday and us back to work. If we continue to have any issues we will reach out immediately in the morning.

Thank you again for everything you all are doing for the children. We are so thankful to be blessed with such wonderful teachers and administrators at LMES!

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:08 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: [REDACTED]

EXTERNAL SENDER:

This email originated outside of CMTA. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the sender and know the content is safe.

Forwarded Conversation

Subject: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] >

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:52 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Hi!

This is [REDACTED] and I am with [REDACTED]. When we try to get on Google meet it says all google products are blocked by the administrator.

Any suggestions?

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 10:34 AM

To: [REDACTED]


Go to my google classroom and use the google meet link to sign in . You may also need to restart his chromebook.

Hope This helps!

-



Lake Murray Elementary


[Webpage](#)

From: 

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 10:37 AM

To: [REDACTED]

I will try again. the message said he is blocked from all google apps.

On Sep 16, 2020, at 10:34 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 10:43 AM

To: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

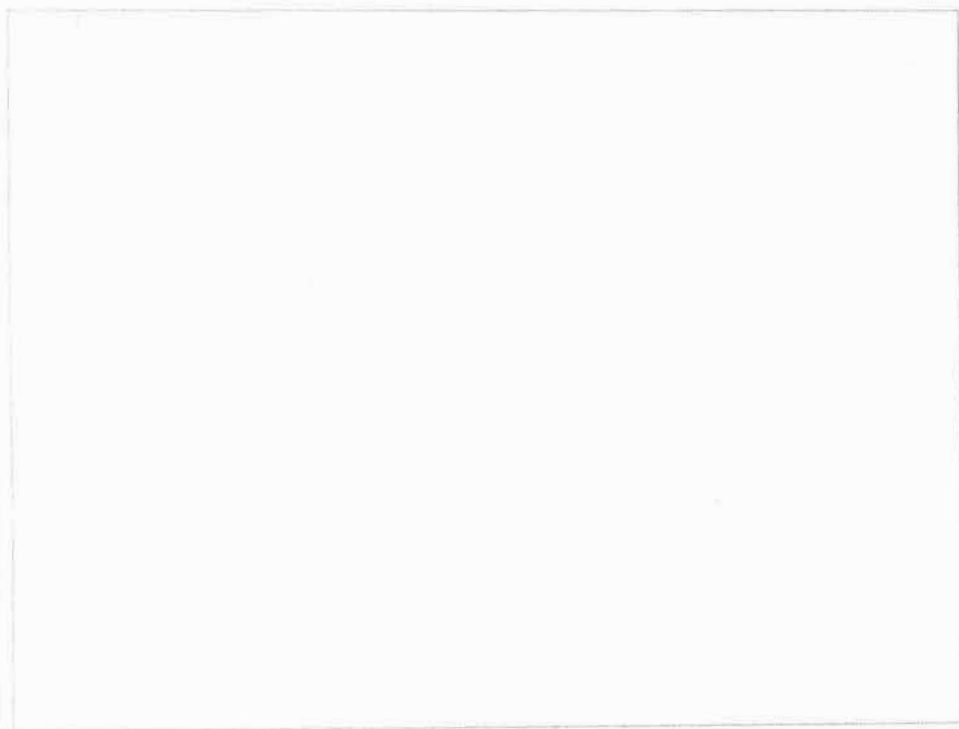
Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 11:24 AM

To: [REDACTED]

I just asked our technology specialist. Here is her reply.



On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 7:52 AM [REDACTED] wrote:



Re: So discouraged with our district/hybrid

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

To: email: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 8:53:27 AM Eastern Daylight Time

I agree I'm disappointed that I could not get support for my motion to move forward with the plan of 5 day

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:47 AM [REDACTED]

Good Morning,

I am so discouraged with our district and the hybrid option. I just dropped off my second grade son at a day camp where he does his virtual days, since both his parents work, and it was packed with kids from other various schools who are in the same boat. I helped him get set up at a 4 x 2 table with three other kids (definitely not six or even barely two feet apart from each other) and he gets online with his teacher. His demeanor and face just show his utter disappointment to have to be there and not at his actual school and in his actual classroom. It breaks my heart to have to leave him there and then it makes me upset With our district that we can't get our act together and get these kids back in school, face-to-face, five days a week.

PLEASE, PLEASE give the option of face-to-face five days a week Oct. 8th. As a parent who loves their child so so much, I don't know how much more I can take of watching his education dwindle in this district.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Thank you!

