

January 6 Workshop Agenda

email: "estrangle@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

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

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

Monday, January 4, 2021 at 4:32:15 PM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Hammond,

Happy New Year - I hope you are well and enjoyed the holiday season!

I have attached the agenda for Wednesday's workshop for your review. Once the agenda is approved, I will share it with Communications for posting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrangle@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Attachments:

January 6 Workshop.pdf 125k

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

To: email: "estrangle@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

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

Monday, January 4, 2021 at 8:22:55 PM Eastern Standard Time

Approved. Thanks

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 4:32 PM Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond,

Happy New Year - I hope you are well and enjoyed the holiday season!

I have attached the agenda for Wednesday's workshop for your review. Once the agenda is approved, I will share it with Communications for posting.

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Erin Strange

*Executive Administrative Assistant
Board of Trustees and Superintendent*

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

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

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

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 9:23:29 AM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you, Mrs. Hammond. The workshop notice and agenda will be shared with the public this morning and posted.



Erin Strange

*Executive Administrative Assistant
Board of Trustees and Superintendent*

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 8:23 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Approved. Thanks

On Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 4:32 PM Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Mrs. Hammond,

Happy New Year - I hope you are well and enjoyed the holiday season!

I have attached the agenda for Wednesday's workshop for your review. Once the agenda is approved, I will share it with Communications for posting.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Review of Requested Information Prior to any board meeting in which the hiring of a CFO is to be considered

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 4:37:54 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton", email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Dr. Melton,

Please see below. We are entitled under state statute (I have reviewed it with an attorney) to receive information with respect to **hiring of any position** (from the superintendent on down) on the three top candidates reviewed for that position. We are allowed upon request to review **before** any meeting upon which a recommendation is to be considered by the board.

And, we are not required to ask for said information of all applicants for any position as a matter of custom. In that regard, we may individualize our requests to specific actions as we may choose.

I did not receive any information requested of you for either the CFO or the Chief/COO position prior to the last board meeting.

I did receive a statement from you reviewing customary actions from the previous board. (By-the-way, I was never told by the previous board nor was there any statement of policy given which justifies the contention that an individual board member cannot ask for information in writing even though the superintendent considers those actions and questions beyond the limits of custom.)

Further, the superintendent as provided in the Cunningham vs. Anderson County court case has no right to arbitrarily decide which board member's questions he or she wishes to answer nor does he or she have the right to pick and choose which questions she wishes to avoid or which public documents he or she wishes to conceal.

Since you might have other qualified candidates from the first set of interviews and more importantly, since the position has been *re-advertised*, I reiterate my first request: " Please provide to the full board the logs of all interviews and notes* made for all candidate interviews with respect to these positions."* I am informed by the attorney that we may not have the right to see interview notes since they might necessarily provide privy information.

However, we are most certainly allowed to review interview logs, resumes, applications and any other information required for consideration of the candidate or submitted by the applicant as a part of the application.

I reiterate my request for this information above well in advance of the upcoming board meeting in which candidates for the CFO position are to be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth B. Loveless
Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 11:38:55 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"
Cc: email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

In response to Mr. Loveless' request, I would like to refer the Board to my email to the Board dated December 14, 2020, in which I asked the Board for clarification regarding what information the Board requests be provided for employment recommendations. I am aware of the provision under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act regarding the release of "materials relating to not fewer than the final three applicants under consideration for a position ...", but I am specifically seeking guidance from the Board on this request. I ask that this request be discussed at the Board's next meeting since it was not discussed during the previous meeting (December 14, 2020), and I will defer to Chairperson Hammond as to which legal counsel she chooses to advise the Board on this matter, if any.

*Please note I have added Mr. Hogan in this reply since he was not included with the original email from Mr. Loveless.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org



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On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 4:48 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

Please see below. We are entitled under state statute (I have reviewed it with an attorney) to receive information with respect to ***hiring of any position*** (from the superintendent on down) on the three top candidates reviewed for that position. We are allowed upon request to review ***before*** any meeting upon which a recommendation is to be considered by the board.

And, we are not required to ask for said information of all applicants for any position as a matter of custom. In that regard, we may individualize our requests to specific actions as we may choose.

I did not receive any information requested of you for either the CFO or the Chief/COO position prior to the last board meeting.

Kenneth B. Loveless
Trustee

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 11:47:27 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Thank you.

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 11:39 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

In response to Mr. Loveless' request, I would like to refer the Board to my email to the Board dated December 14, 2020, in which I asked the Board for clarification regarding what information the Board requests be provided for employment recommendations. I am aware of the provision under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act regarding the release of "materials relating to not fewer than the final three applicants under consideration for a position ...", but I am specifically seeking guidance from the Board on this request. I ask that this request be discussed at the Board's next meeting since it was not discussed during the previous meeting (December 14, 2020), and I will defer to Chairperson Hammond as to which legal counsel she chooses to advise the Board on this matter, if any.

*Please note I have added Mr. Hogan in this reply since he was not included with the original email from Mr. Loveless.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 4:48 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

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However, we are most certainly allowed to review interview logs, resumes, applications and any other information required for consideration of the candidate or submitted by the applicant as a part of the application.

I reiterate my request for this information above well in advance of the upcoming board meeting in which candidates for the CFO position are to be considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth B. Loveless
Trustee

email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White"

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 11:51:22 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Ms. Hammond,

I would like to request that Mr. Loveless's questions be put on the agenda of a properly noticed meeting and we discuss as a board and vote on any decisions as a result.

I personally do not want ad hoc legal advice from an individual board member. I would like counsel employed by the district to meet with us and discuss the issues and directly answer the questions we may have about the legal standards.

I personally believe Mr. Loveless's requests for logs and notes of all employment interviews is unduly intrusive and potentially disruptive and I believe we need to have this conversation in a public meeting and decide if we want to vote on a formal policy for these type of requests.

Please do not respond to my comments here but save the discussion for a public meeting.

Thank you,

Ed

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 11:39 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Fwd: School Board Conference

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

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 12:23:25 PM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Hammond ,
How would you like for me to respond ?

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.
Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>
Date: January 5, 2021 at 11:43:43 AM EST
To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Subject: Fwd: School Board Conference

Dr. Melton,

I am forwarding the email from Contract Construction that I mentioned receiving. Please let me know what I can do to assist.

Thank you,
Erin



Erin Strange

*Executive Administrative Assistant
Board of Trustees and Superintendent*
School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063
office: 803.476.8169
estrange@lexrich5.org
www.lexrich5.org



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

From: **Meghan Ketterman** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Jan 4, 2021 at 1:56 PM
Subject: School Board Conference
To: estrange@lexrich5.org <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Hi Ms. Strange,

I hope you are doing well and had a great holiday season.

I wanted to reach out to you to see if Dr. Melton and the Board Members will be attending the SCSBA conference? If so, we wanted to invite them to join us for dinner once again this year. We understand only limited numbers of Districts were allowed to register so please let me know if LexRich5 was one of them and if they are available. If so, I will secure further details.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you in advance,

Meghan Kettermann

Dr. Meghan M. Kettermann | Director of Business Development

Contract Construction, Inc.

Main Office: P.O. Box 269 | Ballentine, SC 29002 | **Phone:** O: [REDACTED]

C: [REDACTED]

Upstate Division: 224 E. Main Street | Walhalla, SC 29691

Lowcountry Division: 668 Marina Drive, Suite B-3 | Charleston, SC 29492

E: [REDACTED]

Attachments:

image004.png 25k

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 1:00:39 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

I personally have no problem with that since we are currently doing business with them. There may and will be some that may wish to decline . I will let each board member make their decision but as chair I believe it is appropriate to allow the option.

Thanks.

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 12:23 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond ,

How would you like for me to respond ?

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

Date: January 5, 2021 at 11:43:43 AM EST

Attachments:**image004.png** 25k**email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"****Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:37:16 PM Eastern Standard Time**

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Erin, I do not wish to attend the event with Contract Construction.

Jan, Obviously board members are free to make their own decisions, but I personally think it is a bad idea for us to take anything of any value from a vendor that we may have future contractual matters with. As long as that school is under construction and through the warranty period there may be problems the board may have to address with the construction company. This is not unheard of as it happened with the CHS and CMS construction and other sites. If we have taken anything of value, the public may not trust us to have their best interests in mind - and any board members who accepted anything may feel the need to recuse themselves from any such discussions. I would rather not be put in that position.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 5:03 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board Members,

Please see the thread below. If you are interested in participating and plan to attend the conference, please contact Mrs. Strange so she can proceed with providing a response.

**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***

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

From: **Janis Hammond** <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

D5 COVID Visualizations

email: "[REDACTED]" Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 11:25:18 AM Eastern Standard Time
Chad"

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org kloveless@lexrich5.org",
email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org rhines@lexrich5.org", email:
"mhogan@lexrich5.org mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org ewhite@lexrich5.org", email:
"csmelton@lexrich5.org csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org chuddle@lexrich5.org"

Board Members and Dr. Melton,

I was excited to see D5 publish COVID-related data for the district. I teach our Master's of Accounting students data visualization here at USC, and I know that having access to data isn't always beneficial. Data can only be beneficial when the context is clear for people and they can make relative comparisons. I have collected the last two publications of the D5 data and have taken some time to visualize the data in a way that may provide more meaning to you as board members and to the general public. Admittedly, my analyses are rather limited at this time because I lack sufficient data to make better visualizations. For example, I have submitted a FOIA request to identify staffing levels at each school, because it's hard to interpret five staff positive cases without knowing if there are 20 or 200 staff at a location. I am still waiting on that data. I was, however, able to identify how many students are at each school, which has allowed me to start calculating certain base rates and putting the positive and quarantine data into perspective. The other limiting factor is time. Understanding trend data is very difficult with only two datapoints in time. I can do trend analyses, but I will have to wait until more weekly data has been published.

Currently, I have published four visualizations that might be useful to you in your understanding of the data. The visualizations can be found here:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/chad.stefaniak#!/vizhome/TotalStudentQuarantineRate/OverallStudentPervsPSPer-District>

The first tab represents a base line expectation of positive student cases based on the percentage of district students represented by a school. For example, if a school has 10% of the district's total students, we would expect they would have about 10% of the district's total student positive cases. That reference line is represented as the diagonal dashed $y=x$ line. Any school whose indicator is below that line has fewer students who have tested positive compared to what would be expected by their school's population size. Any school who is above the line is experiencing more positive student cases than what would be expected for their size. This should allow you to identify which schools are more problematic than others. I will do a similar analysis for staff once I get access to the data.

The second visualization looks at percentages of students who are quarantined compared to percentage of students who are positive. This helps understand student spread to some extent (though staff positives can have a far more reaching impact on quarantine rates). This allows you to better understand how exponential the quarantine procedures are. For example, one of the most egregious is Chapin Middle, who has 0.41% of their student body positive, but have quarantined 12% of their student body. I have included two reference lines. First, a 10% threshold line because that is what the Board has decided as a potential reaction point. Second, a trend line that allows you to see the expected quarantine rate.

The third visualization articulates the quarantine effect in a different way. For this chart, I quantified how many students are quarantined for each positive student.

Right now, LMES is quarantining 35 students per a single case of COVID. Now, given that my kids go to

LMES, I know that this is an artificial number that is skewed by an instructional staff who had interactions with multiple classes and therefore caused the quarantining of those classes. Over time, though, this data will equalize and we'll get a better picture of the effects of each positive case.

The final visualization is merely a reference point that I will track over time to allow people to understand how D5 is doing compared to the general public. Honestly, we're doing great. The national base rate of infection has been 2.8% and 2.7% over the last two dates that data have been published for D5. Our overall student base rate (I can't incorporate staff numbers yet because I don't know the staff denominator) has been 0.28% and 0.40%, respectively. Data like these indicate that our students represent a lower infection risk than the general public.

As I have more time to develop more analyses, I will update the dashboard. Additionally, as I get access to the staff data, I will be able to incorporate a couple more analyses as well.

I will say this – longitudinal and base rate data is critically important for the public to make an informed decision based on the data we are publishing. Without it, they will have no idea what the trends are or the efficacy of our protocols. People dealing with COVID fall victim to confirmation bias all the time. Data without context will only confirm one's prior expectations.

As always, I am willing to talk about this with any of you. Also, if you have specific requests for a visualization, please let me know and I will create it for you.

~CmS

Chad Stefaniak, Ph.D., CPA

Associate Professor

Cramer Research Fellow



School of Accounting

Darla Moore School of Business

University of South Carolina

424 Darla Moore School of Business

Columbia, SC 29208

Attachments:**image001.png** 5.2k

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 12:39:54 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "[REDACTED] Chad", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org to: jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org rhines@lexrich5.org", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org chuddle@lexrich5.org"

Chad, this is excellent work. Is there any chance you could continue to provide as the Dashboard is updated?

Thanks

Ken Loveless

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021, 11:37 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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

From: **Stefaniak, Chad** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 11:25 AM

Subject: D5 COVID Visualizations

To: jhammond@lexrich5.org <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, kloveless@lexrich5.org <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, ngardner@lexrich5.org <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, rhines@lexrich5.org <rhines@lexrich5.org>, mhogan@lexrich5.org <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, ewhite@lexrich5.org <ewhite@lexrich5.org>, csmelton@lexrich5.org <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, chuddle@lexrich5.org <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Board Members and Dr. Melton,

Cramer Research Fellow

803-777-7408

School of Accounting

Darla Moore School of Business

University of South Carolina

424 Darla Moore School of Business

Columbia, SC 29208



Attachments:

image001.png 5.2k

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 1:12:53 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "[REDACTED] Stefaniak, Chad"

Dr. Stefaniak, I can't tell you how impressed and appreciative I am of your work. As a finance person, I was adamant that we get the data and you have done far more with it than I could have imagined. I am curious what you would advise given your analysis. For example, we recently passed a "10% rule" that allows the superintendent to move a school to hybrid or all virtual if the combined student or staff positive rate plus quarantined rate exceeds 10%. Frankly, the "rule" was based on another school district and there was no discussion on whether or not 10% was the right threshold or this was even the correct measure. I think we were trying to find a simple objective measure that could be applied at an individual school level vs. the then current district-wide decisions.

I would like to see your work more widely published and discussed. That may take some time or not be feasible for the district to do so. As such, you may want to check out some community facebook pages that may be interested in hosting a link to your work.

Thank-you,
Catherine Huddle

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 11:25 AM Stefaniak, Chad [REDACTED] wrote:

Board Members and Dr. Melton,

I was excited to see D5 publish COVID-related data for the district. I teach our Master's of Accounting students data visualization here at USC, and I know that having access to data isn't always beneficial. Data can only be beneficial when the context is clear for people and they can make relative comparisons. I have collected the last two publications of the D5 data and have taken some time to visualize the data in a way that may provide more meaning to you as board members and to the general public. Admittedly, my analyses are rather limited at this time because I lack sufficient data to make better visualizations. For example, I have submitted a FOIA request to identify staffing levels at each school, because it's hard to interpret five staff positive cases without knowing if there are 20 or 200 staff at a location. I am still waiting on that data. I was, however, able to identify how many students are at each school, which has allowed me to start calculating certain base rates and putting the positive and quarantine data into perspective. The other limiting factor is time. Understanding trend data is very difficult with only two datapoints in time. I can do trend analyses, but I will have to wait until more weekly data has been published.

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--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

image001.png 5.2k

email: " [REDACTED] Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 2:12:14 PM Eastern Standard Time
Chad" [REDACTED]

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org to: jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org rhines@lexrich5.org", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org chuddle@lexrich5.org"

Absolutely. I'll update and send along as I get more data.

~CmS

Attachments:**image001.png** 5.2k**email.**
Chad

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 3:10:20 PM Eastern Standard Time

I appreciate the feedback. I believe there are a couple components to making decisions about going hybrid. I'll try to unwrap each one individually.

Quarantine procedure efficacy – Right now, we are contact tracing students and quarantining a large portion of our student base because of the protocols we're following.

As you saw, right now we are quarantining about 17 kids across K-12 in-person classes per positive student case. That actually is lower than I would have expected. However, what we don't know right now is whether those quarantine procedures are really stopping

case spread and to what extent. Luckily, under the new CDC guidelines, students can return to school sooner as long as they provide a negative COVID test at least five days after exposure. This will be great data to analyze and I encourage you to ask for this

data from nurse Stanek. For instance, what we'll be able to tell is what percentage of students quarantined actually contracted the virus. If the number is something like 1% of quarantined kids turned out to test positive for COVID, then we need to take a

hard look at whether the cost of sending kids home again (not only on their educations, but also on the economic stability of the household) is worth it. Alternatively, if 20% of our quarantined students are reporting back that they have tested positive, we

can take a little more comfort in the notion that the quarantine protocols are effective. As I've stated in a previous email to the Board, we do not take a similar approach to the flu, yet the flu is more deadly towards school-aged children than COVID. Specifically,

the flu during the 2018-2019 season killed 211 kids aged 5 to 17 (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/2018-2019.html>). In the 2019-2020 flu season 180 5-17 year old kids died from the flu (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>

[about/burden/2019-2020.html](#)).

COVID, on the other hand, has killed 153 kids aged 5 to 17 (<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics>). There needs to be judgment consistency between our approach to COVID and our approach to other illnesses. Specifically, will we start sending entire classes home if one kid tests positive for the flu in coming years? And yes, you can catch the flu from someone one day before they show symptoms (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/disease/spread.htm>).

Internal consistency in judgments is key in situations like there. Hypocrisy will lose a large portion of your audience very quickly. In any case, I would be interested in learning more about quarantine efficacy by examining the data we'll have from students

trying to get out of quarantine early with a negative COVID test.

