

Weekly Update to the Board of Trustees - April 30, 2021

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"
Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org"

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 1:26:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Board Members: This email is being blind copied and shared with all members of the Board of Trustees

135 Day Enrollment Report

As I mentioned in my Board Brief last week, attached is the 135 Day Enrollment Report. You will notice the report is broken down into three categories: All Students, In-person Students and FIVE Students.

Procurement Code

Mrs. Hammond asked me to share the following information with the full board as I shared with her after the April 26 board meeting:

Based on the current Lexington Richland School District Five Procurement Code Section 710 Code Exemptions #6 Policy and Legal Services are exempt from Procurement to include, but not be limited to:

- a. Attorney Services (subject to Board approval), court recorders, expert witness services, bond rating services and costs associated with issuance or refinancing of bonds.
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The service that Compass Municipal (Mike Gallagher) provides is not a "Bond Broker" service. Mr. Gallagher is our Financial Advisor. His services provide guidance and recommendations to position the District soundly with regards to the Debt Structure. Mr. Gallagher monitors the market, updates our Building Program Funding Report, and makes recommendations on how to issue debt when it is the best time for the District.

Ms. Heizer with Burr Forman also provides service with more than 30 years of experience working with school districts and municipalities as bond counsel. She is considered by many as an expert in her field and offers the District the assurance that transactions are processed properly. Her staff prepares all bond documents and required filings for the District.

Mrs. Rawls and I continue to reflect on our communication, preparation and presentation from Monday night's meeting. I regret we did not know of the concerns that were shared thus we were not properly prepared to be responsive in the public's eye. Future presentations will be developed based upon questions received. I will seek guidance from Mrs. Hammond and the Officers as to when questions should be received for presentation development in order to meet timelines.

Approved Attorneys

Following a conversation I had with Mrs. Hammond on Tuesday morning of this week, I had Mrs. Rawls pull our attorney information. Attached is the list of attorneys that the Board approved on August 24, 2020. After hearing of the concerns from Monday night, you will see there are options in all areas except for one - bond attorneys. This, of course, was an issue at Monday's meeting with the item where no vote was taken.

Face Coverings

Yesterday, I sent information to provide context and an update regarding face coverings. I received a question from a board member asking for modifications or clarifications regarding our policy. At this time, I do not have anything in writing. Yesterday's meeting with principals focused upon the policy with scenarios for their relevance. I have reminded principals that school administrators are considered my designee as the policy offers. Principals began to communicate with their staff last evening and again this morning. When I have received a mask email that is specific about a school, I have and will continue to work with the family

and the principal. At this time and based upon their feedback, there are not any suggestions for revising the policy. Should I hear of any suggestions or recommendations that I can support from principals or teachers, I will keep the board informed.

Mrs. Hammond and I have spoken several times today. As a board, you of course, could revise, waive or remove the District Five policy. We have information from SCSBA in the event it is needed for a special called meeting or for the typical routing of policies through a regular scheduled meeting.

Mrs. Hammond and I discussed a potential "statement" from the two of us; however, as the day progressed, we have decided not to do that at this time. I have confidence in our principals and our teachers.

Weekly Communications Messages

As I reflect on this week, I am fortunate to know of so many wonderful things occurring in our district. I hope the weekly messages from our Communications Team provide you reminders that offer you encouragement. I have found myself wondering this week if you hear positive things and hope that you do. If you do not have the habit of reviewing the weekly messages from Communications, I hope this provides an invitation or a reminder for you.

I plan to leave early today to attend a funeral this afternoon.

I wish each of you a restful, well-deserved weekend.
CSM

Attachments:

135 Day Report.pdf 709k

Approved Attorneys 8-24-2020.pdf 212k

email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 2:11:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "Chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

In light of this update, I respectfully request that we hold a special called board meeting on Monday to discuss the face mask policy. We have repeatedly asked for clarification on this policy to be distributed to all stakeholders (not just principals). If we need to do this publicly, then I advocate for a meeting to allow public participation and discussion with possible action.

Our school district has repeatedly sent mixed messages about this policy and we are putting our children in the middle of this political battle. This is unconscionable and I will not be a part of it any longer. If Dr. Melton would send out clarification, we could avoid this, but since she will not do so, I feel we have to step up and micromanage. Our current policy allows for leniency and it should be stated as such so there is no confusion. We will make that clear in a special called meeting instead.

Respectfully,
Nikki Gardner

On Fri, Apr 30, 2021 at 1:26 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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CSM

email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 2:12:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time

I just sent this to Melton, Jan, & Cathy. I'm sending this to you separately so as to not constitute a quorum.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Nikki Gardner** <ngardner@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Apr 30, 2021 at 2:11 PM

Subject: Re: Weekly Update to the Board of Trustees - April 30, 2021

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <Chuddle@lexrich5.org>

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