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 10:37:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: [REDACTED]

Cc: email: "rgantt@lexrich5.org Robert Gantt" , email: "bhutchinson@lexrich5.org" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org" , email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org"

I appreciate your kind words and your support. It means a great deal to me. Please spread the word to vote for Hines and Huddle in Lexington county and if you know anyone in Richland county vote for Matt Hogan. That is how we can get accountable board members. 👍

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 9:06 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. Hammond:

Thank you so much for taking the time to interact with the parents prior to this past Monday's Board Meeting. It is too bad the rest of the Board did not take time to do this. It would have gone a long way in easing tensions. I also truly appreciate how you tried to get the Board to understand why it is important to take an active role in deciding the most important policy a School Board has oversight of, instruction. As I mentioned in my comments to the Board we as parents do not feel as if the District Administration has done an adequate job in sharing feedback from the surveys with us or designing equitable instruction models for all students. The Hybrid model does not provide a sufficient amount of teacher lead instruction.

The motion you put forward; along with Mr. Loveless and Mrs. Gardner's support was exactly what the parents (aka voters) were looking for. I understand that this was an uphill battle for you all, but it showed great leadership skills. It was reassuring to know that there are some representatives of the Board who refuse to just rubber stamp the policies of the District Administration.

Being on the Board means more than just monitoring the budget and critiquing construction costs. It means being willing to have a say in the greatest decision in education since integration. If representatives of the Board do not want to take on this responsibility, then they do not deserve to be on the Board. Even though you are not up for reelection this year, I look forward to the upcoming election when the voters can speak to your fellow colleagues by choosing other people with leadership qualities like yourself.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
D5 graduate, former teacher, volunteer, and parent

Re: Withdrawing our Children from Ballentine Elementary School

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

To: email: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 10:41:03 PM Eastern Daylight Time

So sorry I tried to do just they. I am a teacher and know the importance of face to face. State superintendent is going to mandate a five day option. Thank goodness We got that word today. Hope it happens soon.

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 8:18 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Ms. Bright, D5 School Board and Superintendent Melton,

We are writing with great sadness to notify you of our decision to withdraw our sons, [REDACTED]. We have had 7 fabulous years at BES, and our family has loved being a part of this school. We commend you, Ms Bright for your excellent job in leading the staff and students all these years. Sadly, though we planned on another 4 years at BES (until our youngest son completes grade 5), we just cannot agree with the decisions made by the D5 board and Superintendent Melton on behalf of our children.

The many unreasonably strict restrictions implemented by the school district upon our kids are just not acceptable. All of you board members who arbitrarily took away the 5 day face to face option without a vote, and totally without regard to parents, children or teachers should be ashamed of yourselves. As parents, all we asked for was to be given the option to allow our precious children the opportunity to attend school face to face. We have never demanded that those who were not comfortable with face to face instruction have the virtual option removed.

Other unreasonable decisions include the mandate that masks be worn all day in classrooms (even for elementary age children), as well as not allowing children to play freely on playground equipment. What scientific basis do you have for these decisions? I find no peer-reviewed evidence to support such policies.

How is it possible that D5, which is quick to tout its standard of excellence, cannot even compare to local private schools who have been able to offer the following this school year:

1. Starting school on the planned date without delays
2. Offering 5 day in person education
3. Limited or no requirement for elementary age children to wear a mask while in classrooms.
4. Recess time at regular playgrounds without need for unenforceable social distancing (after all, they are children).

Additionally, our children are allowed to play organized soccer without masks or social distancing; they may go to our local parks and play in the playground; they can go to any store at any time (with or without a mask). So please explain why our children cannot go to school five days a week, learn with their friends, and enjoy the beautiful playgrounds at BES??

Maybe you are unaware, but pediatricians agree:

1. Isolation is not in the best interest of children's well being (such as that which occurs with virtual learning)
2. Large amounts of screen time is not healthy for children, yet our school board decided to put our children in front of a chrome book for 6-7 hours a day
3. Prolonged mask use is detrimental to children's physical, mental and psychological health

We have contacted you board members previously to express our concerns, We are very thankful to the one board member who responded to our questions. We thank you for taking the time to communicate with us.

Sadly, every recent board decision has added more and more restrictions without any regard to the consequences they have inflicted on families. It appears obvious that the current school board is not interested in choosing what's best for our children's education. Unfortunately, our school board and superintendent have abandoned reason and common sense in decision making, and have instead opted for a fear-based response. As parents, we choose not to live our lives this way. We choose a life of common sense, a life of giving our children every opportunity to learn and grow in a healthy and positive environment.

We pray that some common sense and wisdom will come back to our school district leaders. In the meantime, we will continue to strive for positive change, especially at the ballot box on November 3rd.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Re: You are failing the children of Lexington/Richland 5 -- Your responsibility is great, and you are cowering in the face of adversity.