The 10% rule – Arbitrary thresholds are incredibly challenging to fight logically. Again, let's return to judgment consistency. In the past, when there has been a really bad flu going around, at what point have schools shut down? Anecdotally, I can remember a handful of years ago, my daughter's class only had a couple kids in it one day because there were so many sick kids. A quick search indicates that most schools

cancel due to a flu outbreak at about 20% of the student body (<https://www.wpri.com/news/local-news/south-county/block-island-cancels-school-friday-amid-flu-outbreak/>,

<https://news.yahoo.com/school-close-2-days-flu-000423910.html>). In South Carolina specifically, in 2019 schools were still operating with more than 10% of their students absent from the flu

(<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/south-carolina/2019/02/08/which-schools-have-flu-and-increased-absences/2804850002>).

Maybe there's a state law about mandated quorums that could be looked into. I think more than agreeing to the 10% rule and having the burden of proof to try to say why that is an unreliable figure, someone should have to articulate why that number was chosen.

Switch the burden of proof. Right now, you could say that all of LMES should be shut down because their last numbers were at 12% quarantined (students). However, that was all caused by one instructional aid who tested positive, but had exposure to several

different classes. It wasn't the kids' fault who were quarantined. To shut a school down based on an arbitrary number and an overly conservative quarantine protocol is egregious in my mind. Parents who are worried about COVID have other options. Many who want

F2F do so because they need F2F in order to survive. Let me put this into perspective. The average student positive case results in 17 quarantined students (as mentioned above). The average D5 school has 800 kids in it. That means for every positive student

case, we are quarantining on average about 2.125% of the student body. That means that something like 5 cases in a school of 800 could shut it down. That would mean that an infection rate of 0.6% could shut a school down. The national base infection rate is

over 2.5%. The 10% threshold seems like it will almost certainly be eclipsed for every school at some point. It sure seems like some sound judgment should be used rather than a bright line threshold. Like, if a school passes 10%, the Board ought to discuss

with Melton the underlying causes for the quarantine and whether this was anomalous (e.g., an instructional aid contacting several classrooms) or something that indicates rampant actual spread in the school.

Bluntly, I believe my analyses suggest that the quarantine protocols are insane and unsustainable. I don't think the district has much say in how they quarantine (because of DHEC and the CDC), but they certainly have say in how they react to the data. People need to understand just how few people are contracting the virus. Chapin and DF High are both over 10% quarantine rate, but less than 1% of their students are positive. So, what we're saying is that we're going to send the whole school home because less than 1% of the students are sick? I don't understand this logic. Schools were operating when more than 10% of their schools were *confirmed sick with the flu*, not just could be sick with the flu. That perspective matters. What's crazier is that we don't even know if the students are catching it at school. There is research that suggests teaching modality doesn't even influence infection rates, indicating most students and staff are catching COVID outside of school (<https://threadreaderapp.com/thread/1309476096598040577.html>).

I'll stop ranting now as this email is far longer than it needed to be. As I said, I will help in any way I can. I'm not on social media anymore but am not opposed at all to the visualizations I made getting out there (that's why I made them public). I'll see if I can get my wife or someone to post it.

Data are unemotional, and I think we need a little less emotion in this environment.

~CmS

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

image001.png 5.2k

email: '[REDACTED] tefaniak, Monday, January 11, 2021 at 2:33:39 PM Eastern Standard Time
Chad"

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org jhammond@lexrich5.org" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org kloveless@lexrich5.org" ,
email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org ngardner@lexrich5.org" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org rhines@lexrich5.org" , email:
"mhogan@lexrich5.org mhogan@lexrich5.org" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org ewhite@lexrich5.org" , email:
"chuddle@lexrich5.org chuddle@lexrich5.org"

Board Members,

I recently had a phone call with Katrina Goggins and Van Holden about the D5 COVID dashboard. During the conversation they both shared that they will not make modifications

to the dashboard without Board approval. I wanted to share this with you in case you thought they were working to

improve any aspect of the dashboard. I'm not saying this in a derogatory manner towards Katrina or Van, just as a procedural heads-up. They believe you are the ultimate authority in regards to the dashboard and its contents rests on the Board. Without being too presumptuous, I would like to put a couple recommendations out there about the dashboard for you to consider:

1.

Percentages. The Board has established 10% quarantine (of either students or staff) as a threshold to evaluate in-person learning.

While there are other factors that could also make a school go virtual, the public could most easily understand this 10% threshold and watch for concerning trends. I would suggest the dashboard be updated with the percentages that the raw numbers represent, so parents can more easily track how close they are to a possible virtual move (e.g., LMES 5 cases (0.5% of student body)). My guess is that this will take a decision about what the denominator will be (something static like a Day 10 enrollment figure might be most useful). Whatever the case, percentages can help parents out substantially as that seems to be the decision criteria.

2.

Update frequency. Update frequency came up in our discussion as a result of their speaking to the reliability of the data.

For instance, there is some movement in the data (i.e., errors) that need to be cleaned out before the District is releasing the information to the public. I can see this notion, as wanting to be accurate is a noble character trait. The other side of the coin

is decision usefulness and timeliness. The District (Melton) is making a decision on a daily basis using data collected from the different schools. There are likely errors in this data, but Melton is using the data to the best of her ability to make an informed

judgment. The dashboard is linked to a dataset that is easily updated at the push of a button (Katrina will confirm this). The Board should consider whether a weekly update (more accurate) is what they want or if they want data to be more in lockstep with

Dr. Melton's dataset (timelier and facilitates better trend analysis). If the latter is considered, a note should be added to the data (much like CDC data about COVID within the last two weeks) that the data is not finalized and likely contains errors. As

an aside, as the conversation progressed on this topic, I was told the reason the dashboard is updated only weekly is because that was what the Board asked for. However, I recall the Board being told that the data upkeep would be resource intensive and the

Board making the concession of weekly. If updating the dashboard is easy and the data Melton is using is already being collected, the incremental cost to put it on the dashboard is insignificant. You may want to get clarification on this. Just something to think about.

One other note: The Board might want to consider an updated survey about parent and teacher preferences. I know you all get a lot of emails, and it seems prudent to get a bigger picture of what's going on rather than which parent/teacher group is deciding to ramp up its voice from week-to-week. I believe the last time parents were surveyed was September, but I could be wrong. I also am not sure when teachers were surveyed last about their preferences. I understand that the feedback might not be actionable (e.g., 90% of teachers say they want to teach only virtually), but it would give the Board a better understanding of what the status of the community is. A lot has changed since September.

I continue to update the dashboards I am creating, including a new mapped version of the District and the ability to filter by dates. If you are interested, the dashboard is still available here:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/chad.stefaniak#!/>

Thank you for what you do. It is much appreciated.

~CmS

Darla Moore School of Business
University of South Carolina
424 Darla Moore School of Business
Columbia, SC 29208



--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

image001.png 5.2k

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Monday, January 11, 2021 at 3:39:27 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Dr. Melton, If updating the dashboard more often would help you and your team, I understand that means some errors may pop up that later need to be resolved but as Dr. Stefaniak pointed out, that could still be done and footnotes added as needed. If you want this and believe the board needs to approve the change, I suggest asking the board executive team to add to the next agenda and have copied them on this note.

I don't think the existing motion would preclude adding the %s that Dr. Stefaniak suggested and agree that since the 10% threshold is important, it would be nice to see the %s on the website.

Thank-you,
Cathy

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

From: Stefaniak, Chad <[REDACTED]>

Date: Mon, Jan 11, 2021 at 2:33 PM

424 Darla Moore School of Business

Columbia, SC 29208



Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

image001.png 5.2k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, January 11, 2021 at 3:48:05 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Mrs. Huddle,
I appreciate the opportunity to update this item. Mrs. Goggins and Mr. Holden were able to schedule a conference call with Dr. Stefaniak. We have used the motion as passed for our dashboard. This will be included with the reentry update within my report. Should the Board choose to take action to change, we will be prepared to answer questions.

I can tell you after today's Executive Staff meeting, I am concerned about staff absenteeism . Sickness compounded by COVID, we have a site of great concern to me . If it is of interest to the Board to revisit the December motion, that would be of great assistance to me. I am happy to explain further to Officers or I can give you a call.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

Attachments:**image001.png** 5.2k

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"**Friday, January 22, 2021 at 1:53:40 PM Eastern Standard Time****To: email: "Chad.Stefaniak@moore.sc.edu Stefaniak, Chad"**

Mr. Stefaniak, Thank you for your email. I had read the study and glad to see that it confirms we are on the right path.

Thank-you,

Catherine Huddle

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 1:04 PM Stefaniak, Chad < wrote:

Board Members and Dr. Melton,

I imagine you will be inundated with emails about the upcoming shift to 5-day in-person learning. I would just like to pass along this SC-relevant research related to in-person learning and COVID transfer rates.

https://web.musc.edu/about/news-center/2021/01/19/data-on-covid-in-charleston-county-schools-stun-doctor-who-crunched-the-numbers?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=facebook&utm_term=musc+children%E2%80%99s+health&utm_content=92837591-4e30-4517-a293-2ad3205814f8

Move workshop location?

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 3:21:28 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Dr. Melton and Ms. Hammond, I have had several people ask if we could move the location of tomorrow's workshop to a place where more people could be present and view the presentation and discussion. While the meeting will be live streamed, the stream doesn't always work and presentations can be hard to see. I know this is late notice but said I would ask.

Thanks,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 4:13:15 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

I have talked with the district staff and at my request they have made adjustments for seating to be available in the board room . I also requested for the live-streaming to be checked and tweaked before the meeting begins. Certain items are already in place for this location and I felt if we could deal with the requests from board members and the public and not change the location at this late date that it would be best. I hope the charges being made will satisfy the requests from the public and other board members. It does need to be available to all to hear and to attend in our limited number. Thank you Cathy for bringing the suggestion to us and I appreciate your input. Had it not been that certain arrangements were already in place we could have changed it more easily. I hope this is satisfactory for all. Thanks.

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 3:21 PM Cathy. Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton and Ms. Hammond, I have had several people ask if we could move the location of tomorrow's workshop to a place where more people could be present and view the presentation and discussion. While the meeting will be live streamed, the stream doesn't always work and presentations can be hard to see. I know this is late notice but said I would ask.

Thanks,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 5:07:47 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Thanks!
Cathy

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 4:13 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I have talked with the district staff and at my request they have made adjustments for seating to be available in the board room . I also requested for the live-streaming to be checked and tweaked before the meeting begins. Certain items are already in place for this location and I felt if we could deal with the requests from board members and the public and not change the location at this late date that it would be best. I hope the charges being made will satisfy the requests from the public and other board members. It does need to be available to all to hear and to attend in our limited number. Thank you Cathy for bringing the suggestion to us and I appreciate your input. Had it not been that certain arrangements were already in place we could have changed it more easily. I hope this is satisfactory for all. Thanks.

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Thanks,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 11:43:52 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

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

Mrs. Huddle,

Mrs. Hammond called yesterday afternoon. The decision was made to continue with the district office due to preparations that had already been made with this announced site. Mrs. Strange has worked with our safety team to add more seats in the room and of course, we will have seats in the hallway. For anyone who may have difficulty with the livestream, please remind them the video is posted by the end of the week for their review from the call to order until the adjournment.

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 Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 3:21 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton and Ms. Hammond, I have had several people ask if we could move the location of tomorrow's workshop to a place where more people could be present and view the presentation and discussion. While the meeting will be live streamed, the stream doesn't always work and presentations can be hard to see. I know this is late notice but said I would ask.

Thanks,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

12/21 and 12/22

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:47:03 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

I have copied all board members to save Dr. Melton from having to notify them and to make "reply all" easier.

Dr. Melton, I apologize for emailing you during this recent "email storm" but have had two people reach out to me about a concern - they reported that the District Office was closed on 12/21 and 12/22 with only a couple of employees physically present. I checked the calendar and believe the office was scheduled to be open those days but please let me know if that is incorrect. Can you confirm that the office was open on those dates with staff onsite (other than those taking vacation or out sick)?

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 12:31:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Ms. Huddle:

Thank you for the ease of responding to include all, Mrs. Huddle and for your question. Per the color coding on the school board approved calendar, "Schools & Offices" were closed; however, 240 employees were working on those days, unless they submitted leave.

It's typical for staff at the district office and at schools to take these days off. This year some could work remotely while abiding by expectations outlined in Board Policy AR EBC-R Remote Work. In other words, staff were informed that they were "expected to maintain work productivity and prioritize district business during the workday". The district office had staff on site to continue operations and meals were also served on Monday at Irmo High School to a record number of families. Additionally, each school and office were instructed to place signage on the doors with contact information so immediate assistance was available.

If the two people who contacted you went unassisted, please let me know so I can ensure assistance has been secured.

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 Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 6:47 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I have copied all board members to save Dr. Melton from having to notify them and to make "reply all" easier.

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Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 1:00:31 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Dr. Melton, Thank you for your reply. To avoid an "electronic meeting" I have not copied the other board members on this reply, other than Ms. Hammond and Mr. Loveless, since they are the chair and vice chair. Here is my concern: You referenced Policy AR EBC-R Remote Work, which addresses the need to close a school or district building and work remotely due to "limited situations that necessitate" it. Clearly that policy was not intended to provide for remote work for anything other than an emergency.

So here are my questions - were district office employees told in writing or verbally that they could work from home on these two particular days? How many district office employees worked remotely those 2 days and how many worked their normal schedule in the office? I understand there are people who took vacation days. I am asking of those who worked those 2 days, how many were remote and how many were in the office?

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:31 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Ms. Huddle:

Thank you for the ease of responding to include all, Mrs. Huddle and for your question. Per the color coding on the school board approved calendar, "Schools & Offices" were closed; however, 240

Dr. Melton,

I have read the email chain. Are there other 240 day employees not working at the district office who worked from their normal locations and not at home?

If there are, please provide a list of those persons.

Please reply before the next board meeting.

Respec submitted,

Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Thank you for your reply. To avoid an "electronic meeting" I have not copied the other board members on this reply, other than Ms. Hammond and Mr. Loveless, since they are the chair and vice chair. Here is my concern: You referenced Policy AR EBC-R Remote Work, which addresses the need to close a school or district building and work remotely due to "limited situations that necessitate" it. Clearly that policy was not intended to provide for remote work for anything other than an emergency.

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:05:42 PM Eastern Standard Time
 To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
 Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
 Bcc: email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed White" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Mrs. Huddle,

Thank you for your mindfulness of "electronic meeting" concerns. I have blindcopied other board members since all others received my reply previously.

Chair Hammond,

I would like to request a meeting with you.



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

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Thank-you,
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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 6:47 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:07:49 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond"

Bcc: email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed White", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Mr. Loveless,

This is to confirm receipt of your email. Consistent with my previous email, I have blindcopied other board members since my initial reply was sent to all earlier.

Chair Hammond,
I would like to discuss this with you when we are able to coordinate a meeting.



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 Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 1:43 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton,

I have read the email chain. Are there other 240 day employees not working at the district office who worked from their normal locations and not at home?

If there are, please provide a list of those persons.

Please reply before the next board meeting.

Respec submitted,

Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:16:47 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Yes ma'am. I can meet tomorrow or Friday if either of those days work for you or a day next week.



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 Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:14 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I will be available by 4 any afternoon. Please let me know a day that suits you.

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:08 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mr. Loveless,

This is to confirm receipt of your email. Consistent with my previous email, I have blindcopied other board members since my initial reply was sent to all earlier.

Chair Hammond,

I would like to discuss this with you when we are able to coordinate a meeting.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Tue, Jan 5, 2021 at 6:47 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:
 I have copied all board members to save Dr. Melton from having to notify them and to make "reply all" easier.

Dr. Melton, I apologize for emailing you during this recent "email storm" but have had two people reach out to me about a concern - they reported that the District Office was closed on 12/21 and 12/22 with only a couple of employees physically present. I checked the calendar and believe the office was scheduled to be open those days but please let me know if that is incorrect. Can you confirm that the office was open on those dates with staff onsite (other than those taking vacation or out sick)?

Thank-you,
 Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
 Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
 Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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

Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 8:37:27 AM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Your response is extremely concerning to me. I am sure that you agree that we should all be working together for the good of our students, staff and community. The questions I asked are not burdensome. As such, according to the workshop we had with Ms. White, I believe you are required to answer them. However, per that workshop, if you do believe a request is burdensome you are supposed to let the requestor know and if a board majority wants the information it is still to be provided. While I very much respect Ms. Hammond and her position as board chair, I do not recall the board chair as having a decision in that process other than their position as a board member.

Since it appears you are not going to answer the questions I sent, I kindly ask for you to explain why you are not answering them.

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:06 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,
Thank you for your mindfulness of "electronic meeting" concerns. I have blindcopied other board members since all others received my reply previously.

Chair Hammond,
I would like to request a meeting with you.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Thank you for your reply. To avoid an "electronic meeting" I have not copied the other board members on this reply, other than Ms. Hammond and Mr. Loveless, since they are the chair and vice chair. Here is my concern: You referenced Policy AR EBC-R Remote Work, which addresses the need to close a school or district building and work remotely due to "limited situations that necessitate" it. Clearly that policy was not intended to provide for remote work for anything other than an emergency.

So here are my questions - were district office employees told in writing or verbally that they could work from home on these two particular days? How many district office employees worked remotely those 2 days and how many worked their normal schedule in the office? I understand there are people who took vacation days. I am asking of those who worked those 2 days, how many were remote and how many were in the office?

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:31 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Ms. Huddle:

Thank you for the ease of responding to include all, Mrs. Huddle and for your question. Per the color coding on the school board approved calendar, "Schools & Offices" were closed; however, 240 employees were working on those days, unless they submitted leave.

It's typical for staff at the district office and at schools to take these days off. This year some could

Mr. Loveless,

Thank you for including all board members with your email. When looking back, I noticed the email you sent on January 6 was not sent to all Board Members so I copied and pasted it below to assist with ease of communication rather than forwarding your email.

"Dr. Melton,

I have read the email chain. Are there other 240 day employees not working at the district office who worked from their normal locations and not at home?

If there are, please provide a list of those persons.

Please reply before the next board meeting.

Respec submitted,

Ken Loveless"

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 8:35 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I sent you a question about your actions allowing employees at the district office days off with pay. My question was whether other 240 day employees not at the district office also received days off with pay. Are you going to answer my question? Respectfully submitted Ken Loveless

Mr. Loveless,

I have not seen an email where you questioned my actions "allowing employees at the district office days off with pay" until this message. I discussed your email pasted above with Mrs. Hammond when the two of us met. To address your concern, no, sir, I did not allow employees at the district office days off with pay. I take my responsibilities very seriously and find it concerning if there is such a concern about my leadership or integrity.

Mrs. Hammond, I request to discuss this Monday in Executive Session.

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

From: **Kenneth Loveless** <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2021, 1:32 PM

Subject: Re: 12/21 and 12/22

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

with pay. Are you going to answer my question? Respectfully submitted Ken Loveless

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

From: **Kenneth Loveless** <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2021, 1:32 PM

Subject: Re: 12/21 and 12/22

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

I have read the email chain. Are there other 240 day employees not working at the district office who worked from their normal locations and not at home?

If there are, please provide a list of those persons.

Please reply before the next board meeting.

Respec submitted,

Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 1:00 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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So here are my questions - were district office employees told in writing or verbally that they could work from home on these two particular days? How many district office employees worked remotely those 2 days and how many worked their normal schedule in the office? I understand there are people who took vacation days. I am asking of those who worked those 2 days, how many were remote and how many were in the office?

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 12:31 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Ms. Huddle:

Thank you for the ease of responding to include all, Mrs. Huddle and for your question. Per the color coding on the school board approved calendar, "Schools & Offices" were closed; however, 240 employees were working on those days, unless they submitted leave.

It's typical for staff at the district office and at schools to take these days off. This year some could work remotely while abiding by expectations outlined in Board Policy AR EBC-R Remote Work. In other words, staff were informed that they were "expected to maintain work productivity and prioritize district business during the workday". The district office had staff on site to continue

No subject

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 2:21:51 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Dr. Melton,

I have asked several times that a meeting between Director of Facilities, Clay Cannon Nikki Gardner and I at PWES be arranged. The purpose is that we be allowed to see and study contract documents with an eye toward compliance. Once a protocol has been established we would like to be able to meet Mr. Cannon as many times as it takes to complete our review. We will need access to all documents indicated in the Contract for Construction.

I once again ask for this to be arranged.

Please let us know as soon as possible when this can be arranged.

Thank you in advance,

Kenneth B. Loveless, Vice Chair

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 2:39:34 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "sprice@scsba.org Scott Price"

**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***

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

From: **Kenneth Loveless** <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:32 PM

Subject:

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, Edward White <EWhite@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

I have asked several times that a meeting between Director of Facilities, Clay Cannon, Nikki Gardner and I at PWES be arranged. The purpose is that we be allowed to see and study contract documents with an eye toward compliance. Once a protocol has been established we would like to be able to meet Mr. Cannon as many times as it takes to complete our review. We will need access to all documents indicated in the Contract for Construction.

I once again ask for this to be arranged.

Please let us know as soon as possible when this can be arranged.

Thank you in advance,

Kenneth B. Loveless, Vice Chair

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 9:47:35 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

I agree this should be done. I would like to know the date and time it is scheduled and may also want to attend if I am available.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:32 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton,

I have asked several times that a meeting between Director of Facilities, Clay Cannon Nikki Gardner and I at PWES be arranged. The purpose is that we be allowed to see and study contract documents with an eye toward compliance. Once a protocol has been established we would like to be able to meet Mr. Cannon as many times as it takes to complete our review. We will need access to all documents indicated in the Contract for Construction.

I once again ask for this to be arranged.

Please let us know as soon as possible when this can be arranged.

Thank you in advance,

Kenneth B. Loveless, Vice Chair

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:10:26 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Mr. Loveless,

I defer your request to the Chair. She and I discussed your request when you submitted it previously. It is my understanding that she spoke with Executive Director of SCSBA, Scott Price about this request and other topics.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:32 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

I have asked several times that a meeting between Director of Facilities, Clay Cannon Nikki Gardner and I at PWES be arranged. The purpose is that we be allowed to see and study contract documents with an eye toward compliance. Once a protocol has been established we would like to be able to meet Mr. Cannon as many times as it takes to complete our review. We will need access to all documents indicated in the Contract for Construction.

I once again ask for this to be arranged.

Please let us know as soon as possible when this can be arranged.

Thank you in advance,

Kenneth B. Loveless, Vice Chair

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:14:12 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed White" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Chair Hammond,

I've included you and other board members on this reply consistent with my previous email in regards to the request from Mr. Loveless.

Since the previous site visit was cancelled due to lack of availability, I am happy to assist with coordinating a visit. Other requests, I defer to Mrs. Hammond as Chair.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 11:12:06 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"
Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Mr. Loveless,

This reply is in response to your message sent last evening at 7:06 p.m.
I copied your message below for ease of reference.

"Dr. Melton, are you going to answer me? I have requested access which would involve much more than the facile group visit shown as scheduled for 1/28/21. I certainly plan to attend. However, I have on numerous occasions requested a deeper dive into the subject. Are you going to answer me? Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless"

Mr. Loveless based upon my records, I sent a reply on January 6 as seen below.

When Board Officers discussed the upcoming tour and selected the date and time for the visit, I thought I had met the expectation. I again defer this request to the Board Chair so she can deem the appropriate response based upon her conversation held with SCSBA Executive Director Scott Price.

It is my goal to meet the expectations of the Board while supporting compliance within my scope of responsibilities.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:10 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mr. Loveless,

I defer your request to the Chair. She and I discussed your request when you submitted it previously.

It is my understanding that she spoke with Executive Director of SCSBA, Scott Price about this request and other topics.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 2:32 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

I have asked several times that a meeting between Director of Facilities, Clay Cannon Nikki Gardner and I at PWES be arranged. The purpose is that we be allowed to see and study contract documents with an eye toward compliance. Once a protocol has been established we would like to be able to meet Mr. Cannon as many times as it takes to complete our review. We will need access to all documents indicated in the Contract for Construction.

I once again ask for this to be arranged.

Please let us know as soon as possible when this can be arranged.

Thank you in advance,

Re: Parking for Today

email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White"

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:20:18 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Erin,

Will there be a remote link that I can use to join?

I am not able to attend in person.

Thank you,

Ed

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 8:23 AM Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Please be advised this email is being blind copied and shared with all members of the Board of Trustees

Good morning,

Parking for today's workshop will be available in the back parking lot at the District Office. Spaces will be marked with traffic cones.

Thank you,
Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

[1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063](https://www.lexrich5.org/1020-Dutch-Fork-Road-Irmo-SC-29063)

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 10:30:02 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White"

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

Good morning, Mr. White-

Below is the Google Meet link as well as the phone number for call in (in the event you have any audio issues). Please let me know if I can assist further.

Thank you,
Erin

Board Workshop Google Meet:

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/jpd-smre-xxz

Join by phone

(US) +1 347-391-1513 PIN: 964 889 927#



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:20 AM Edward White <ewhite@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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I am not able to attend in person.

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Ed

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Thank you,
Erin

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Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent



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office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 11:50:46 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White"

Thank you Erin for the information .

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021 at 10:30 AM Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. White-

Below is the Google Meet link as well as the phone number for call in (in the event you have any audio issues). Please let me know if I can assist further.

Thank you,
Erin

Board Workshop Google Meet:

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/ipd-smre-xxz

[Join by phone](#)

(US) +1 347-391-1513 PIN: 964 889 927#



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Please provide detail on check

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 12:51:02 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Please ask the Finance department to send me the invoice and any other details supporting a check written to Northwest Sewer Associates for \$192,500 on 11/5/2014.

Since you have been BCC'ing the other board members on replies, I wasn't sure copying them on my emails was really helpful so did not copy them this time. I'm happy to copy or not copy - whichever you prefer - just let me know.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

Nov 2014 Northwest Sewer Assoc.png 11k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Friday, January 8, 2021 at 10:18:53 AM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Huddle,

I will forward this to the Director of Finance for this information to be shared. Upon receipt, I will forward that message to the Board.



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 Thu, Jan 7, 2021 at 12:51 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thank-you,
Cathy

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Friday, January 8, 2021 at 3:36:50 PM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Huddle,
Below is the information you requested. I will forward this email to the Board and include you with the blindcopy.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

From: **Erin Strange** <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 3:22 PM

Subject: Re: Please provide detail on check

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

I have attached the requested information - provided by Mrs. Frick.

Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrangle@lexrich5.org


www.lexrich5.org


Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 10:19 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

Huddle Info Request 1.7.21.pdf 1.0M

Nov 2014 Northwest Sewer Assoc.png 11k

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, January 8, 2021 at 3:38:38 PM Eastern Standard Time

This email has been blindcopied to all Board of Trustees.

Below is an email request from Mrs. Huddle and the response.



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

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

From: **Erin Strange** <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 8, 2021 at 3:22 PM

Subject: Re: Please provide detail on check

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

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Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

Huddle Info Request 1.7.21.pdf 1.0M

Nov 2014 Northwest Sewer Assoc.png 11k

Update to include Dashboard

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, January 8, 2021 at 2:51:13 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members"

D5 Board members:

This message is being blind copied to all members of the Board of Trustees. As part of my continued focus on Superintendent Priority #4, which focuses upon improving internal and external communications, I wanted to provide you with a few updates regarding our COVID-19 Dashboard and ways we continue to refine our planning and response to COVID-19.

Since the next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting is later in the month, I hope you find this update of interest.

Four-Day Instruction Resumes

In-person four-day instruction resumed on Thursday in our district. I visited several schools yesterday and today and can not say enough great things about the work of our staff and administrators to make the return go as smoothly as possible. There was unrest in our nation this week and we continue to be in a pandemic, but our staff is doing all they can to ensure distractions are minimized and instruction continues. We continue to monitor data daily.

COVID-19 Dashboard Reminder

I wanted to offer a reminder that the district's COVID-19 dashboard is updated each Friday, and has been updated today. We will remind families of this weekly report via a message to families that will be sent out this afternoon. The dashboard can be found on the district website homepage and at the following link: www.lexrich5.org/covid19dashboard.

Reentry Committee Feedback

A committee of teachers, support staff, principals, district staff, parents, and medical professionals met on December 17th to offer feedback on Reentry. This committee consisted of members from each of the three summer AccelerateED committees, in addition to new members as well. They offered input and feedback on Superintendent's Priorities numbers 4 and 5, regarding internal and external communication and the safety of students and staff physically, emotionally, and socially. The committee also offered considerations for making decisions if a school exceeds a 10% quarantine and positive caseload of students and/or teachers.

Thank you for your continued service and leadership.



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

Wording

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 8:39:16 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

I left a message with Erin this morning. Please get back to me as soon as you can to help me understand the wording by the announcement of Chapin closing where we used the statement " other reasons." Our public assumes that staff stayed out to stage their i2nd walk out. I hate to divide parents and teachers over the wording. We should say other illnesses. I know it is already done but can we try and have damages control? Thanks.

Jan Hammond.

Apartment Fire

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 2:07:28 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members"

Board Members,

With our Winter Holiday closure, I just realized you may not be aware. Local media provided a lot of coverage over the break but in case you were not aware.

On December 23, eight families who reside at River Oaks lost all of their belongings to an apartment fire. Fortunately, all escaped without harm.

Our Social Workers, SROs and school nurses along with district and school staff responding immediately.

Local churches and partnerships have offered support which is coordinated directly with each family.

The eight families have children in four elementary schools , IMS and IHS.

Our social workers led by Jennifer Felkel are focusing to reestablish families with Columbia Housing Authority, community, and local resources.

The D5 Foundation is collecting funds. At this time, we do not need donations due to the lack of housing. As needs are identified and families are settled, I can provide an update.

The stories I have heard from these families will touch your heart and assure you that our staff leads with their heart of service.

I regret my delay.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 2:47:18 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thank you for sharing. The board appreciates the work the D 5 family does and please keep us posted as to what we can do in the way of donations.

Sincerely

Jan Hammond

Board Members,

Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

With our Winter Holiday closure, I just realized you may not be aware. Local media provided a lot of coverage over the break but in case you were not aware.

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 3:19:33 PM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you for sharing - please do have Jennifer or the right person keep us updated and let us know how we can help. As you may know, I am donating my net pay from the district and spreading it around. I have donated to the snack pack fund and would be happy to donate to these families through the Foundation if any monetary needs are identified. And I will certainly keep them in my prayers.

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 2:08 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board Members,

With our Winter Holiday closure, I just realized you may not be aware. Local media provided a lot of coverage over the break but in case you were not aware.

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 9:40:50 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

In my weekly update have Jennifer add any details.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 9:41:13 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thank you, Mrs. Huddle. I will be sure to let Jennifer know.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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**Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.****Superintendent**

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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www.lexrich5.org***Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges***

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:04:59 AM Eastern Standard Time

Thanks for letting us know Dr. Melton.

I would like to donate my board salary to date to the families impacted by this loss. Do you recommend sending the check to the D5 Foundation?

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 2:08 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board Members,

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I regret my delay.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

To: email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:56:55 AM Eastern Standard Time

Wow.

Yes, sir. The Foundation has a line in their budget specifically for this cause.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 10:05 AM Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Thanks for letting us know Dr. Melton.

I would like to donate my board salary to date to the families impacted by this loss. Do you recommend sending the check to the D5 Foundation?

On Tue, Jan 12, 2021 at 2:08 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board Members,

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The eight families have children in four elementary schools, IMS and IHS.

Please extend the FFCRA leave provisions

email: " [REDACTED] Sarah
Ostergaard"

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4:16:10 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "rlhardy@lexrich5.org Robin Hardy"

Good afternoon,

The covid-related leave provisions through the FFCRA expired on 12/31, and it is now discretionary for employers to extend this leave. I request that you extend this leave as soon as possible, on or before the January 25 board meeting.

Currently, school employees who have to quarantine due to exposure in the workplace have to use their own sick / personal leave and then, once that is gone, take unpaid leave. For reference, new teachers start the profession with 12 days of sick / personal leave. That barely covers one quarantine.

Please extend the FFCRA leave provisions.

Sincerely,

Sarah H. Ostergaard, J.D.
Teacher, Webmaster, Social Media Coordinator
Irmo High School International School for the Arts

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 9:30:10 AM Eastern Standard Time
Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members"

I am blindcopying all board members on this message and have removed the sender of the message.

I updated Officers on this Monday. You can expect this to be on the next agenda.

I have a call today with the State Department of Education regarding expected federal funds so we can hear the perimeters of funds.



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

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

From: **Sarah Ostergaard** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 4:16 PM

Subject: Please extend the FFCRA leave provisions

To: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Edward White <ewhite@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>
Cc: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Robin Hardy <rlhardy@lexrich5.org>

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Please extend the FFCRA leave provisions.

Sincerely,

Sarah H. Ostergaard, J.D.

Teacher, Webmaster, Social Media Coordinator

Irmo High School International School for the Arts

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 11:53:07 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thanks

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 9:31 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I am blindcopying all board members on this message and have removed the sender of the message.

I updated Officers on this Monday. You can expect this to be on the next agenda.

I have a call today with the State Department of Education regarding expected federal funds so we can hear the perimeters of funds.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

From: **Sarah Ostergaard** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 4:16 PM

Subject: Please extend the FFCRA leave provisions

To: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Edward White <ewhite@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>
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Please extend the FFCRA leave provisions.

Sincerely,

Sarah H. Ostergaard, J.D.

Teacher, Webmaster, Social Media Coordinator
Irmo High School International School for the Arts

Vaccine Plan for Teachers and Staff

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 10:02:41 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Dr. Melton, I hope you are doing well. I am sure that you/your staff is in contact with the State Dept of Education on vaccination plans for teachers and staff. Since it looks like it may happen sooner than later and there is a lot of interest, I was wondering:

- * Can we send out a press release about our current plans just to let people know we are working on it?
- * I am sure the state will have a plan but do we have a back-up plan? I wonder because too many things with this virus don't always happen as the government originally planned.
- * I have heard that the state's plan is to utilize the school's nursing staff but I know our nurses are already maxed out - do you need short-term staffing, temps, or any other resource approval from the board?

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 2:21:33 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Mrs. Huddle,
We were actually meeting and discussing this item when you emailed. I'm awaiting confirmation of whether we can send our directory or if our employees have to "opt" in for information. Mrs. Goggins is working on that today due to conflicting information we have received. Based upon my understanding, our nurses would not give the vaccine but medical staff from a medical partner would. I'll be sending information as soon as possible.



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 Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 10:02 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I hope you are doing well. I am sure that you/your staff is in contact with the State Dept of Education on vaccination plans for teachers and staff. Since it looks like it may happen sooner than later and there is a lot of interest, I was wondering:

* Can we send out a press release about our current plans just to let people know we are working on it?

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Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:11:39 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Good timing! Thanks for the update. I hope they make it easier than for my mom - DHEC opened it for age 70+ today and the process is very convoluted.

Thanks
Cathy

On Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 2:22 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

We were actually meeting and discussing this item when you emailed. I'm awaiting confirmation of whether we can send our directory or if our employees have to "opt" in for information. Mrs. Goggins is working on that today due to conflicting information we have received.

Based upon my understanding, our nurses would not give the vaccine but medical staff from a medical partner would.

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Thank-you,
Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 1:00:00 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Oh no. I'm so sorry to hear that.....sigh.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Thanks
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Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 1:29:26 PM Eastern Standard Time

Making some progress today and Chip Huggins offered to help if needed so I am optimistic! Now praying for the teachers and staff to be next in line.