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: "[REDACTED]"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 10:43:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

I'm with you. State Superintendent has issued the statement all districts have to offer a five day. Hope that will happen soon I'm going to continue lobbying our board. Thanks

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 10:33 PM [REDACTED]

This is not working. I just had to calm my 9th grader down enough so she could relax and try to get some sleep. School isn't easy for her even though she so wishes it was. I wish it was, but it's not. She is overwhelmed. She gets google classroom notifications throughout the day for every class and is worried to death that she will miss something so she is constantly hopping around instead of concentrating on one thing. She gets powerschool notifications that she is absent from classes when she knows she did the attendance assignment. I am not a crier and I am in tears. She was so looking forward to high school and this is ruining it for her. I have tried to put on a positive front for her, but tonight I couldn't. I just sat and cried with her. My happy, optimistic, wonderful girl is overwhelmed, already feeling defeated and is looking for me to fix something that is completely outside of my ability to fix. I don't even know where to start.

THIS IS YOUR JOB!!!!!!

WE ARE LETTING FEAR DICTATE MY CHILDRENS FUTURE!!!!!!

OPEN THE SCHOOLS!!!!!!

[REDACTED]

On Sat, Jul 25, 2020, 12:37 PM [REDACTED]

Dr. Melton,

It is my understanding that teacher's and some (not all) board members were surprised by your "change of plans" announced July 23rd from the initial plan that was announced July 16th. We as the public demand to know the real reason for the change. It is not that the data changed, because it didn't – the number of confirmed COVID 19 cases in South Carolina had been steadily increasing for weeks prior to the release of the reentry plan on July 16th. In fact, that very day was the day that South Carolina recorded a record number of new cases since the beginning of

the pandemic. By July 23rd, the data had been trending the same as it was before July 16th and all of a sudden, the plan you were confident in now will not work. Who is in your ear? Who has an agenda and is leaning on you? What is the incentive to change the plan that actually worked for the people the school district serves – children?

Things a person as educated as you should know:

1. Kids – OUR CHILDREN are the ones who will suffer without 5 day face to face instruction and we know it. The school district's duty is to OUR CHILDREN FIRST. We all know all the reasons why this statement is true. I could write a book on it but I will not. Bottom line, children need to be in school 5 days a week and WE ALL KNOW IT.
2. Teachers – You are in a unique position in that you run one, if not THE, most desirable district(s) for teachers in the state. All of us parents who work either have to go back to work under our employer's terms or we lose our job. The plan proposed on the 16th should have been able to accommodate those ACTUALLY at risk teachers who need to work virtually and the rest of the teachers NEED TO DO WHAT THEY ARE TOLD. Parents do! Literally, the risk of death from COVID 19 is less than 1%. You have to know that there are other reasons teachers don't want to come back that have nothing to do with COVID 19, but who are capitalizing on this chance to ... not have to deal with the insane discipline problems that are rampant in some areas in our cluster.... not have to deal with intrusive practices by administrators in their schools which hinder their ability to teach... the list goes on and on AND includes reasons that are simply for personal gain like not having to pay for childcare for their kids who are not yet in school. We can sit back and try to make ourselves believe that ALL #virtualuntilsafe teachers are ACTUALLY scared of the risks related to COVID 19, or we can put our brains on and acknowledge that WE KNOW that is not the case. The bottom line is teachers DO have SOME issues that have gone unaddressed/unresolved by the district for years and now is their chance to at least be heard while they are kicking and screaming. I understand their plight, but I do not agree with the method which is only harming OUR CHILDREN. You know the actual statistics and you also know that we all do things that we have a less than 1% chance of dying from every day. Teachers need to work where/how they are needed or you can easily fill their position. I personally know at least 3 teachers who would feel very fortunate to get a job in our district.
3. Parents – Not giving the 5 day face to face option will paralyze some, if not most, families. Some parents will either have to quit their jobs to ensure their children's education does not suffer OR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION WILL SUFFER AND YOU KNOW IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You are asking parents to choose between their livelihood and their children. We all know this is true and we all know it is not OK! You are also asking parents to do YOUR job. I am not a district employee, but need to know who in human resources I need to contact to get payment for teaching my 2 high schoolers 3 days a week... You have put parents and children in an impossible position to the detriment of the children you are hired to serve.

You know you made the right decision on July 16th and you also know you made the wrong one on July 23rd.

Teachers who know the importance of our children going back to school 5 days face to face are anonymously encouraging us parents to enroll our children in already established online schools ESPECIALLY for high schoolers. They know they are not trained to effectively teach virtually. They know there is no way they will be ready to effectively teach virtually by September 8th, and they are basically telling us to go to an option that actually has administration and teachers who know what they are doing on that platform. Teachers are also saying that Hybrid will be a nightmare. Because it will. Teachers know better than any of us how this will go. Your committed teachers who will teach our children 5 days face to face with no complaining are not confident in the district's ability to "pull this off". That speaks volumes.

Wake up, do your job – our children depend on it. The mark of a great person is not how they handle good times (state and national accolades, state championships, etc) but how they handle adversity. BE GREAT!