Thanks,
Cathy

* I have heard that the state's plan is to utilize the school's nursing staff but I know our nurses are already maxed out - do you need short-term staffing, temps, or any other resource approval from the board?

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Catherine Huddle
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Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 8:56:35 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

PLEASSSSSSSEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE and thank youuuuuuuuuuuuu!!!! I wish other boards would become involved - imagine the unity in that message.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 1:29 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thanks,
Cathy

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 1:01 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Oh no. I'm so sorry to hear that.....sigh.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:51:08 AM Eastern Standard Time

In addition to our board I have seen others reaching out but you're right, a concerted effort would help so much. I sent a letter via email and I heard back from the governor's admin and also from Chip Huggins.

I think DHEC is worried about logistics because it's not going that well for 70+ - however, I think getting school staff vaccinated would be much easier logistically because they could get the districts to help with the organization. The current 70+ sign-up method is a free-for-all.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 8:57 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:
PLEASSSSSSSEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE and thank youuuuuuuuuuuuu!!!! I wish other boards would become involved - imagine the unity in that message.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 11:35:01 AM Eastern Standard Time

Oh my. Maybe they will get the kinks worked out quickly.



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 Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 10:51 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

LS3P Architects

email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 1:34:41 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton,

AmyLynn Johnson with LS3P Architects reached out to me via a phone call to inquire about hosting a lunch/dinner during the SCSBA Annual Convention in February. If the Board has interest, I can work with AmyLynn to finalize details.

Please advise - thank you.
Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 10:42:02 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Mrs. Hammond,

If this is of interest, let Erin know so she can coordinate.



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

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

From: **Erin Strange** <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 1:35 PM

Subject: LS3P Architects

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

AmyLynn Johnson with LS3P Architects reached out to me via a phone call to inquire about hosting a lunch/dinner during the SCSBA Annual Convention in February. If the Board has interest, I can work with AmyLynn to finalize details.

Please advise - thank you.

Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

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office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 11:29:50 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Thanks! I have no problem asking individual board members if they want to participate in this invitation. Shall I ask each one and get back to you ?

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 10:42 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond,

If this is of interest, let Erin know so she can coordinate.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

From: **Erin Strange** <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 13, 2021 at 1:35 PM

Subject: LS3P Architects

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

AmyLynn Johnson with LS3P Architects reached out to me via a phone call to inquire about hosting a lunch/dinner during the SCSBA Annual Convention in February. If the Board has interest, I can work with AmyLynn to finalize details.

Please advise - thank you.
Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

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

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

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 3:26:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Hammond,

I think the invitation to the board would be best to come from you - similar to the way you handled the Contract Construction invitation. You could ask board members to include me with their response and I can create a master list of attendees.

Thank you,

Erin

Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

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1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



office: 803.476.8169
estrangle@lexrich5.org
www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 9:25:55 PM Eastern Standard Time
 To: email: "estrangle@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"
 Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Will do.

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 3:26 PM Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org> wrote:
 Mrs. Hammond,

I think the invitation to the board would be best to come from you - similar to the way you handled the Contract Construction invitation. You could ask board members to include me with their response and I can create a master list of attendees.

Thank you,
 Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant
Board of Trustees and Superintendent
 School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
[1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063](http://1020DutchForkRoadIrmoSC29063)
 office: 803.476.8169
estrangle@lexrich5.org
www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 11:30 AM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:
 Thanks! I have no problem asking individual board members if they want to participate in this invitation. Shall I ask each one and get back to you ?

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 10:42 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:
 Mrs. Hammond,

As of today, I have not received any responses from board members regarding attending dinner with LS3P at the SCSBA Annual Conference. Should I assume the board was not interested in accepting the offer?

Thank you,
Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

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office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 9:26 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Will do.

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 3:26 PM Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Mrs. Hammond,

I think the invitation to the board would be best to come from you - similar to the way you handled the Contract Construction invitation. You could ask board members to include me with their response and I can create a master list of attendees.

Thank you,
Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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estrange@lexrich5.org

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 11:30 AM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Thanks! I have no problem asking individual board members if they want to participate in this invitation. Shall I ask each one and get back to you ?

South Carolina Vaccine Advisory Committee | SCDHEC

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 10:49:37 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/south-carolina-vaccine-advisory-committee>

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.
Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 11:20:44 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"
Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members"

Board Members,
In an effort to keep you updated regarding COVID vaccinations. Superintendent Spearman reported today to district superintendents this committee (see attached) did not support prioritizing 1B . I support school staff being a priority in 1B to offer our staff the vaccine should they choose to. Any legislative assistance you can offer would be appreciated. The vaccine would not be mandated for employees, it would be an option which I compare with the flu vaccine.

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/south-carolina-vaccine-advisory-committee>

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.
Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 11:28:10 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Than you for the update

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 11:21 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board Members,

In an effort to keep you updated regarding COVID vaccinations. Superintendent Spearman reported today to district superintendents this committee (see attached) did not support prioritizing 1B . I support school staff being a priority in 1B to offer our staff the vaccine should they choose to. Any legislative assistance you can offer would be appreciated. The vaccine would not be mandated for employees, it would be an option which I compare with the flu vaccine.

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/south-carolina-vaccine-advisory-committee>

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 11:47:02 AM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Thank you for the update. This is a real shame and I will personally contact my representatives and governor McMaster. The DHEC website is hard to follow but some news organizations have picked up the story as well - hopefully it will gain wide traction.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 11:21 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board Members,

In an effort to keep you updated regarding COVID vaccinations. Superintendent Spearman reported today to district superintendents this committee (see attached) did not support prioritizing 1B . I support school staff being a priority in 1B to offer our staff the vaccine should they choose to. Any legislative assistance you can offer would be appreciated. The vaccine would not be mandated for employees, it would be an option which I compare with the flu vaccine.

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/south-carolina-vaccine-advisory-committee>

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 12:02:40 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

I hope it is gaining traction . It's difficult to plan when we don't have information or support in this situation. I had not heard of this advisory until today .

Thank you for your willingness to reach out to our state leaders .

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.
Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2021, at 11:47 AM, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Thank you for the update. This is a real shame and I will personally contact my representatives and governor McMaster. The DHEC website is hard to follow but some news organizations have picked up the story as well - hopefully it will gain wide traction.
Thanks,
Cathy

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Board Members,

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<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/south-carolina-vaccine-advisory-committee>

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Fwd: South Carolina Vaccine Advisory Committee | SCDHEC

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 3:56:57 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

FYI. Thanks Ken

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

From: **RONNIE CROMER**
Date: Thu, Jan 14, 2021, 3:53 PM
Subject: Re: South Carolina Vaccine Advisory Committee | SCDHEC
To: Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Ken:

I spoke with Molly last night about another consistent issue I had and while we were speaking, we got on the issue of teacher vaccinations and she is going to be working on that.

Thanks,
Ronnie

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 14, 2021, at 1:01 PM, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Ronnie, Nathan and Chip, Please ask or lobby Superintendent Spearman to reconsider to move school teachers and staff to class 1b for vaccinations! Think of the number of children and their education that this affecting. Thanks so much. Ken Loveless

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Date: Thu, Jan 14, 2021, 11:21 AM
Subject: Fwd: South Carolina Vaccine Advisory Committee | SCDHEC
To: Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

Board Members,

In an effort to keep you updated regarding COVID vaccinations. Superintendent Spearman reported today to district superintendents this committee (see attached) did not support prioritizing 1B . I support school staff being a priority in 1B to offer our staff the vaccine should they choose to. Any legislative assistance you can offer would be appreciated. The vaccine would not be mandated for employees, it would be an option which I compare with the flu vaccine.

<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/south-carolina-vaccine-advisory-committee>

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

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

Friday, January 15, 2021 at 8:34:45 AM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you, Mr. Loveless. I appreciate your contact with Senator Cromer. This is very important to me that we can offer this to educators.

Wishing you a beautiful day! (Lee and I added the Keys to our bucket list this week!)



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 Thu, Jan 14, 2021 at 3:57 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:
FYI. Thanks Ken

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

From: **RONNIE CROMER**

Date: Thu, Jan 14, 2021, 3:53 PM

Subject: Re: South Carolina Vaccine Advisory Committee | SCDHEC

To: Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Ken:

I spoke with Molly last night about another consistent issue I had and while we were speaking, we got on the issue of teacher vaccinations and she is going to be working on that.

Thanks,
Ronnie

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 14, 2021, at 1:01 PM, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Ronnie, Nathan and Chip, Please ask or lobby Superintendent Spearman to reconsider to move school teachers and staff to class 1b for vaccinations! Think of the number of children and their education that this affecting. Thanks so much. Ken Loveless

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Thu, Jan 14, 2021, 11:21 AM

Subject: Fwd: South Carolina Vaccine Advisory Committee | SCDHEC

To: Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

Board Members,

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<https://scdhec.gov/covid19/covid-19-vaccine/south-carolina-vaccine-advisory-committee>

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

Details on Redistricting Scenarios 5 and 6

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 1:17:03 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Dr. Melton, Could the consultants provide us more details on these 2 scenarios?

#1 - I would like to see a chart such as the one attached for each scenario for the 3 impacted schools and would like to see greater detail for each school, including:

For each school separately (PWES, CES and LMES):

- * Current and projected attendance by grade without school choice (ie., school choice is not offered at PWES and only children currently enrolled in choice at CES and LMES are included)

- * Current and projected attendance in other programs (such as PK4, speech therapy, etc).

- * The number of students the school is constructed to hold

- * The number of students the school is configured to hold based on current programs or other limitations

#2 - I would like to see the maps the presented the board with the # of current students in each planning block (the maps presented at the workshop - screenshot attached).

#3 - I have a feeling that most discussion will center on the moving lines from LMES to CES so I would like to know exactly how many students would be impacted by grade level and that those numbers not include any additional school choice (would only include impacted students currently enrolled in choice).

#4 - A summary of the feedback received from parents/the community on the proposed scenarios.

Ideally they could get us this information before the board packet for the 1/25 meeting but if not, if they could at least include in the board packet that would be great.

Thank you for all your help with this.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

Screen Shot 2021-01-17 at 1.02.48 PM.png 1.3M

Screen Shot 2021-01-17 at 1.10.53 PM.png 3.8M

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 3:22:36 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Mrs. Huddle,

If I'm not mistaken, we were trying to keep the window open to gather as much feedback as possible so there likely won't be a report in your packet. Dr. Harris is preparing remarks for Monday evening to summarize the information.

I'll pass along to Dr. Harris your email for us with Malone and MacBroom. Dr. Harris is working with them to prepare a draft for my review which will be in board packet.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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- * Current and projected attendance by grade without school choice (ie., school choice is not offered at PWES and only children currently enrolled in choice at CES and LMES are included)
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Ideally they could get us this information before the board packet for the 1/25 meeting but if not, if they could at least include in the board packet that would be great.

Thank you for all your help with this.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

PWES Tour

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

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 8:50:55 AM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Hammond,
I have two things that I need your guidance on:

1. We have proceeded with scheduling the tour at PWES on January 28 as we discussed in Board Officers. I set the time from 10 - 12:30 to help our folks with scheduling.

Have you or the Officers invited others or would you prefer we send an invitation?

2. Has Mrs. Gardner shared with the Board the drafted agenda items?

I forgot to ask what you wanted your style to be to prepare others members for upcoming meetings.

Feel free to reach out to Erin or me once you're ready.

Thanks



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 9:44:22 AM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you!

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 8:51 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond,
I have two things that I need your guidance on:

1. We have proceeded with scheduling the tour at PWES on January 28 as we discussed in Board Officers. I set the time from 10 - 12:30 to help our folks with scheduling.

Have you or the Officers invited others or would you prefer we send an invitation?

2. Has Mrs. Gardner shared with the Board the drafted agenda items?

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Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 10:03:26 AM Eastern Standard Time



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

From: **Janis Hammond** <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 9:44 AM

Subject: Re: PWES Tour

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Thank you!

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 8:51 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

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

Bcc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org"

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 10:06:14 AM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you for sharing the email -

As you suggested, I will send a calendar invitation to board members regarding the PWES site visit. I will also get clarification from Dr. Melton regarding who "others" are. By the sound of her email, I believe Dr. Melton meant board members, but I will get back to you.

I believe Dr. Melton's question regarding the drafted agenda items was in reference to the board meeting agenda and whether or not Mrs. Gardner has shared the agenda with board members, or if you would, or if we needed to share it from this office. I'm glad to assist if you'd like me to share the draft agenda with the board.



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 9:53 AM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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

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Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 9:44 AM

Subject: Re: PWES Tour

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

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I forgot to ask what you wanted your style to be to prepare others members for upcoming meetings.

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

FYI - Mrs. Hammond did not request that I/we/you send the agenda to board members.

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

From: **Janis Hammond** <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 10:09 AM

Subject: Re: PWES Tour

To: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Thanks

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 10:06 AM Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Thank you for sharing the email -

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Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

[1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063](#)

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 9:53 AM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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

From: **Janis Hammond** <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 9:44 AM
Subject: Re: PWES Tour
To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Thank you!

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 8:51 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond,

I have two things that I need your guidance on:

1. We have proceeded with scheduling the tour at PWES on January 28 as we discussed in Board Officers. I set the time from 10 - 12:30 to help our folks with scheduling.

Have you or the Officers invited others or would you prefer we send an invitation?

2. Has Mrs. Gardner shared with the Board the drafted agenda items?

I forgot to ask what you wanted your style to be to prepare others members for upcoming meetings.

Feel free to reach out to Erin or me once you're ready.

Thanks



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

Fwd: For Board Review

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 4:51:20 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Mrs. Huddle,

This information is new to my inbox but in an effort to forward it to you, I'm passing it along. The presentation will be in board packet tomorrow to include some placeholders of information that will be updated over the weekend.

I'm forwarding to you first, I will forward to the Board next in a blindcopy message.

Please let me know if this information is helpful.

Thank you



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

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

From: **Michael Harris** <mrharris@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 4:43 PM

Subject: For Board Review

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton:

Below are initial responses to the questions raised by the Board. While much of this is still incomplete, the below may be helpful as we move toward Monday nights Board Meeting. Thanks!

Hi Dr. Harris,

Please see our assumptions below as well as our responses to Mrs. Huddle's questions highlighted in red below. The virtual platform update is provided under item #4.

We would like to clarify the assumptions that are incorporated into Scenarios 5 and 6, including the maps and projection tables:

- No impacts to intermediate, middle, and high school students
- Only impacts current CES or LMES students who live within redistricted areas. Students who attend other elementary schools or special programs would not be impacted under Scenarios 5 and 6.
- No changes to current open choice or magnet students and programs
- No changes to current special education students and programs
- Students impacted by the enrollment freeze are assumed to stay in current buildings and pathways
- No changes to current Pre-K enrollment levels or program placement
 - Assumes 40 additional Pre-K students at Piney Woods

#1 - I would like to see a chart such as the one attached for each scenario for the 3 impacted schools and would like to see greater detail for each school, including:

For each school separately (PWES, CES and LMES):

We will provide 10-year projections for PWES, CES, and LMES in the presentation. These account for all of the assumptions noted above.

* Current and projected attendance by grade without school choice (ie., school choice is not offered at PWES and only children currently enrolled in choice at CES and LMES are included)

* Current and projected attendance in other programs (such as PK4, speech therapy, etc).

We recognize that there are numerous programs and populations that are based on unique needs and therefore fall outside of "what can be projected". We do not project enrollment separately for special programs such as Speech Therapy, Special Education, Open Choice, or Magnet programs due to their small sample size and concerns over student privacy. However, these students are accounted for in our methodology as noted in our assumptions above.

* The number of students the school is constructed to hold

We are using an enrollment target of 630 students at PWES, which is 90% of the building's capacity of 700 students. When opening a new school, we recommend leaving ample buffer space to account for future housing development, student growth, and programmatic changes.

* The number of students the school is configured to hold based on current programs or other limitations.

District staff to provide update on planned PWES programs

#2 - I would like to see the maps the presented the board with the # of current students in each planning block (the maps presented at the workshop - screenshot attached).

We will provide maps that show redistricted areas under Scenarios 5 and 6 as well as the number of students who would be impacted. This excludes any students who are enrolled in choice programs,

magnet programs, or are impacted by the enrollment freeze as discussed in our assumptions above. The planning blocks do not align exactly with Scenarios 5 and 6. They merely serve as a starting point for the Board Workshop and have since been refined as we develop our scenarios.

#3 - I have a feeling that most discussion will center on the moving lines from LMES to CES so I would like to know exactly how many students would be impacted by grade level and that those numbers not include any additional school choice (would only include impacted students currently enrolled in choice).

We will provide a breakdown of impacted students by grade level. Our projections assume a continuation of current open choice, magnet, and other special programs as noted above. These students were not reassigned under any of the Scenarios

#4 - A summary of the feedback received from parents/the community on the proposed scenarios.

Since our update on Friday, we have had 366 page views on the virtual platform. We will provide a further update for the packet tomorrow and again on Monday.

--



Dr. Michael R. Harris

Chief Planning and Administrative Officer

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

O: 803-476-8121 F: 803-476-8006 E: mrharris@lexrich5.org

Wednesdays

email: [REDACTED] -enise Williams" Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 4:59:31 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Dear Board Members,

I am a teacher at Oak Pointe Elementary school. As you all well know, this year has been like no other. This pandemic has robbed us of so much, especially so many parts of a school experience. As I reflect on all of the changes that occurred practically overnight, I am so proud of my school family and our ability to adjust to more work, less planning, sharing our classrooms with related arts teachers, less time for lunch, etc.