Sincerely,


Single Mother of 2 current [REDACTED] students, [REDACTED] and 2 school district alumni, [REDACTED]
graduate of Ben Lippen but attended D5 from K to 11th grade and [REDACTED] 2018 graduate of [REDACTED]

P.S. Full disclosure – even though I am not a personal fan of yours, I have always publicly supported the district and their decisions until now. You might not remember; but my oldest son, who had NEVER had any "bad marks" on his record from the time he started at [REDACTED] in the 1st grade until March of his senior year, came before you for a disciplinary hearing for that ONE incident at the end of his Senior year. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have done your job for you before with one of my children and I will do it again because I HAVE TO. There are, however, MANY students whose parents CANNOT or WILL NOT. Your duty is to ALL of the students regardless of their parent's ability/willingness to pickup your slack.

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Re: You are failing the children of Lexington/Richland 5 -- Your responsibility is great, and you are cowering in the face of adversity.

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: [REDACTED]

Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 2:36:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

I appreciate your email. I will continue to support a five day face to face as Dr. Melton proposed on July 23. I am so disappointed in the 4 board members that refused to stand up for what the students need.
Jan Hammond

School Board Meeting Experts

email: "[REDACTED]"
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org"

Monday, September 14, 2020 at 10:47:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Jan,

I'm the tall bald guy that you showed where to enter the meeting. I am still here listening to this argument. How is it possible that we have all these experts in here talking about codes and laws for the building, but we're not bringing in pediatricians, child psychologists, epidemiologists, and medical researchers to inform us on COVID risks. Instead, we get positive cases? That's crazy. USC has one of the best COVID response teams in the country (per [REDACTED] recent visit). Why can't we leverage those resources to quantify the risks to our children?

Is there a way to get similar experts related to COVID at the next meeting?

[REDACTED]

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: "[REDACTED]"

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 9:30:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

[REDACTED] thanks that is so on it. This board leadership decides what to bring up and who to have. I will certainly push your well made argument and comparison. I really appreciate your comments and all those that stood up for what is best for our children. Stay in your touch. We HAVE to change this board. The opportunity is here on November 3. Cates in Lexington needs to be voted out and Gantt in Richland needs to be replaced. Beth Hutchinson's seat is up but she is not running. Hines and Huddle in Lexington and Matt Hogan in Richland is great.

Thanks again for all the common sense you bring.

Sincerely,

Jan

Hammond
On Mon, Sep 14, 2020 at 10:48 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
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Is there a way to get similar experts related to COVID at the next meeting?

[REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 1:18:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Jan,

I'm going to start getting the word out and likely putting signs up around the city. In terms of the people you might suggest, you should look at USC's Future Planning Group. There is an epidemiologist who has spoken at USC's Town Halls that would be a great speaker. Her name is [REDACTED] (https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/public_health/faculty-staff/). She's very articulate and has young children at home and is teaching in-person at USC right now. [REDACTED] a very good grasp on the actual risks to different population groups and is able to articulate why (in her case) college kids are not at risk from COVID. I imagine she would be able to articulate that well for younger kids as well.

Another person to consider is [REDACTED]. He is a local resident (Dutch Fork) who is the [REDACTED] Clemson's Youth Learning Institute (<https://yli.sites.clemson.edu/about.html>). I have had dinner with him before and we got talking about in-person education. He has seen the nasty underbelly of what virtual learning is doing to youth's psyches. He told me he knows three 12 year-olds who have committed suicide throughout this pandemic. He can articulate why it is so important to have kids back in school, in-person.

These two individuals are well-qualified and can articulate the need for in-person education.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 1:19:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Could also provide you [REDACTED] Facebook page if that's an easier way to get ahold of him: [https://www.facebook.com/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.facebook.com/[REDACTED])

[REDACTED] out front last night before the meeting.

~CmS

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:18 PM [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: [REDACTED]

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 3:45:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:19 PM [REDACTED]

Could also provide you [REDACTED] Facebook page if that's an easier way to get ahold of him: [https://www.facebook.com/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.facebook.com/[REDACTED])

[REDACTED] was out front last night before the meeting.

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Thanks that would be great.

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[REDACTED]

email: [REDACTED]
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 12:04:38 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Jan,

Quick question, as I expect you have experience in this. What are the rules and regulations about political signs in Richland and Lexington counties? Are there places you can't put them? How have you gone about putting up signs in the past?

[REDACTED]

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:46 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 1:19 PM [REDACTED]

Could also provide you [REDACTED]'s Facebook page if that's an easier way to get ahold of him: [https://www.facebook.com/\[REDACTED\]](https://www.facebook.com/[REDACTED])

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Thanks that would be great.

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Is there a way to get similar experts related to COVID at the next meeting?

[REDACTED]

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

To: email: [REDACTED]

Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 7:09:25 AM Eastern Daylight Time

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:05 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

Jan,

Quick question, as I expect you have experience in this. What are the rules and regulations about political signs in Richland and Lexington counties? Are there places you can't put them? How have you gone about putting up signs in the past?