I wanted to reach out to you all in hopes that you would listen to why I think it is extremely important to continue using Wednesdays as a distant learning day. I know the original idea was to have a day to deep clean. I am not in my building on Wednesdays, but I feel sure things are being done above and beyond to keep our school clean. However, I do not think we need to continue to be out of the building on Wednesdays in order to keep our school clean. Yes, it helps, but maybe not completely necessary.

However, there are so many other reasons why I think it is important to keep Wednesdays the way they are currently. Wednesdays have caused teachers, assistants, and students to learn how to navigate virtual learning. Our students have the opportunity to "practice" this kind of learning each week. If we return to five days a week, students will no longer have the opportunity to learn like this and so much will be forgotten.

This week it was very apparent to me that I reach out to you all. We had a kindergarten class that had to quarantine. Most found out late on Sunday as the child's results did not come back positive until then. The teacher, principal, and nurse worked tirelessly that night to make sure everyone was aware of what Monday would look like. The teacher teaches these children every Wednesday in a virtual environment and because of this, guess what? This class did not miss a beat!!!! She was able to open up her classroom on Monday morning, not in the same way, but instruction happened. If this class had not had the opportunity to learn this way each Wednesday, Monday in quarantine would have looked very different. As we all know the famous saying- practice makes perfect. I witnessed this practice become perfection as this class began school on Monday without fail and we are talking about five year olds!

Please, please consider keeping the current model in place as our numbers continue to rise higher than we have ever seen. This kindergarten class is only one example of how learning has continued through a virtual lens. Classes, students, teachers are all getting calls constantly finding out there is a need for quarantine. If we take virtual Wednesdays away, our kids will lose out so much because they are not going to remember the ins and outs of virtual learning. They need this day.

One last remark, I work non-stop on Wednesdays. Meeting with my students and then meeting with my team in the afternoons to plan. We have been given so many extra tasks to deal with this year and a shortened planning period! Wednesdays are the only time our team can get together to plan to teach effectively.

Please consider keeping the current model and not returning to five days in February.

Thank you for your time,

Denise Williams

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 10:31:05 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Dr. Melton, I don't think Ms. Williams sent her email to you so I am forwarding because I think her point of needing to "practice" for possible virtual days has merit. While I personally don't think we should use Wednesdays for that, the overall concept of a plan for possible return to virtual, at a school level or district level, for any reason (Covid, flood, flu, etc), is a good one - a disaster recovery plan of sorts.

I have copied Ms. Hammond and Mr. Loveless in the event they believe such a plan is something that should be built into policy and/or needs to be a future agenda item.

Thank-you,
Catherine Huddle

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

From: Denise Williams

Date: Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 4:59 PM

Subject: Wednesdays

To: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, Edward White <ewhite@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>

Dear Board Members,

I am a teacher at Oak Pointe Elementary school. As you all well know, this year has been like no other. This pandemic has robbed us of so much, especially so many parts of a school experience. As I reflect on all of the changes that occurred practically overnight, I am so proud of my school family and our ability to adjust to more work, less planning, sharing our classrooms with related arts teachers, less time for lunch, etc.

I wanted to reach out to you all in hopes that you would listen to why I think it is extremely important to continue using Wednesdays as a distant learning day. I know the original idea was to have a day to deep clean. I am not in my building on Wednesdays, but I feel sure things are being done above and beyond to keep our school clean. However, I do not think we need to continue to be out of the building on Wednesdays in order to keep our school clean. Yes, it helps, but maybe not completely necessary.

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classroom on Monday morning, not in the same way, but instruction happened. If this class had not had the opportunity to learn this way each Wednesday, Monday in quarantine would have looked very different. As we all know the famous saying- practice makes perfect. I witnessed this practice become perfection as this class began school on Monday without fail and we are talking about five year olds!

Please, please consider keeping the current model in place as our numbers continue to rise higher than we have ever seen. This kindergarten class is only one example of how learning has continued through a virtual lens. Classes, students, teachers are all getting calls constantly finding out there is a need for quarantine. If we take virtual Wednesdays away, our kids will lose out so much because they are not going to remember the ins and outs of virtual learning. They need this day.

One last remark, I work non-stop on Wednesdays. Meeting with my students and then meeting with my team in the afternoons to plan. We have been given so many extra tasks to deal with this year and a shortened planning period! Wednesdays are the only time our team can get together to plan to teach effectively.

Please consider keeping the current model and not returning to five days in February.

Thank you for your time,
Denise Williams

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 12:44:10 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Thank you, Mrs. Huddle. I have heard this recently from more teachers.

I'll be sure that we make note for our reentry committee when we convene next.



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 Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 10:31 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I don't think Ms. Williams sent her email to you so I am forwarding because I think her point of needing to "practice" for possible virtual days has merit. While I personally don't think we should use Wednesdays for that, the overall concept of a plan for possible return to virtual, at a school

Distance Learning Question

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 11:43:06 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Dr. Melton,

I have had some parents reach out to me with concerns regarding F2F instruction. Many have questioned whether an option could be created that would allow students to choose to receive instruction through a distance learning or e-learning format, in which they could receive work at home and have classes live-streamed/recorded instead of going to class in person. They are requesting this model because FIVE is full, and because this option is given to students when they are quarantined. My question...is this feasible?

Personally, I believe that we need a more consistent instructional model. While I want students in school five days, I do empathize that some families may feel more comfortable choosing to implement a distance learning model. Also - if we do allow this, it may help alleviate bodies in the classroom (depending on participation). I do believe if this is a feasible option, that families that make a decision to utilize this option should remain distance learning through the end of the academic year. I do understand that it is not a perfect option, but I don't believe any option is perfect.

I have spoken to some teachers that believe that this could be a reasonable solution, but I am sure there will be differing opinions. I am also not the expert, so I am curious as to your thoughts on this (when you have a chance - no rush!).

Thank you for all you do!

-Rebecca

--

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines
Board Trustee
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 4:58:44 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Mrs. Hines,

Thank you for your questions and interest in understanding a third option. I am sending this response to you first, then will send a second message and blind copy all Board of Trustees.

A third scheduling model option for families has been discussed internally throughout the year, and even more the last few months. If we were to offer a third scheduling model, it would need board approval as currently the board has approved two scheduling models; in-person or FIVE. The third model would need to be approved by the Board because of attendance requirements by the SC SDE. Currently we cannot mark students "present" in a third scheduling model as it would need Board approval in order to comply with SC SDE attendance guidelines.

In regards to the third model itself, there are many factors we have discussed. As you mentioned, some teachers are ready for this and could do it immediately, but not all teachers are at this time. All teachers are working towards being able to offer live streaming to quarantined students, but in the meantime, some teachers are posting recorded lessons instead. Adding the third option on a daily basis as a requirement for teachers would definitely be additional planning and work for all teachers. We have also heard concerns from the Board previously about teachers teaching both virtually and in-person, so we have tried to minimize this as much as possible. For us to add the third model, we would have to require all teachers to teach in-person and virtual which would not be favorable to all teachers due to the increased workload on a daily basis, versus an as-needed basis for quarantines.



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 Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 11:40 AM Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

I have had some parents reach out to me with concerns regarding F2F instruction. Many have questioned whether an option could be created that would allow students to choose to receive instruction through a distance learning or e-learning format, in which they could receive work at home and have classes live-streamed/recorded instead of going to class in person. They are requesting this model because FIVE is full, and because this option is given to students when they are quarantined. My question...is this feasible?

Personally, I believe that we need a more consistent instructional model. While I want students in school five days, I do empathize that some families may feel more comfortable choosing to implement a distance learning model. Also - if we do allow this, it may help alleviate bodies in the classroom (depending on participation). I do believe if this is a feasible option, that families that make a decision to utilize this option should remain distance learning through the end of the academic year. I do understand that it is not a perfect option, but I don't believe any option is perfect.

I have spoken to some teachers that believe that this could be a reasonable solution, but I am sure there will be differing opinions. I am also not the expert, so I am curious as to your thoughts on this (when you have a chance - no rush!).

Thank you for all you do!

-Rebecca

--

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines
Board Trustee
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:00:40 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"
Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org"

Board of Trustees,

This email is being blind copied to all of you to assist with communication. This message is in response to a question regarding a third option as a model of instruction.



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

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 4:58 PM

Subject: Re: Distance Learning Question

To: Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>

Mrs. Hines,

Thank you for your questions and interest in understanding a third option. I am sending this response to you first, then will send a second message and blind copy all Board of Trustees.

A third scheduling model option for families has been discussed internally throughout the year, and even more the last few months. If we were to offer a third scheduling model, it would need board approval as currently the board has approved two scheduling models; in-person or FIVE. The third model would need to be approved by the Board because of attendance requirements by the SC SDE. Currently we cannot mark students "present" in a third scheduling model as it would need Board approval in order to comply with SC SDE attendance guidelines.

In regards to the third model itself, there are many factors we have discussed. As you mentioned, some teachers are ready for this and could do it immediately, but not all teachers are at this time. All teachers are working towards being able to offer live streaming to quarantined students, but in the meantime, some teachers are posting recorded lessons instead. Adding the third option on a daily basis as a requirement for teachers would definitely be additional planning and work for all teachers. We have also heard concerns from the Board previously about teachers teaching both virtually and in-person, so we have tried to minimize this as much as possible. For us to add the third model, we would have to require all teachers to teach in-person and virtual which would not be favorable to all teachers due to the increased workload on a daily basis, versus an as-needed basis for quarantines.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 11:40 AM Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

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Personally, I believe that we need a more consistent instructional model. While I want students in school five days, I do empathize that some families may feel more comfortable choosing to implement a distance learning model. Also - if we do allow this, it may help alleviate bodies in the classroom (depending on participation). I do believe if this is a feasible option, that families that make a decision to utilize this option should remain distance learning through the end of the academic year. I do understand that it is not a perfect option, but I don't believe any option is perfect.

I have spoken to some teachers that believe that this could be a reasonable solution, but I am sure there will be differing opinions. I am also not the expert, so I am curious as to your thoughts on this (when you have a chance - no rush!).

Thank you for all you do!

-Rebecca

--

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines
Board Trustee
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 5:05:23 PM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you very much for your response!

Sent from my iPhone

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 1:23:56 PM Eastern Standard Time
 To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
 Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Dr. Melton, You're correct about the community feedback. However, the consultants already have the data I requested, so I would like to get that as soon as possible. I sent the email last week to give them plenty of time to pull together but am certainly open to receiving the information in whatever format they have.

Thank-you,
 Cathy

On Tue, Jan 19, 2021 at 3:23 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

If I'm not mistaken, we were trying to keep the window open to gather as much feedback as possible so there likely won't be a report in your packet. Dr. Harris is preparing remarks for Monday evening to summarize the information.

I'll pass along to Dr. Harris your email for us with Malone and MacBroom. Dr. Harris is working with them to prepare a draft for my review which will be in board packet.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Sun, Jan 17, 2021 at 1:17 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Could the consultants provide us more details on these 2 scenarios?

#1 - I would like to see a chart such as the one attached for each scenario for the 3 impacted schools and would like to see greater detail for each school, including:

For each school separately (PWES, CES and LMES):

- * Current and projected attendance by grade without school choice (ie., school choice is not offered at PWES and only children currently enrolled in choice at CES and LMES are included)
- * Current and projected attendance in other programs (such as PK4, speech therapy, etc).
- * The number of students the school is constructed to hold
- * The number of students the school is configured to hold based on current programs or other limitations

#2 - I would like to see the maps the presented the board with the # of current students in each planning block (the maps presented at the workshop - screenshot attached).

#3 - I have a feeling that most discussion will center on the moving lines from LMES to CES so I would like to know exactly how many students would be impacted by grade level and that those numbers not include any additional school choice (would only include impacted students currently enrolled in choice).

#4 - A summary of the feedback received from parents/the community on the proposed scenarios.

Ideally they could get us this information before the board packet for the 1/25 meeting but if not, if they could at least include in the board packet that would be great.

Thank you for all your help with this.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Re: Requesting answers

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 7:06:32 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Dr. Melton, are you going to answer me? I have requested access which would involve much more than the facile group visit shown as scheduled for 1/28/21. I certainly plan to attend. However, I have on numerous occasions requested a deeper dive into the subject. Are you going to answer me?

Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021, 2:21 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton,

I have asked several times that a meeting between Director of Facilities, Clay Cannon Nikki Gardner and I at PWES be arranged. The purpose is that we be allowed to see and study contract documents with an eye toward compliance. Once a protocol has been established we would like to be able to meet Mr. Cannon as many times as it takes to complete our review. We will need access to all documents indicated in the Contract for Construction.

I once again ask for this to be arranged.

Please let us know as soon as possible when this can be arranged.

Thank you in advance,

Kenneth B. Loveless, Vice Chair

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Monday, January 25, 2021 at 9:42:51 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Dr. Melton, Please cite any board policy which states that a board member must first submit his or her questions through the board chair or any other person before the Superintendent provides answers to the questions. Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021, 7:06 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, are you going to answer me? I have requested access which would involve much more than the facile group visit shown as scheduled for 1/28/21. I certainly plan to attend. However, I have on numerous occasions requested a deeper dive into the subject. Are you going to answer me? Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

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Thank you in advance,

Kenneth B. Loveless, Vice Chair

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 10:14:13 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

This confuses me as well. Policy BDGE allows any board member to request information. If the superintendent believes a request is onerous the policy states they should refer the request to the fully seated board. I don't see anything about going through the board chair.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 9:43 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Please cite any board policy which states that a board member must first submit his or her questions through the board chair or any other person before the Superintendent provides answers to the questions. Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021, 7:06 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, are you going to answer me? I have requested access which would involve much more than the facile group visit shown as scheduled for 1/28/21. I certainly plan to attend. However, I have on numerous occasions requested a deeper dive into the subject. Are you going to answer me? Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 6, 2021, 2:21 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton,

I have asked several times that a meeting between Director of Facilities, Clay Cannon Nikki Gardner and I at PWES be arranged. The purpose is that we be allowed to see and study contract documents with an eye toward compliance. Once a protocol has been established we would like to be able to meet Mr. Cannon as many times as it takes to complete our review. We will need access to all documents indicated in the Contract for Construction.

I once again ask for this to be arranged.

Please let us know as soon as possible when this can be arranged.

Thank you in advance,

Kenneth B. Loveless, Vice Chair

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, January 25, 2021 at 12:53:01 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Mr. Loveless,

There is not a board policy that requires a board member to submit questions to the superintendent through the chair first. But to the extent the request is out of the ordinary and a request others may have, BEDGA outlines the process of "requests by members of the board." In other words, all board members should have the same access. It has been my practice and expectations of previous boards to work with the chair.

Mrs. Hammond, I request this be discussed this evening during Executive Session so I may meet the expectations of the board and comply with policies.



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

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, January 25, 2021 at 12:55:12 PM Eastern Standard Time
 To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
 Cc: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Mrs. Huddle,

Below is the copy of my response to Mr. Loveless that also addresses your concerns.

"Mr. Loveless,

There is not a board policy that requires a board member to submit questions to the superintendent through the chair first. But to the extent the request is out of the ordinary and a request others may have, BEDGA outlines the process of "requests by members of the board." In other words, all board members should have the same access. It has been my practice and expectations of previous boards to work with the chair.

Mrs. Hammond, I request this be discussed this evening during Executive Session so I may meet the expectations of the board and comply with policies. "



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 10:14 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

This confuses me as well. Policy BDGE allows any board member to request information. If the superintendent believes a request is onerous the policy states they should refer the request to the fully seated board. I don't see anything about going through the board chair.

Thanks,
 Cathy

On Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 9:43 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Please cite any board policy which states that a board member must first submit his or her questions through the board chair or any other person before the Superintendent provides answers to the questions. Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021, 7:06 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, are you going to answer me? I have requested access which would involve much more than the facile group visit shown as scheduled for 1/28/21. I certainly plan to attend. However, I have on numerous occasions requested a deeper dive into the subject. Are you going to answer me? Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

Substitute Pay

email: " [REDACTED] " Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 3:15:34 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org jhammond@lexrich5.org",
email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org ngardner@lexrich5.org", email:
"rhines@lexrich5.org rhines@lexrich5.org", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org chuddle@lexrich5.org", email:
"ewhite@lexrich5.org ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org kloveless@lexrich5.org", email:
"cfrick@lexrich5.org cfrick@lexrich5.org"

Dear Dr. Melton and Board of Trustees,

As a retired teacher and substitute with 42 years of experience in Lexington Richland School District Five, I'm writing this letter to bring to your attention a couple of issues substitute teachers in our district face. Correcting these concerns will help eliminate the shortage of qualified substitutes needed to fill the faculty and staff absences that are currently an issue in our schools.

First, and most obvious to every substitute, is the rate of pay. For the past 14 years, Lexington Richland Five has paid certified substitutes only \$75.00 per day and \$65.00 for non-certified personal. This is substantially lower than neighboring school districts that have increased the daily rate of pay to a minimum of \$125.00. District Five needs to address this discrepancy as soon as possible to ensure we retain not only the most qualified but also an ample number of substitutes necessary to meet the growing need.

Secondly, teachers who agree to accept a long-term substitute position should be paid their normal daily rate of pay starting on day one of the contract. Lexington Richland Five currently does not start paying a long term sub their daily rate of pay until day 11. As you know, the first 10 days are the hardest and most challenging for a sub as they attempt to establish a

smooth transition between students, parents, and staff while in an unfamiliar environment. It is important these experienced, certified substitutes are compensated appropriately for accepting the responsibilities and duties associated with teaching our students.

Finally, in the current Covid environment it is even more important than ever to ensure every person entering our schools and working with our children is a dedicated, responsible, and qualified individual. In order to recruit the best available, we must make the job as attractive as possible. Fair, competitive compensation is the surest way to achieve this.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these suggestions.

Rosa W. Caudle

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 5:44:23 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, What is a long term substitute? Is there a policy/written document you can send me on how that works?

Thank-you,
Cathy

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

From: **Rosa Caudle**

Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:15 PM

Subject: Substitute Pay

To: csmelton@lexrich5.org <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, jhammond@lexrich5.org <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, mhogan@lexrich5.org <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, ngardner@lexrich5.org <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, rhines@lexrich5.org <rhines@lexrich5.org>, chuddle@lexrich5.org <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, ewhite@lexrich5.org <ewhite@lexrich5.org>, kloveless@lexrich5.org <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, cfrick@lexrich5.org <cfrick@lexrich5.org>

Dear Dr. Melton and Board of Trustees,

order to recruit the best available, we must make the job as attractive as possible. Fair, competitive compensation is the surest way to achieve this.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these suggestions.

Rosa W. Caudle



--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 6:04:48 PM Eastern Standard Time

Hi Dr. Melton, I think you may have missed my email. Can you ask someone to please send me the answer? With all the talk about substitutes I'd like to be fully educated.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 5:44 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, What is a long term substitute? Is there a policy/written document you can send me on how that works?

Thank-you,
Cathy

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

From: **Rosa Caudle** <----->

Date: Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 3:15 PM

Subject: Substitute Pay

To: csmelton@lexrich5.org <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, jhammond@lexrich5.org <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, mhogan@lexrich5.org <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, ngardner@lexrich5.org <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, rhines@lexrich5.org <rhines@lexrich5.org>, chuddle@lexrich5.org <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, ewhite@lexrich5.org <ewhite@lexrich5.org>, kloveless@lexrich5.org <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, cfrick@lexrich5.org <cfrick@lexrich5.org>

Dear Dr. Melton and Board of Trustees,

Thank you for your time and consideration of these suggestions.

Rosa W. Caudle

[REDACTED]

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 8:30:29 AM Eastern Standard Time

My apologies, Mrs. Huddle.
I did not see this request. I'll get information to you today.



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 Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 6:04 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Hi Dr. Melton, I think you may have missed my email. Can you ask someone to please send me the answer? With all the talk about substitutes I'd like to be fully educated.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 5:44 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, What is a long term substitute? Is there a policy/written document you can send me on how that works?

Thank-you,

Finally, in the current Covid environment it is even more important than ever to ensure every person entering our schools and working with our children is a dedicated, responsible, and qualified individual. In order to recruit the best available, we must make the job as attractive as possible. Fair, competitive compensation is the surest way to achieve this.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these suggestions.

Rosa W. Caudle


--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "tturner@lexrich5.org Tamara Turner"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 10:03:51 AM Eastern Standard Time

Long-term substitute teachers

are Kelly Services substitutes

who serve longer terms in the absence of regular teachers due to reasons such as teacher leaves of absences or vacancies that arise during the year. These subs are considered long-term because they typically commit to serving in the absence for the same teacher. To the extent possible, the district works with Kelly Services to identify long-term substitute teachers who possess the training and experience to insure that students will receive uninterrupted instruction when the regular teacher has to be absent.

The 10-day wait period before receiving certified pay is an administrative rule under board policy GCG. I will attach links to those policies below.

- [AR GCG-R Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment](#)
- [Policy GCG Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment](#)



Tamara D. Turner, Ed.D.

Chief Human Resources Officer

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8198

fax: 803.476.8196

tturner@lexrich5.org

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 8:32 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:
I need a reply to send this morning.



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

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 8:30 AM

Subject: Re: Substitute Pay

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

My apologies, Mrs. Huddle.

I did not see this request. I'll get information to you today.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 10:20:15 AM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Huddle,

Below is information regarding long term substitutes. I'll forward this to the rest of the Board because I think this would be helpful for them to have context and calibrate their questions. Thank you for asking this question. We certainly have "jargon" in education.

Long-term substitute teachers are Kelly Services substitutes who serve longer terms in the absence of regular teachers due to reasons such as teacher leaves of absences or vacancies that arise during the year. These subs are considered long-term because they typically commit to serving in the absence for the same teacher. To the extent possible, the district works with Kelly Services to identify long-term substitute teachers who possess the training and experience to insure that students will receive uninterrupted instruction when the regular teacher has to be absent.

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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

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Friday, February 5, 2021 at 10:21:20 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members"
Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Board Members,

Below is information regarding long term substitutes answering a question posed by Mrs. Huddle.

**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

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 10:20 AM

Subject: Re: Substitute Pay

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Mrs. Huddle,

Below is information regarding long term substitutes. I'll forward this to the rest of the Board because I think this would be helpful for them to have context and calibrate their questions. Thank you for asking this question. We certainly have "jargon" in education.

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- [AR GCG-R Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment](#)
- [Policy GCG Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment](#)

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 6:09:47 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Thank you for the clarification. I have some other questions that could probably best be answered by me just looking at their invoices - could you please ask someone to send me the last two months (December and January) for Kelly Services?

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021 at 10:20 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

Below is information regarding long term substitutes. I'll forward this to the rest of the Board because I think this would be helpful for them to have context and calibrate their questions. Thank you for asking this question. We certainly have "jargon" in education.

Long-term substitute teachers are Kelly Services substitutes who serve longer terms in the absence of regular teachers due to reasons such as teacher leaves of absences or vacancies that arise during the year. These subs are considered long-term because they typically commit to serving in the absence for the same teacher. To the extent possible, the district works with Kelly Services to identify long-term substitute teachers who possess the training and experience to insure that students will receive uninterrupted instruction when the regular teacher has to be absent.

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- [Policy GCG Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment](#)

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org

Finally, in the current Covid environment it is even more important than ever to ensure every person entering our schools and working with our children is a dedicated, responsible, and qualified individual. In order to recruit the best available, we must make the job as attractive as possible. Fair, competitive compensation is the surest way to achieve this.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these suggestions.

Rosa W. Caudle


--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Monday, February 8, 2021 at 2:49:45 PM Eastern Standard Time

Yes ma'am. It may be tomorrow since we will be starting earlier this afternoon.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

Re-Entry Committee

email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 11:07:36 AM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton,

Has there been any recommendations or thoughts from the Re-Entry Committee that meets periodically about our current Wednesday situation?

Do they still recommend we go 5 days starting in February? Is there a difference between Elementary, Middle, and High School's thoughts?

I know since it is not on the agenda that you are not recommending a change from the current plan, but just wanted to know what the committee thought.

Thanks,
Nikki Gardner

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 12:47:25 PM Eastern Standard Time

No ma'am. We have plans to continue with 5 days as presented. Mrs. Goggins has the next communications ready to share on our weekly timeframe.

The packet is almost ready to release, reentry is not recorded on the agenda.

Mrs. Hammond and I spoke yesterday. She plans to make remarks about reentry when the meeting opens. If anyone would like to amend the agenda, to add Monday night, that may be of interest or consideration if you think it would be helpful. I wouldn't have a presentation but there could be a discussion.

Just a thought ~



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 Thu, Jan 21, 2021 at 11:07 AM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

Has there been any recommendations or thoughts from the Re-Entry Committee that meets periodically about our current Wednesday situation?

Do they still recommend we go 5 days starting in February? Is there a difference between Elementary, Middle, and High School's thoughts?

I know since it is not on the agenda that you are not recommending a change from the current plan, but just wanted to know what the committee thought.

Thanks,
Nikki Gardner

information only

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 11:37:12 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Trustees,

As you all will recall, at our meeting on December 14,2020, the Board and Dr. Melton discussed scheduling a time for us to discuss our individual and collective assessment of the relationship between the Board and the Superintendent and the plan for going forward for the good of the district. That meeting has been scheduled for the Executive Session at the Board's meeting on January 25,2021.

So that this meeting can be as efficient and productive as possible, I am requesting that each Trustee come to the meeting prepared to share concerns, as well as positive comments, regarding how Dr. Melton and the Board are working together. As we have three Trustees who were just elected in November 2020, I also would ask those trustees to come to the meeting with any questions they have regarding Dr. Melton's most recent evaluation, and in particular, the goals that were established by the Board at that time.

If we all will take the time to prepare for this discussion in advance, I believe this meeting will be successful. I plan to open our discussion by restating the purpose and then giving each Trustee the opportunity to share. So that everyone present will have the same opportunity to speak, I will ask each of you to speak no more than 10 minutes during the first round of discussion. If time permits, every Trustee that wishes will be given a second opportunity to speak after Dr. Melton has an opportunity to respond and share information with the Board. Andrea White also will be present to answer any legal and procedural questions that the Board may have.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone on the 25th.

Jan Hammond

n

Re: protest

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 1:45:33 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Dr. Melton, Thank you for providing information on the location in your reply. I didn't see an answer to the first part of my question in your reply: "Is this student correct that she informed the district office about this protest?"

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 4:23 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

Usually the location is confirmed when the board receives an update from Officers. Mrs. Hammond and I just spoke about how she plans to create that flow of information. IHS is the location. We will meet in the cafeteria where there are not any windows and the Board will have assigned parking and officers positioned.

Our Safety Officers typically communicate with parking information if we are aware of a situation. I'll make note for future meetings your request.

I appreciate your questions and the opportunity you offer me to explain.



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 Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 1:18 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Is this student correct that she informed the district office about this protest and has been assigned a security officer? Obviously they have a right to protest, but it would be nice to know this type of thing is coming. ASAP if/when the DO knows.

The location is still showing as TBA. If this meeting is in a location with windows, I ask that protestors not be directed to the windows or encouraged to disrupt the actual meeting.

Thank-you,
Cathy

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

From: **Maren Martin** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 11:52 AM

Subject: protest

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

It has come to my attention that some students/parents/teachers (see attachment) are planning another protest at the next board meeting. Please consider allowing students that do not feel safe to join their classes from home without fear of being marked absent. There are many students that are struggling with the inconsistency of this school year and need to have a stable day to day schedule. The loud voices of some should not be able to speak for the silent majority.

Thank you

Maren Martin
[REDACTED]

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 2:54:02 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Mrs. Huddle,

My apologies. I included this information below in the message I sent to all board members yesterday at 3:17 addressing the student's outreach but did not include that with my response to your email.

"A student reached out and asked for guidance to ensure that students would be in compliance with district expectations. Fortunately, our students understand our student behavior handbook is enforced whether it is during the school day or other events on our campuses.

I am not aware of a safety officer being assigned but I am aware that questions were answered by a safety officer as we would do with any other group that reaches out in advance. We have had SC For Ed, F2F supporters and students all within the last calendar year. Our safety officers in conjunction with law enforcement work to ensure safety when there are gatherings and of course to ensure safety when the board is meeting. "

Re: protest

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:08:22 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "[REDACTED]"

Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Mrs. Martin,

I appreciate your outreach and the information that you provided as an attachment.

School District Five is operating in compliance with expectations of attendance as expected by truancy laws. Our school administrators and other appropriate staff members have been trained and reminded of expectations for compliance and also expectations to support our students and families.

I hope you will assist me in having any parent/guardian who has a concern to reach out to their school principal for individual support.



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 Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 11:52 AM Maren Martin wrote:

It has come to my attention that some students/parents/teachers (see attachment) are planning another protest at the next board meeting. Please consider allowing students that do not feel safe to join their classes from home without fear of being marked absent. There are many students that are struggling with the inconsistency of this school year and need to have a stable day to day schedule. The loud voices of some should not be able to speak for the silent majority.

Thank you

Maren Martin
[REDACTED]

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:17:26 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "estrane@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org"

In an effort to support communication...



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 Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 11:52 AM Maren Martin <[REDACTED]> wrote:

It has come to my attention that some students/parents/teachers (see attachment) are planning another protest at the next board meeting. Please consider allowing students that do not feel safe to join their classes from home without fear of being marked absent. There are many students that are struggling with the inconsistency of this school year and need to have a stable day to day schedule. The loud voices of some should not be able to speak for the silent majority.

Thank you

Maren Martin
[REDACTED]

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:41:56 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Dr. Melton and Chairwoman Hammond,

Thank you for your email. I wanted to respond to the fact that reentry is not on the agenda. I am concerned that our teachers and families will be confused as to what to expect in regards to when the schedule will shift from 4 days to 5 days. As a parent, I haven't received any information regarding the logistics, and would typically expect to receive the date and additional information at a board meeting. I have also received several questions from fellow parents. As the schedule will be changing or will be expected to change (to a full F2F model), will we receive clarification if reentry is not on the agenda? Also - will we be able to ask questions regarding the dashboard and other issues that we have been asked by teachers and constituents? I understand that we may not want a complete recap of reentry since last year, but I think there will be confusion without any mention of the biggest issue in the state in regards to education. I would appreciate any clarification and consideration. Thank you both!

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:18 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

In an effort to support communication...

A student reached out and asked for guidance to ensure that students would be in compliance with district expectations. Fortunately, our students understand our student behavior handbook is enforced whether it is during the school day or other events on our campuses.

I am not aware of a safety officer being assigned but I am aware that questions were answered by a safety officer as we would do with any other group that reaches out in advance. We have had SC For Ed, F2F supporters and students all within the last calendar year. Our safety officers in conjunction with law enforcement work to ensure safety when there are gatherings and of course to ensure safety when the board is meeting.

As a point of information, when Board Officers met, reentry was removed from the agenda from my report since there was not any new planned information at the time.

I hope this information is helpful.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:08 PM

Subject: Re: protest

To: Maren Martin <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Mrs. Martin,

I appreciate your outreach and the information that you provided as an attachment.

School District Five is operating in compliance with expectations of attendance as expected by truancy laws. Our school administrators and other appropriate staff members have been trained and reminded of expectations for compliance and also expectations to support our students and families.

I hope you will assist me in having any parent/guardian who has a concern to reach out to their school principal for individual support.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

**Superintendent**

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Thank you

Maren Martin
[REDACTED]

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:43:02 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

I understand your point. I will discuss this with Dr. Melton and get back to you as soon as possible. The draft is being finalized for our meeting as we speak. I appreciate your concern for information.

On Wed, Jan 20, 2021 at 3:39 PM Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton and Chairwoman Hammond,

Thank you for your email. I wanted to respond to the fact that reentry is not on the agenda. I am concerned that our teachers and families will be confused as to what to expect in regards to when the schedule will shift from 4 days to 5 days. As a parent, I haven't received any information regarding the logistics, and would typically expect to receive the date and additional information at a board meeting. I have also received several questions from fellow parents. As the schedule will be changing or will be expected to change (to a full F2F model), will we receive clarification if reentry is not on the agenda? Also - will we be able to ask questions regarding the dashboard and other issues that we have been asked by teachers and constituents? I understand that we may not want a complete recap of reentry since last year, but I think there will be confusion without any mention of the biggest issue in the state in regards to education. I would appreciate any clarification and consideration. Thank you both!

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines

school principal for individual support.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Thank you

Maren Martin
[REDACTED]

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 3:49:51 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

I appreciate it!

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 20, 2021, at 3:43 PM, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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To: email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

You're welcome!

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I appreciate it!

Sent from my iPhone

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Fwd: 12" inch force sewer Line

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

Friday, January 22, 2021 at 11:28:55 AM Eastern Standard Time

Board of Trustees,

I have attached a letter that we plan to send to the town of Chapin next week. I shared with Board Officers that we were working on this issue and would provide an update to the Board. The letter is a follow up with a recent conversations and email correspondences that date back to October and most recently on January 5, 2021, noting that the 12" force sewer main under pavement on the widened road associated with the new construction at Amicks Ferry Road Elementary School (the Project) that will need to be "relocated."

Mr. Bedenbaugh has worked with Attorney Caleb Riser with **Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A.**

Chair Hammond, I defer to you how you would like to proceed with collecting and answering any questions should there be any. When the tour is conducted next week, we can explain further and answer any questions from those who attend since Board Members will be on site.

This is for information, no action is necessary unless the Board chooses otherwise.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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

From: **Todd Bedenbaugh** <tbedenba@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:57 AM

Subject: 12" inch force sewer Line

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

--



Todd A. Bedenbaugh

Executive Director of Operations

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8153

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Attachments:**Ltr of Compromise to Town (w client rev) 011421_clean final.docx** 24k

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Friday, January 22, 2021 at 3:18:14 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Dr. Melton, Thank you for sharing this with us. I have read the letter and I am confused as it appears that we followed specifications yet are agreeing to fund 1/2 the cost to relocate the sewer at a cost of at least \$70,000 to the district. I have not had time to review how this works per the Procurement code but since it appears to be money that we do not owe, I respectfully request a board discussion and approval before we make any payment or any commitment to make a payment or in any way bear additional costs for something we did correctly. In other words, I believe action is necessary.

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 11:29 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board of Trustees,

I have attached a letter that we plan to send to the town of Chapin next week. I shared with Board Officers that we were working on this issue and would provide an update to the Board. The letter is a follow up with a recent conversations and email correspondences that date back to October and most recently on January 5, 2021, noting that the 12" force sewer main under pavement on the widened road associated with the new construction at Amicks Ferry Road Elementary School (the Project) that will need to be "relocated."

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Superintendent

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Date: Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:57 AM

Subject: 12" inch force sewer Line

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

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Todd A. Bedenbaugh

Executive Director of Operations

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--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 10:14:51 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

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

I agree with you.

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021, 3:18 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Thank you for sharing this with us. I have read the letter and I am confused as it appears that we followed specifications yet are agreeing to fund 1/2 the cost to relocate the sewer at a cost of at least \$70,000 to the district. I have not had time to review how this works per the Procurement code but since it appears to be money that we do not owe, I respectfully request a board discussion and approval before we make any payment or any commitment to make a payment or in any way bear additional costs for something we did correctly. In other words, I believe action is necessary.

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Mr. Bedenbaugh has worked with Attorney Caleb Riser with Richardson Plowden & Robinson, P.A.

Chair Hammond, I defer to you how you would like to proceed with collecting and answering any questions should there be any. When the tour is conducted next week, we can explain further and answer any questions from those who attend since Board Members will be on site.