Best place is in a yard of an owner that supports you. In a business with permission of owner. Rightaways are ok in Irmo city limits they may take some down. The finance department has updated the site, the record is attached (the District is again attaching the document), and we are providing the following link: <https://www.lexrich5.org/cms/lib/SC01916806/Centricity/domain/2704/2015-2016%20expenditures/May%202016.pdf>

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 3:46 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Is there a way to get similar experts related to COVID at the next meeting?

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Friday, September 18, 2020 at 5:36:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thanks for the info. One thing about the parent survey that just got sent out. The question about whether a parent expects to change their child's schedule/track is really confusing and not psychometrically interpretable. I create experimental surveys for a living, and that question is a nightmare. There are a couple ways to interpret the "yes" response:

Yes - Yes, I will change my child from hybrid to the 5-day option.
Yes - Yes, I will change my child from hybrid to FIVE.

I'm not sure how parents were supposed to respond to this question. I've asked a couple other friends and they were equally confused as to what it meant.

The most important question seems to be the preference question about about 2 day hybrid, 4/5 day, or FIVE.

Sorry to bombard you with this stuff. I just don't feel like I have any other outlets for these frustrations.

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 7:09 AM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 12:05 PM [REDACTED]:
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Quick question, as I expect you have experience in this. What are the rules and regulations about political signs in Richland and Lexington counties? Are there places you can't put them? How have you gone about putting up signs in the past?

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Thanks that would be great.

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~ [REDACTED]

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Is there a way to get similar experts related to COVID at the next meeting?

[REDACTED]

School Board meeting

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 5:24:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, I don't want to waste your time. But , I have a hard time believing that you were part of group that aimed to hurt me on Monday night. How could you let them do that to me without saying anything? How sad is that? At least I know. We will continue on. Thanks Ken Loveless

You are failing the children of Lexington/Richland 5 -- Your responsibility is great, and you are cowering in the face of adversity.

email: [REDACTED]

Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 12:37:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org"

Cc: email: "reentry@lexrich5.org", email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org", email: "bhutchison@lexrich5.org", email: "rgantt@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "scsupted@ed.sc.gov"

Dr. Melton,

It is my understanding that teacher's and some (not all) board members were surprised by your "change of plans" announced July 23rd from the initial plan that was announced July 16th. We as the public demand to know the real reason for the change. It is not that the data changed, because it didn't – the number of confirmed COVID 19 cases in South Carolina had been steadily increasing for weeks prior to the release of the reentry plan on July 16th. In fact, that very day was the day that South Carolina recorded a record number of new cases since the beginning of the pandemic. By July 23rd, the data had been trending the same as it was before July 16th and all of a sudden, the plan you were confident in now will not work. Who is in your ear? Who has an agenda and is leaning on you? What is the incentive to change the plan that actually worked for the people the school district serves – children?

Things a person as educated as you should know:

1. Kids – OUR CHILDREN are the ones who will suffer without 5 day face to face instruction and we know it. The school district's duty is to OUR CHILDREN FIRST. We all know all the reasons why this statement is true. I could write a book on it but I will not. Bottom line, children need to be in school 5 days a week and WE ALL KNOW IT.
2. Teachers – You are in a unique position in that you run one, if not THE, most desirable district(s) for teachers in the state. All of us parents who work either have to go back to work under our employer's terms or we lose our job. The plan proposed on the 16th should have been able to accommodate those ACTUALLY at risk teachers who need to work virtually and the rest of the teachers NEED TO DO WHAT THEY ARE TOLD. Parents do! Literally, the risk of death from COVID 19 is less than 1%. You have to know that there are other reasons teachers don't want to come back that have nothing to do with COVID 19, but who are capitalizing on this chance to ... not have to deal with the insane discipline problems that are rampant in some areas in our cluster.... not have to deal with intrusive practices by administrators in their schools which hinder their ability to teach... the list goes on and on AND includes reasons that are simply for personal gain like not having to pay for childcare for their kids who are not yet in school. We can sit back and try to make ourselves believe that ALL #virtualuntilsafe teachers are ACTUALLY scared of the risks related to COVID 19, or we can put our brains on and acknowledge that WE KNOW that is not the case. The bottom line is teachers

DO have SOME issues that have gone unaddressed/unresolved by the district for years and now is their chance to at least be heard while they are kicking and screaming. I understand their plight, but I do not agree with the method which is only harming OUR CHILDREN. You know the actual statistics and you also know that we all do things that we have a less than 1% chance of dying from every day. Teachers need to work where/how they are needed or you can easily fill their position. I personally know at least 3 teachers who would feel very fortunate to get a job in our district.