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Todd A. Bedenbaugh

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--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

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

Bcc: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org"

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 6:43:55 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton,

Thank you for this email. I understand that the proper protocol is to discuss this situation in greater detail with all parties at the scheduled PWES tour on Thursday.

With that in mind, I will have questions in regards to our "offer to compromise" with the Town of Chapin. In particular, it appears from the letter forwarded by Mr. Cannon that the District has followed all contractual obligations and is not responsible for any decision to relocate the sewer main. Furthermore, it appears that the decision to relocate the sewer main is a result of convenience for the Town. While I do understand goodwill with our community partners, I am

a little confused as to why the District would bear the brunt of the financial responsibility to relocate this sewer main. I will be asking for clarification as to this matter on Thursday.

Once again, this email is just give you advance notice of my questions. I have blind copied the board to this email. I am looking forward to the PWES visit.

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines

On Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 11:29 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Board of Trustees,

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Date: Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:57 AM

Subject: 12" inch force sewer Line

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

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Todd A. Bedenbaugh

Executive Director of Operations

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 7:12:56 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Yes ma'am. I'll have Mr. Bedenbaugh include Mrs. Robinson who oversees procurement responsibilities in District Five.

Mrs. Hammond, once I have confirmation from the availability of attorneys, I will let you know. Would this be considered a special called meeting or is there another idea?

If the agenda is amended for the meeting tomorrow night, we have not coordinated legal counsel to be in attendance.

I'll have Mr. Cannon hold the letter for now.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Thank-you,
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Superintendent

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

From: **Todd Bedenbaugh** <tbedenba@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Jan 22, 2021 at 9:57 AM

Subject: 12" inch force sewer Line

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

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Todd A. Bedenbaugh

Executive Director of Operations

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--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 7:21:07 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Thank you.

On Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 7:13 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Covid related sick leave extension

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 12:41:21 AM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Thank you for proposing to extend the special Covid leave program. I had a few questions:

- * I have seen other school districts extend to a specific date with the most common being 3/31 and 6/30. Are you requesting a specific date?
- * Would the policy be retroactive to 1/1/21?
- * I have also seen most districts extend the same policy as 2020 but have also seen some change it. Are you proposing the same policy/rules for 2021 as were in place for 2020?
- * It sounds like there isn't (currently) any \$ for this and that while we have received ESSR and other funds we would still receive those funds whether or not we extended Covid leave - is that accurate?

Thank-you,
Cathy

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 7:22:35 PM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Huddle,
Thank you for these questions. Dr. Turner will be prepared to answer questions this evening.

We are awaiting a technical assistance training led by the SC Department of Education to better understand how we may use expected funds. That training will impact our decision making and also identify funding sources.

Would you like for Dr. Turner to address these questions during the presentation tomorrow or would you prefer to ask the questions during the meeting?



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Thank-you,
Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 7:57:42 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Thank you for your reply. If he could go ahead and address the funding and other questions that would be great. It would actually be super helpful if he could share the actual policy (i.e., what will be communicated with employees regarding the rules for requesting such leave).

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 7:23 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 3:28:53 PM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Huddle,
I hope this provides what you need.
Dr. Turner is prepared to include your questions in her remarks.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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

From: **Tamara Turner** <tturner@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Jan 25, 2021 at 3:25 PM
Subject: Re: Covid related sick leave extension
To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Hello Dr. Melton,

Here are the responses to the questions related to the extension of the covid-related leave. I hope this helps, but let me know if I missed anything.

- **I have seen other school districts extend to a specific date with the most common being 3/31 and 6/30. Are you requesting a specific date?**
 - The pending motion would allow District Five to provide emergency paid sick leave for up to two weeks, as initially outlined by the Employee Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA), beginning January 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2021 (end of fiscal year and end of the school year).
- **Would the policy be retroactive to 1/1/21?**
 - Yes
- **I have also seen most districts extend the same policy as 2020 but have also seen some change it. Are you proposing the same policy/rules for 2021 as were in place for 2020?**
 - The district's current proposal is more conservative than the 2020 requirements under The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that applied from April 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020.
 - Under the expired FFCRA, there were two rules for the administration of paid leave. The first rule was the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA), which required that employers provide up to 80 hours/2 weeks of paid sick leave to employees who needed to take leave for specific reasons related to COVID-19. The second rule was the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act (EFMLEA), which required that employers expand FMLA to provide up to 12 weeks of emergency leave to eligible employees if the employee is caring for his or her son or daughter whose school or place of care was closed or whose child care provider was unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.
 - The district's current proposal would maintain up to 80 hours/2 weeks of leave on an as-needed basis and based on the same specified COVID-related reasons outlined under the EPSLA; however, it would not extend the additional 12 weeks of emergency leave to employees that were available under EFMLEA.
 - The current proposal would also only apply to eligible employees who have not already exhausted two weeks of emergency paid leave before December 31.
 - Qualifying Reasons for Leave - Under the FFCRA, an employee qualifies for paid sick time if the employee is unable to work (or unable to telework) due to a need for leave because the employee: (1) is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19; (2) has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19; or (3) is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis.
- **It sounds like there isn't (currently) any \$ for this and that while we have received ESSR and other funds we would still receive those funds whether or not we extended Covid leave - is that accurate?**

- While the district's receipt of ESSR funds is not contingent on a decision to extend COVID-related leave; the memo ([linked here](#)) released by Superintendent Spearman states, "*the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) **strongly recommends** each district create an emergency leave plan using their ESSER funds to ensure those who need to take paid leave for a COVID-19 related issue may do so.*" The memorandum also states that "*there is adequate federal funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act's Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) fund to cover leave for school district employees in 2021.*"
- This proposal would allow the district to be consistent with what the state has asked us to do and provide a level of support to employees based strictly on the EPSLA criteria.



Tamara D. Turner, Ed.D.

Chief Human Resources Officer

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8198

fax: 803.476.8196

tturner@lexrich5.org

On Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 7:23 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:



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

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 7:22 PM

Subject: Re: Covid related sick leave extension

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Mrs. Huddle,

Thank you for these questions. Dr. Turner will be prepared to answer questions this evening.

We are awaiting a technical assistance training led by the SC Department of Education to better understand how we may use expected funds. That training will impact our decision making and also

Re: FW: FIVE

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 10:43:26 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Dr. Melton, I noticed that there are agenda items addressing FIVE. Below is my 12/17/20 email with questions related to FIVE. I reiterate and reaffirm the need for these questions to be answered before the meeting. I asked my questions early so that your staff would be prepared to answer at the 1/25/21 meeting. Please respond with the appropriate and detailed reply as you normally give on subjects of such gravity. Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

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

From: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Dec 18, 2020 at 9:32 AM

Subject: Re: FIVE

To: Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Edward White <EWhite@lexrich5.org>

Mr. Loveless,

As we continue our operation of FIVE and advance our policy discussions in the next board meeting, we can be better prepared for the 2021-2022 cost of FIVE if it is offered. I appreciate your questions in advance to assist with our preparation.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org

With Excellence for All and mindful of a successful allocation of scarce resources, I thought about the presentation of FIVE made at the board meeting Monday night. I believe it would be beneficial to see a "business model" analysis approach applied to the subject.

First, a survey of parents of students who presently use FIVE should be made. We should determine that if COVID were no longer a factor next year, how many parents believe their students would return to FIVE.

Second, chief among the topics we would like addressed in the business model are student populations likely to use and benefit, student fees to be charged, if any, the minimum feasible planned number of students, the uniform district wide delivery system to be used, the costs of mobile Hot Spots (the present grant expires 12/31/2020), the initial equipment outlay for hardware and software, projected licensing and maintenance costs, likely ramp up consulting costs, implementation costs, the broad overview of courses to be offered and the additional fully burdened personnel costs associated with administration and production.

Since Dr. G. said the number of end users cannot be anticipated or projected, we believe a base rate plus marginal, tiered threshold unit cost approach at differing economies of scale would be beneficial.

My belief is that other board members might have similar concerns.

I am sending this to you now so that you might have plenty of time to address.

Please respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Loveless

The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are confidential and are intended solely for addressee. The information may also be legally privileged. This transmission is sent in trust, for the sole purpose of delivery to the intended recipient. If

you have received this transmission in error, any use, reproduction or dissemination of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify the sender by reply e-mail or phone and delete this message and its attachments, if any.

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 7:20:13 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "EWhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Mr. Loveless,

I discussed your email when Chair Hammond and I met. I was asked for the staff to be prepared to answer questions during the meeting Monday evening. Mr. Guliano will be presenting the policies for action if the Board is supportive of action being taken. There were questions that I sought clarification from Mrs. Hammond. I understood that she was going to follow up for clarity to ensure the staff and I were prepared.

I have engaged every department with numerous discussions so hopefully we will be able to answer questions tomorrow evening. Whatever further information the Board needs, we will work to meet the expectations.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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On Sat, Jan 23, 2021 at 10:43 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I noticed that there are agenda items addressing FIVE. Below is my 12/17/20 email with questions related to FIVE. I reiterate and reaffirm the need for these questions to be answered before the meeting. I asked my questions early so that your staff would be prepared to answer at the 1/25/21

Please respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Loveless

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email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, January 25, 2021 at 2:23:39 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email:
"ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca

Hines" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed White" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Board Members,

Below are responses to questions regarding FIVE for the 2021-22 school year. I regret the formatting of this information, we were prepared to discuss this tonight during the policy conversations that focused upon this content. The staff listed responses in bullet form. Context can be provided this evening should there be interest.

- * FIVE would be available to all students in School District 5 as a program of choice option.
- * Anticipated student fees would be the same for students in FIVE as students in-person.
- * The minimum number of students will vary depending upon level, as factors such as grade level configuration and scheduling vary across levels. Every attempt will be made to ensure student to teacher ratios ranging from 12:1 to 25:1 as outlined in Administrative Rule IIB-R: Class Size. The minimum and maximum number of students will be adhered to in FIVE as outlined in the referenced administrative rule.
- * G Suite Enterprise for Education (Google Enterprise) will continue to be the uniform district wide delivery system.
- * Mobile Hotspots will not be offered to families in FIVE as it is a program of choice versus a program during a pandemic.
- * Students and staff in FIVE are given the same hardware as in-person students and staff.
- * The projected costs for licensing and programs exclusive to FIVE is \$60,000 based upon current rates and based upon current approved requests.
- * There are no projected consulting costs exclusive to FIVE.
- * FIVE courses for elementary school will be the core content areas, in addition to electives such as Physical Education, Art, Music, and World Language.
- * FIVE courses for intermediate and middle school will be the core content areas, in addition to electives such as Physical Education, World Language, various Visual and Performing Arts, and computer courses.
- * FIVE courses for high school will be College Preparatory and Honors courses in core content areas, in addition to electives such as Physical Education, World Language, some CATE, and various Visual and Performing Arts. Advanced Placement (AP) classes will be based upon student interest levels, but there will be fewer AP offerings in FIVE than in-person. Parents and students will be able to view the entire FIVE Course Catalog prior to selecting FIVE as a program of choice.
- * In accordance with Board Policy GCK: Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers and Administrative Rule GCK-R: Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers, every attempt will be made to reassign existing personnel to staff FIVE. Also, in accordance with Board Policy GBC: Staff Compensation, compensation for professional staff would be based upon district and state salary schedules.
- * As of January 20th, we have 4558 students in FIVE. If 4558 students left FIVE to go to another online program, the District would lose approximately \$8.6 million (based upon the current State of South Carolina Base Student Cost of \$1,888.44).



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org



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On Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 9:14 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton.

I spoke with Mr. Loveless about his questions concerning FIVE. I know I spoke with you in your office about the need to know the cost of this program but I did not intend for our conversation to answer his specific questions. . Please answer his direct questions so that he and all other board members will have the same information and your staff will be better prepared and informed for tomorrow night's meeting.

Thank you.

Jan Hammond.

On Sun, Jan 24, 2021 at 7:20 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mr. Loveless,

I discussed your email when Chair Hammond and I met. I was asked for the staff to be prepared to answer questions during the meeting Monday evening. Mr. Guliano will be presenting the policies for action if the Board is supportive of action being taken. There were questions that I sought clarification from Mrs. Hammond. I understood that she was going to follow up for clarity to ensure the staff and I were prepared.

I have engaged every department with numerous discussions so hopefully we will be able to answer questions tomorrow evening. Whatever further information the Board needs, we will work to meet the expectations.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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On Sat, Jan 23, 2021 at 10:43 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I noticed that there are agenda items addressing FIVE. Below is my 12/17/20 email with questions related to FIVE. I reiterate and reaffirm the need for these questions to be answered before the meeting. I asked my questions early so that your staff would be prepared to answer at the 1/25/21 meeting. Please respond with the appropriate and detailed reply as you normally give on subjects of such gravity. Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

Requirement that Ken Loveless Recuse Himself from any Discussions about Contract Construction

email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White"

Monday, January 25, 2021 at 9:13:56 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Mrs. Hammond,

I am writing in reference to Mr. Loveless' request that he assume the role of inspecting and critiquing Piney Woods Elementary School with Nicki Gardner on behalf of the District.

If you recall, Mr. Loveless obtained a contract through his personal company to do work with Contract Construction sometime in the early part of 2020. Mr. Loveless never disclosed this financial relationship to the Board but was questioned about it in the Board's September 14, 2020 meeting at which time Mrs. Hutchinson raised the question of whether that financial relationship created an ethical problem. On September 25, 2020 Mr. Loveless obtained an Ethics Opinion (the "Opinion") from the South Carolina Ethics Commission based on Mr. Loveless bidding on second project with Contract Construction. The Opinion is addressed directly to Mr. Loveless and he put a copy of the letter on the minutes of our September 25, 2020 Board meeting..

While the Opinion concludes there is no outright prohibition for Mr. Loveless' company to enter into a contract with Contract Construction (while it is a vendor to the District), the Opinion is also very clear that Mr. Loveless, as a Board member, is required to recuse himself pursuant to Section 8-13-700(B) of the SC Code of Laws (the "Code") from any matters the District has with Contract Construction.

As cited in the Opinion, Section 8-13-700(B) of the Code clearly states that no public official may make, participate in making, **"or in any way attempt to use his office to influence a governmental decision"** involving the matter with which he has a financial relationship. Simply stated, Section 8-13-700(B) requires that Mr. Loveless recuse himself from any conversations or communication with the Board or the District involving Contract Construction and the Piney Woods School.

Section 8-13-700(B) of the Code also provides that (i) Mr. Loveless is required to prepare a written statement of his financial relationship with Contract Construction and deliver it to you (as the Board Chair) to put into the minutes of the Board, and (ii) that you, as the Board Chair are required to make sure that Mr. Loveless recuses himself from any discussions or votes pertaining to Contract Construction. I am not aware of any written statement Mr. Loveless submitted to put on the minutes of our Board meeting.

Technically, for Mr. Loveless to have properly complied with his recusal obligation he should have disclosed his financial relationship to the Board at the time his company first entered into the financial relationship with Contract Construction by submitting his written statement to the Board Chair and then he should have recused himself from all discussions or votes concerning the Piney Woods School. This means that if Mr. Loveless' company entered into its contract with Contract Construction prior to March 24, 2020 that Mr. Loveless should have never submitted his letter of March 24, 2020 to the Superintendent making allegations about the quality of the work of Contract Construction at the Piney Woods School site (which is a public document included on the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Board meeting) and he should have never participated in the discussions of the Piney Woods project in our September 14, 2020 Board meeting.

Even if Mr. Loveless was unaware of his ethical obligations at the time his company entered into its financial relationship with Contract Construction, he clearly should have known of his obligations after his receipt of the Opinion on September 25, 2020. This means that after September 25, 2020 Mr. Loveless should have immediately submitted his written statement of his company's financial relationship with Contract Construction to you as the Board Chair to put be into the minutes for public disclosure and he should have ceased any further efforts for him to personally be allowed to inspect and approve the construction of Piney Woods School. In other words, if Mr. Loveless company still has a financial relationship with Contract Construction then he is not in compliance with the Opinion (i)

if

he failed to submit his written disclosure to you to put into the Board minutes and (ii) because of his recent email requests to Dr. Melton and the Board that he and Nicki Gardner be given the actual plans to the Piney Woods school and the two of them be allowed to make trips to the school to inspect the construction.

I also shared the Opinion with my law partner, James Burns, who is an expert in the South Carolina Ethics laws and is a former past Chairman of the South Carolina Ethics Commission. After reviewing the Opinion, Mr. Burns' opinion is that Mr. Loveless is required to recuse himself from any discussions with the Board or District about the Piney Woods construction project and, you as the Board Chair, have an affirmative obligation to make sure he recuses himself.

I have attached a copy of the Opinion below.

My request is that you confirm whether Mr. Loveless has submitted his written disclosure about his company's financial relationship with Contract Construction. As Board members we are all entitled to know the start date and ending date of all contracts that Mr. Loveless' company has with Contract Construction. If Mr. Loveless has not prepared the written statement, then I would request you require him to do so prior to arriving at our meeting tonight and you publicly announce to the Board and the public (i) the starting and end dates of all financial relationships Mr. Loveless' company has with Contract Construction, (ii) that Mr. Loveless has to recuse himself from all communications or discussions the Piney Woods school, and (iii) you publicly notify him that he cannot supervise or inspect the construction. I am asking that you make these statements to in the public meeting to ensure transparency for the public, including the South Carolina Ethics Commission if it ever has to investigate whether Mr. Loveless is in compliance with his obligations in the Opinion.

I have other broader concerns about Mr. Loveless, or any Board member, attempting to personally supervise our construction projects based on the actual precedents established by Mr. Loveless with the Piney Woods School which I will detail in a separate email prior to our next meeting and to request we specifically evaluate the role of board members in construction review projects based on the actual experiences with the Piney Woods School.