3. Parents – Not giving the 5 day face to face option will paralyze some, if not most, families. Some parents will either have to quit their jobs to ensure their children's education does not suffer OR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION WILL SUFFER AND YOU KNOW IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You are asking parents to choose between their livelihood and their children. We all know this is true and we all know it is not OK! You are also asking parents to do YOUR job. I am not a district employee, but need to know who in human resources I need to contact to get payment for teaching my 2 high schoolers 3 days a week... You have put parents and children in an impossible position to the detriment of the children you are hired to serve.

You know you made the right decision on July 16th and you also know you made the wrong one on July 23rd.

Teachers who know the importance of our children going back to school 5 days face to face are anonymously encouraging us parents to enroll our children in already established online schools ESPECIALLY for high schoolers. They know they are not trained to effectively teach virtually. They know there is no way they will be ready to effectively teach virtually by September 8th, and they are basically telling us to go to an option that actually has administration and teachers who know what they are doing on that platform. Teachers are also saying that Hybrid will be a nightmare. Because it will. Teachers know better than any of us how this will go. Your committed teachers who will teach our children 5 days face to face with no complaining are not confident in the district's ability to "pull this off". That speaks volumes.

Wake up, do your job – our children depend on it. The mark of a great person is not how they handle good times (state and national accolades, state championships, etc) but how they handle adversity. BE GREAT!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Single Mother of 2 current [REDACTED] and 2 school district alumni, [REDACTED] 2020 graduate of Ben Lippen but attended D5 from K to 11th grade and [REDACTED] 2018 graduate of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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transmittal that supports your obligations to protect such personal data. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient and/or you have received this email in error, you must take no action based on the information in this email and you are hereby notified that any dissemination, misuse, copying, or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized interception of email communications is a violation of Federal Criminal Law. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by email and delete the original message."

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 8:37:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: [REDACTED]
Cc: email: "reentry@lexrich5.org D5 Reentry", email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org Michael Cates", email: "bhutchison@lexrich5.org Beth Hutchison", email: "rgantt@lexrich5.org Robert Gantt", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed White", email: "scsupted@ed.sc.gov SC Supted@ed.sc.gov"

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your message and for including our reentry address to capture your feedback. Our objective will be to work towards offering our students and families the opportunity to be back on a traditional schedule for those that are interested. The safety of our students, staff and community are of great importance to me.

I appreciate your message and regret the frustration and added stress this has caused you and your family.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Sat, Jul 25, 2020 at 12:37 PM [REDACTED]

Dr. Melton,

It is my understanding that teacher's and some (not all) board members were surprised by your "change of plans" announced July 23rd from the initial plan that was announced July 16th. We as the public demand to know the real reason for the change. It is not that the data changed, because it didn't – the number of confirmed COVID 19 cases in South Carolina had been steadily increasing for weeks prior to the release of the reentry plan

on July 16th. In fact, that very day was the day that South Carolina recorded a record number of new cases since the beginning of the pandemic. By July 23rd, the data had been trending the same as it was before July 16th and all of a sudden, the plan you were confident in now will not work. Who is in your ear? Who has an agenda and is leaning on you? What is the incentive to change the plan that actually worked for the people the school district serves – children?

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Wake up, do your job – our children depend on it. The mark of a great person is not how they handle good times (state and national accolades, state championships, etc) but how they handle adversity. BE GREAT!

Sincerely, The finance department has updated the site, the record is attached (the District is again attaching the document), and we are providing the following link: <https://www.lexrich5.org/cms/lib/SC01916806/Centricity/domain/2704/2015-2016%20expenditures/May%202016.pdf>

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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email: [REDACTED]

Monday, July 27, 2020 at 2:49:49 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Cc: email: "reentry@lexrich5.org D5 Reentry", email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org Michael Cates", email: "bhutchison@lexrich5.org Beth Hutchison", email: "rgantt@lexrich5.org Robert Gantt", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed White", email: "scsupted@ed.sc.gov SCSupted@ed.sc.gov"

Dr. Melton,

Thank you for your response, however brief. The 5 day face to face option needs to be back on the table as an option for the 1st day of return to school, not just a goal that we hope to achieve. The data does not support sacrificing our kids education for even a month. Apparently you have all the

power to make that decision which was made abundantly clear on July 23rd.

On Sun, Jul 26, 2020, 8:38 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Thank you for your message and for including our reentry address to capture your feedback. Our objective will be to work towards offering our students and families the opportunity to be back on a traditional schedule for those that are interested. The safety of our students, staff and community are of great importance to me.

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www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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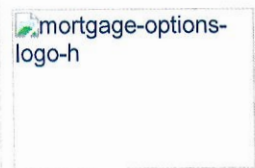
[REDACTED]

Single Mother of 2 current Spring Hill High School students, [REDACTED] 11th grade and Reagan [REDACTED] 10th grade; and 2 school district alumni, [REDACTED] 2020 graduate of Ben Lippen but attended D5 from K to 11th grade and [REDACTED] 2018 graduate of [REDACTED]

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email: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 10:32:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Cc: email: "reentry@lexrich5.org D5 Reentry", email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org Michael Cates", email: "bhutchison@lexrich5.org", email: "rgantt@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "scsupted@ed.sc.gov"

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THIS IS YOUR JOB!!!!!!

WE ARE LETTING FEAR DICTATE MY CHILDRENS FUTURE!!!!!!

OPEN THE SCHOOLS!!!!!!

[REDACTED]

On Sat, Jul 25, 2020, 12:37 PM [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 10:43:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time

I'm with you. State Superintendent has issued the statement all districts have to offer a five day. Hope that will happen soon I'm going to continue lobbying our board. Thanks

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 10:33 PM [REDACTED] e:

This is not working. I just had to calm my 9th grader down enough so she could relax and try to get some sleep. School isn't easy for her even though she so wishes it was. I wish it was, but it's not. She is overwhelmed. She gets google classroom notifications throughout the day for every class and is worried to death that she will miss something so she is constantly hopping around instead of concentrating on one thing. She gets powerschool notifications that she is absent from classes when she knows she did the attendance assignment. I am not a crier and I am in tears. She was so looking forward to high school and this is ruining it for her. I have tried to put on a positive front for her, but tonight I couldn't. I just sat and cried with her. My happy, optimistic, wonderful girl is overwhelmed, already feeling defeated and is looking for me to fix something that is completely outside of my ability to fix. I don't even know where to start.

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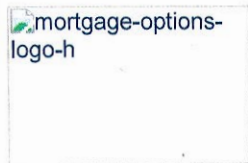
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[REDACTED]

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email: [REDACTED]
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 at 11:08:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thank you!! And thank you for not backing down against Michael at the board meeting the other night! My kids are in 9th and 11th grade at Spring Hill and while in think they are doing as good a job as they can it's just not enough. My poor freshman is having to learn high school, cohorts, a/b schedule, virtual learning both live and through google classroom, the chaos that is 8 classes a day on Wednesday and the general anxiety that comes with just not knowing how to keep track. Something has got to change and fast!

Thank you again!
[REDACTED]

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020, 10:43 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I'm with you. State Superintendent has issued the statement all districts have to offer a five day. Hope that will happen soon I'm going to continue lobbying our board. Thanks

On Wed, Sep 16, 2020 at 10:33 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

This is not working. I just had to calm my 9th grader down enough so she could relax and try to get some sleep. School isn't easy for her even though she so wishes it was. I wish it was, but it's not. She is overwhelmed. She gets google classroom notifications throughout the day for every class and is worried to death that she will miss something so she is constantly hopping around instead of concentrating on one thing. She gets

powerschool notifications that she is absent from classes when she knows she did the attendance assignment. I am not a crier and I am in tears. She was so looking forward to high school and this is ruining it for her. I have tried to put on a positive front for her, but tonight I couldn't. I just sat and cried with her. My happy, optimistic, wonderful girl is overwhelmed, already feeling defeated and is looking for me to fix something that is completely outside of my ability to fix. I don't even know where to start.

THIS IS YOUR JOB!!!!!!

WE ARE LETTING FEAR DICTATE MY CHILDRENS FUTURE!!!!!!

OPEN THE SCHOOLS!!!!!!

On Sat, Jul 25, 2020, 12:37 PM [REDACTED] te:

Dr. Melton,

It is my understanding that teacher's and some (not all) board members were surprised by your "change of plans" announced July 23rd from the initial plan that was announced July 16th. We as the public demand to know the real reason for the change. It is not that the data changed, because it didn't – the number of confirmed COVID 19 cases in South Carolina had been steadily increasing for weeks prior to the release of the reentry plan on July 16th. In fact, that very day was the day that South Carolina recorded a record number of new cases since the beginning of the pandemic. By July 23rd, the data had been trending the same as it was before July 16th and all of a sudden, the plan you were confident in now will not work. Who is in your ear? Who has an agenda and is leaning on you? What is the incentive to change the plan that actually worked for the people the school district serves – children?

Things a person as educated as you should know:

1. Kids – OUR CHILDREN are the ones who will suffer without 5 day face to face instruction and we know it. The school district's duty is to OUR CHILDREN FIRST. We all know all the reasons why this statement is true. I could write a book on it but I will not. Bottom line, children need to be in school 5 days a week and WE ALL KNOW IT.
2. Teachers – You are in a unique position in that you run one, if not THE, most desirable district(s) for teachers in the state. All of us parents who work either have to go back to work under our employer's terms or we lose our job. The plan proposed on the 16th should have been able to accommodate those ACTUALLY at risk teachers who need to work virtually and the rest of the teachers NEED TO DO WHAT THEY ARE TOLD. Parents do! Literally, the risk of death from COVID 19 is less than 1%. You have to know that there are other reasons teachers don't want to come back that have nothing to do with COVID 19, but who are capitalizing on this chance to ... not have

to deal with the insane discipline problems that are rampant in some areas in our cluster.... not have to deal with intrusive practices by administrators in their schools which hinder their ability to teach... the list goes on and on AND includes reasons that are simply for personal gain like not having to pay for childcare for their kids who are not yet in school. We can sit back and try to make ourselves believe that ALL #virtualuntilsafe teachers are ACTUALLY scared of the risks related to COVID 19, or we can put our brains on and acknowledge that WE KNOW that is not the case. The bottom line is teachers DO have SOME issues that have gone unaddressed/unresolved by the district for years and now is their chance to at least be heard while they are kicking and screaming. I understand their plight, but I do not agree with the method which is only harming OUR CHILDREN. You know the actual statistics and you also know that we all do things that we have a less than 1% chance of dying from every day. Teachers need to work where/how they are needed or you can easily fill their position. I personally know at least 3 teachers who would feel very fortunate to get a job in our district.

3. Parents – Not giving the 5 day face to face option will paralyze some, if not most, families. Some parents will either have to quit their jobs to ensure their children's education does not suffer OR THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION WILL SUFFER AND YOU KNOW IT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! You are asking parents to choose between their livelihood and their children. We all know this is true and we all know it is not OK! You are also asking parents to do YOUR job. I am not a district employee, but need to know who in human resources I need to contact to get payment for teaching my 2 high schoolers 3 days a week... You have put parents and children in an impossible position to the detriment of the children you are hired to serve.

You know you made the right decision on July 16th and you also know you made the wrong one on July 23rd.

Teachers who know the importance of our children going back to school 5 days face to face are anonymously encouraging us parents to enroll our children in already established online schools ESPECIALLY for high schoolers. They know they are not trained to effectively teach virtually. They know there is no way they will be ready to effectively teach virtually by September 8th, and they are basically telling us to go to an option that actually has administration and teachers who know what they are doing on that platform. Teachers are also saying that Hybrid will be a nightmare. Because it will. Teachers know better than any of us how this will go. Your committed teachers who will teach our children 5 days face to face with no complaining are not confident in the district's ability to "pull this off". That speaks volumes.

Wake up, do your job – our children depend on it. The mark of a great person is not how they handle good times (state and national accolades, state championships, etc) but how they handle adversity. BE GREAT!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Single Mother of 2 current [REDACTED] students, [REDACTED] and 2 school district alumni, [REDACTED]
2020 graduate of Ben Lippen but attended D5 from K to 11th grade and [REDACTED]

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Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 10:17:55 AM Eastern Daylight Time

email: [REDACTED]
To: email: [REDACTED] email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
Cc: email: "reentry@lexrich5.org D5 Reentry", email: "michaelcates@lexrich5.org Michael Cates", email: "bhutchison@lexrich5.org", email: "rgantt@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "scsupted@ed.sc.gov"

Just to clarify. This is no way a complaint about how Spring Hill High School is trying to manage through the debacle that is hybrid. It is a plea to you as the district to do better for our kids. Last time I sent an email to all of you. Dr. Lofton gave me a call. I have already talked to him this morning. He is wonderful! The district officials could look to him for advice. However, he has no authority to make this decision, as you all well know. I wish he did!

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:33 PM
To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Cc: D5 Reentry <reentry@lexrich5.org>; Michael Cates <michaelcates@lexrich5.org>; bhutchison@lexrich5.org; rgantt@lexrich5.org; ngardner@lexrich5.org; jhammond@lexrich5.org; kloveless@lexrich5.org; ewhite@lexrich5.org; scsupted@ed.sc.gov
Subject: Re: You are failing the children of Lexington/Richland 5 -- Your responsibility is great, and you are cowering in the face of adversity.

This is not working. I just had to calm my 9th grader down enough so she could relax and try to get some sleep. School isn't easy for her even though she so wishes it was. I wish it was, but it's not. She is overwhelmed. She gets google classroom notifications throughout the day for every class and is worried to death that she will miss something so she is constantly hopping around instead of concentrating on one thing. She gets powerschool notifications that she is absent from classes when she knows she did the attendance assignment. I am not a crier and I am in tears. She was so looking forward to high school and this is ruining it for her. I have tried to put on a positive front for her, but tonight I couldn't. I just sat and cried with

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Sincerely,

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email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
To: email: [REDACTED]

Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 2:36:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

I appreciate your email. I will continue to support a five day face to face as Dr. Melton proposed on July 23. I am so disappointed in the 4 board members that refused to stand up for what the students need.
Jan Hammond

email: [REDACTED]
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 2:38:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time

THANK YOU!!!

From: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 2:37 PM

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: You are failing the children of Lexington/Richland 5 -- Your responsibility is great, and you are cowering in the face of adversity.

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