As a reminder, please do not respond to this email. Our conversations on this topic need to be in our public meeting tonight.

Thank you,

Ed

Dates

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 12:43:50 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org"

Mr. Loveless ,
Thank you for our conversation tonight . Would any of these dates work for you ?
Thursday
Friday
Tuesday
I'm assuming Mrs. Hammond needs 4:00 or later .

I did not include her on this email . I'll defer this to you to establish.

Thank you

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.
Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

Burkett, Burkett and Burkett Procurement Audit

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 8:34:36 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Dr. Melton, Since the additional work proposed last night by the auditors falls under the threshold required for board approval, I wanted to express my hope that we will NOT engage Burkett for that additional work, or any additional work or cost, related to the most recent procurement audit. Frankly, I do not trust additional data garnered by a company that used their misrepresentation of their audit at a prior board meeting to try and generate additional revenue for their firm.

Please have someone send me the contract with Burkett for the procurement audit. and the purchase order associated with that contract.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 9:44:44 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

I concur.

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021, 8:34 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Since the additional work proposed last night by the auditors falls under the threshold required for board approval, I wanted to express my hope that we will NOT engage Burkett for that additional work, or any additional work or cost, related to the most recent procurement audit. Frankly, I do not trust additional data garnered by a company that used their misrepresentation of their audit at a prior board meeting to try and generate additional revenue for their firm.

Please have someone send me the contract with Burkett for the procurement audit. and the purchase order associated with that contract.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:20:53 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines" , email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Yes ma'am .

The auditing firm is selected by the board after presentations in executive session . The staff will not take any action since the board did not take action last night .

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.
Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 26, 2021, at 8:34 AM, Cathy Huddle wrote:

>

> Dr. Melton, Since the additional work proposed last night by the auditors falls under the threshold required for board approval, I wanted to express my hope that we will NOT engage Burkett for that additional work, or any additional work or cost, related to the most recent procurement audit. Frankly, I do not trust additional data garnered by a company that used their misrepresentation of their audit at a prior board meeting to try and generate additional revenue for their firm.

>

> Please have someone send me the contract with Burkett for the procurement audit, and the purchase order associated with that contract.

>

> Thank-you,

> Cathy

>

>

> --

> Catherine Huddle

> Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Cyber bullying

email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 2:07:32 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr Melton,

Do we as "employees" of the district have training or recourse against cyberbullying from others who are also employed by the district?

Or at a minimum can these employees be trained or told their actions are cyber bullying?

Thanks,
Nikki

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:53:03 PM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Gardner,
Let me get Dr Turner to assist with a reply for accuracy.



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 Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 2:07 PM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr Melton,

Do we as "employees" of the district have training or recourse against cyberbullying from others who are also employed by the district?

Or at a minimum can these employees be trained or told their actions are cyber bullying?

Thanks,
Nikki

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 3:15:56 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Mrs. Gardner,

I had a chance to confirm with Dr. Turner.

Cyberbullying is prohibited by the District and is addressed in several District policies, regarding employees as well as students. Those policies include GBEB, JICFAA, JICJ, and IJNDB. Our employees receive annual training on many issues, including addressing bullying.

If an employee believes he or she is being subjected to bullying, the employee should notify his or her supervisor, and the matter will be investigated and addressed, as appropriate.

Additionally, if an employee believes a District policy is being violated, the employee may file a grievance pursuant to Policy GBK/GBK-R.

If you are aware of a specific issue to address, please let me know, and I will forward the information to our Human Resources Office to review and address.



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 Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 5:53 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Gardner,

Let me get Dr Turner to assist with a reply for accuracy.

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 Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 2:07 PM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr Melton,

Do we as "employees" of the district have training or recourse against cyberbullying from others who are also employed by the district?

Or at a minimum can these employees be trained or told their actions are cyber bullying?

Thanks,
Nikki

Fwd: DRAFT Redistricting Message/Press Release

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:42:39 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Mrs. Hammond and Mr. Loveless,
Since this is a sensitive matter, would one of you review this before we release it? We can release this tomorrow.



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

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

From: **Katrina Goggins** <kgoggins@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 5:25 PM

Subject: DRAFT Redistricting Message/Press Release

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Please review the content below.

School District Five school board approves redistricting plan for Piney Woods Elementary School

The Lexington-Richland School District Five Board of Trustees has approved a redistricting plan for Piney Woods Elementary School for the 2020-2021 school year.

The motion, which was approved by the board during its Jan. 25 meeting, approves "[Scenario 5](#) for the 2021-2022 school year with two changes. The first change: 1. All properties along Old Lexington will be zoned to Chapin Elementary, and 2. PreK-4 will be deferred for consideration dependent upon the superintendent's recommendation."

The current plan that was approved would limit redistricting to elementary students in Chapin attendance zones so that attendance lines can be created for the new elementary school in Chapin. However, the board intends to revisit proposals for redistricting the entire district in the future, trustees said.

The final version of Scenario 5 will be posted online by January 29 and shared with staff and families.

- **View all the scenarios:** <http://www.lexrich5.org/redistrictingmap>
- **View a video tutorial on the online map:** <http://bit.ly/redistrictingmaptutorial>

- **View our redistricting overview video:** <http://bit.ly/redistrictingoverview>
- **Review board presentations and background information on redistricting:** <https://www.lexrich5.org/redistricting>
- **Email questions or comments:** redistricting@lexrich5.org.

During the Jan. 25 school board meeting, the Lexington-Richland School District Five Board of Trustees also approved two additional dates for its meetings. In addition to dates approved by the board last year, the board will also meet on February 8 and May 24. A draft calendar for the 2021-2022 school year was also presented to the school board at its Jan. 25 board meeting. Once approved, the calendar will be posted online and shared publicly.

For more about our school board meetings, including meeting schedules and video from previous meetings, please visit: <http://bit.ly/3c2La8I>.

--

**Katrina Goggins****Director of Communications**

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

o: 803.476.8118 c: 803.309.0084

www.lexrich5.org*Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges***email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"****To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"****Cc: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"****Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 5:48:32 PM Eastern Standard Time**

Looks good to me.

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 5:43 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond and Mr. Loveless,

Since this is a sensitive matter, would one of you review this before we release it? We can release this tomorrow.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.**Superintendent**

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

o: 803.476.8118 c: 803.309.0084

www.lexrich5.org*Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges*

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:23:13 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Looks fine. Send it on when ready. KBL

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021, 5:48 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Looks good to me.

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School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org*Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges*

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

From: **Katrina Goggins** <kgoggins@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 5:25 PM

re:"Back2Business"

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 6:01:45 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members" , email: "TBedeba@lexrich5.org Todd Bedenbaugh" , email: "kgoggins@lexrich5.org Katrina Goggins"

Board members:

This message is being blind copied to all members of the Board of Trustees.

School District Five is pursuing a new resource as part of our ongoing response to the COVID pandemic. The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health has launched [Back2Business](#) to help organizations operate smoothly and seamlessly and follow the latest evidence-based guidelines for maintaining a safe environment in schools. MUSC Health has put together a team of dedicated medical and public health professionals to provide districts with customized services and resources, from preparations to implementing and managing maintenance and mitigation strategies. Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, MUSC Health would be available to re-evaluate and adjust resources as needed.

The communications today is to share that we continue to research Back2Business as a possible tool for our district. MUSC is a state agency. Services and supplies provided by federal government, state agencies, county, city or special-purpose districts are included in our procurement code exemptions. If Back2Business is a viable option for our district and an agreement is pursued, we will share news with the board and with our community at the appropriate time. I hope to provide an update during the next board meeting during my reentry report if details have been resolved by then.

This is for your information of another strategy we are employing to provide a safe learning and working environment.



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

email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:19:05 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Sounds like a great opportunity.

Excited to hear about it if it's something you and your team is interested in.

On Tue, Jan 26, 2021 at 6:02 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Board members:

This message is being blind copied to all members of the Board of Trustees.

School District Five is pursuing a new resource as part of our ongoing response to the COVID pandemic. The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health has launched [Back2Business](#) to help organizations operate smoothly and seamlessly and follow the latest evidence-based guidelines for maintaining a safe environment in schools. MUSC Health has put together a team of dedicated medical and public health professionals to provide districts with customized services and resources, from preparations to implementing and managing maintenance and mitigation strategies. Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, MUSC Health would be available to re-evaluate and adjust resources as needed.

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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

FIVE Timing

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 12:18:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email:

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

Dr. Melton, I am confused about the timing of the FIVE application process. Please answer the following questions:

- 1) Was FIVE included in the application process that closed this past Sunday, 1/24 (screenshot attached)?
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- 3) If FIVE was not included where is the application link on the website and when does the application close?
- 4) Will parents requesting FIVE be notified on 2/5 along with those requesting Choice?

I am copying the board executive team because I am VERY concerned about moving forward with this program without a budget and most importantly, without a discussion regarding the potential long term negative impact on our students (both those that elect FIVE and those that do not) and our entire district. I do not believe we have fully examined the far -reaching implications.

Board executive team, please schedule an emergency meeting of the board to approve FIVE for 21-22 and do so BEFORE any students will be notified that they have been accepted to FIVE for 21-22. Please remember your code of ethics to always put our children first - do not allow the creation of a program that could do long lasting harm to our students and our entire district without a full review and board approval.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 8:37:46 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email:

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

Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members"

Mrs. Huddle,
Board Officers discussed your email yesterday. I've copied and pasted your questions below and included responses to your questions.
I have also blindcopied all other Board Members.

- 1) Was FIVE included in the application process that closed this past Sunday, 1/24 (screenshot attached)? FIVE was not in the magnet application. A screen shot was not attached. If there is something that I need to preview, please resend.
- 2) If so, how did that work as I don't see FIVE listed (screenshot attached)? A screenshot was not included for my preview. FIVE was not included in the application.

- 3) If FIVE was not included where is the application link on the website and when does the application close? The application for FIVE does not exist at this time. We purposely did not include it in the Magnet/Choice application since we were awaiting a decision by the board.
- 4) Will parents requesting FIVE be notified on 2/5 along with those requesting Choice? Parents have not had the opportunity to apply for FIVE for the 2021-2022 school year.

Based upon the information presented to us by the Board Monday night, we are preparing an interest survey that will be sent this week. Board Officers previewed the survey yesterday. Each of them have copies. We will use the data obtained from the survey to create a "mock" FIVE program to present to the Board at the February 8 meeting.

I look forward to the responses from our families and look forward to sharing that information with the Board.



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 Wed, Jan 27, 2021 at 12:18 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I am confused about the timing of the FIVE application process. Please answer the following questions:

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Thank-you,
Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Thank-you,
Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 3:23:37 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Thank you so much for your reply. I apologize that I left off the screenshots - fortunately in hindsight they really didn't matter. I am glad to hear about the survey and I hope that you know that I am not trying to be a thorn in anyone's side. I am not opposed to FIVE in concept and I think you and your team did a fantastic job getting it up and running this year - I just want to make sure that we know what we're getting into, and don't unintentionally end up doing something we will regret, before we make it permanent.

Thank you for all you do,
Cathy

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 8:38 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

Board Officers discussed your email yesterday. I've copied and pasted your questions below and included responses to your questions.

I have also blindcopied all other Board Members.

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Thank-you,
Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 4:47:07 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thank you, Mrs. Huddle and no worries at all.

Mr. Gullano and I just spoke about Mr. Loveless' idea of how to present FIVE costs. We are working towards the February 8 meeting to provide an update. Your questions help us prepare. I appreciate your forward thinking.

I'm glad you were able to join the tour today.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 3:23 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6:31:11 PM Eastern Standard Time

Great! I received a list of questions from a retired guidance counselor and a couple of parents regarding how it would work. I will combine them all into a Word document to send to you. I don't think anyone will expect the plan to address every question, but it might help to know what some people are asking.
Thanks,
Cathy

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:47 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:
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email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Friday, January 29, 2021 at 11:35:45 AM Eastern Standard Time

Having those questions would be very helpful. Thank you.

No need to create a document unless that is what makes you comfortable. Feel free to clip and forward to me what we need to see if that would save you time.

Executive Staff will meet at 9 Monday morning if that helps with your preparation.

I hope you can get some rest this weekend. I'm ready for a good nap! lol :-)



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Thank-you,
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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 8:45:46 AM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton, Attached are the questions I have received thus far. The ones in bold are also my questions.

I have copied the board executive team as well as I would really like to see a presentation on FIVE, including your survey results, the budget scenarios and your plan before we commit to this for 21-22.

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Thank-you,
Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

FIVE Questions.docx 14k

email: "**chuddle@lexrich5.org** Cathy Huddle"

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 8:47:01 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Resending because I forgot to copy the board executive team and Erin.

Thanks,
Cathy

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 8:45 AM

Subject: Re: FIVE Timing

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

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Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

FIVE Questions.docx 14k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Monday, February 1, 2021 at 8:55:44 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thank you. Perfect timing!



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

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Monday, February 1, 2021 at 12:22:24 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

All, I had two additional questions: First submitted 12/17/20 to which an acknowledgement and partial reply was received... Please provide marginal costs at different economies of scale,i.e., levels of student participation and second, who will be the primary targeted participants in this program? Question not previously included : will FIVE be available as a redundant program so that education programs can be offered to all students in response to interruptions such as a hurricane, other weather event or emergency closure? Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021, 8:47 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Resending because I forgot to copy the board executive team and Erin.
Thanks,

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, February 1, 2021 at 1:46:30 PM Eastern Standard Time
 To: email: "d5-do-executive-staff-members@lexrich5.org D5 DO Executive Staff Members"

For use in our presentation Monday evening.



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

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

From: **Kenneth Loveless** <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 12:22 PM

Subject: Re: FIVE Timing

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

All, I had two additional questions: First submitted 12/17/20 to which an acknowledgement and partial reply was received... Please provide marginal costs at different economies of scale, i.e., levels of student participation and second, who will be the primary targeted participants in this program? Question not previously included : will FIVE be available as a redundant program so that education programs can be offered to all students in response to interruptions such as a hurricane, other weather event or emergency closure? Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021, 8:47 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Resending because I forgot to copy the board executive team and Erin.

Thanks,

Cathy

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 8:45 AM

Subject: Re: FIVE Timing

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton, Attached are the questions I have received thus far. The ones in bold are also my questions.

I am copying the board executive team because I am VERY concerned about moving forward with this program without a budget and most importantly, without a discussion regarding the potential long term negative impact on our students (both those that elect FIVE and those that do not) and our entire district. I do not believe we have fully examined the far -reaching implications.

Board executive team, please schedule an emergency meeting of the board to approve FIVE for 21-22 and do so BEFORE any students will be notified that they have been accepted to FIVE for 21-22. Please remember your code of ethics to always put our children first - do not allow the creation of a program that could do long lasting harm to our students and our entire district without a full review and board approval.

Thank-you,
Cathy

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, February 1, 2021 at 1:48:28 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"
Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Mr. Loveless,

This is to confirm receipt of your email. I discussed with Executive Staff the fixed costs and variable costs analysis that you shared with me in Officers meeting last Wednesday.

I appreciate the submitted questions for use in our planning.

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 Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 12:22 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

All, I had two additional questions: First submitted 12/17/20 to which an acknowledgement and partial reply was received... Please provide marginal costs at different economies of scale, i.e., levels of student participation and second, who will be the primary targeted participants in this program? Question not previously included : will FIVE be available as a redundant program so that education programs can be offered to all students in response to interruptions such as a hurricane, other weather event or emergency closure? Respectfully submitted, Ken Loveless

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021, 8:47 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Resending because I forgot to copy the board executive team and Erin.
Thanks,
Cathy

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 8:45 AM

Subject: Re: FIVE Timing

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton, Attached are the questions I have received thus far. The ones in bold are also my questions.

I have copied the board executive team as well as I would really like to see a presentation on FIVE, including your survey results, the budget scenarios and your plan before we commit to this for 21-22.

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 8:38 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,

Board Officers discussed your email yesterday. I've copied and pasted your questions below and included responses to your questions.

I have also blindcopied all other Board Members.

1) Was. FIVE included in the application process that closed this past Sunday, 1/24 (screenshot attached)? FIVE was not in the magnet application. A screen shot was not attached. If there is something that I need to preview, please resend.

Dr. Melton, I am confused about the timing of the FIVE application process. Please answer the following questions:

- 1) Was FIVE included in the application process that closed this past Sunday, 1/24 (screenshot attached)?
- 2) If so, how did that work as I don't see FIVE listed (screenshot attached)?
- 3) If FIVE was not included where is the application link on the website and when does the application close?
- 4) Will parents requesting FIVE be notified on 2/5 along with those requesting Choice?

I am copying the board executive team because I am VERY concerned about moving forward with this program without a budget and most importantly, without a discussion regarding the potential long term negative impact on our students (both those that elect FIVE and those that do not) and our entire district. I do not believe we have fully examined the far -reaching implications.

Board executive team, please schedule an emergency meeting of the board to approve FIVE for 21-22 and do so BEFORE any students will be notified that they have been accepted to FIVE for 21-22. Please remember your code of ethics to always put our children first - do not allow the creation of a program that could do long lasting harm to our students and our entire district without a full review and board approval.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

FIVE Questions.docx 14k

email: "mguliano@lexrich5.org Michael Guliano" Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7:55:02 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Drafted responses below:

- Taking in person classes: Would it be all or nothing for each student? Would students only be allowed to take virtual classes therefore eliminate the ability to take CATE classes or classes in person at their school?

- A- FIVE students would be allowed to attend courses at The Center in-person and Business courses virtually. This ensures students have the opportunity to be a CATE completer. Other electives will only be offered through FIVE. Students will not go to their home school to attend additional courses.
- Limited availability of classes: If a class a student needs is not offered at their assigned school, would be they able to take it at another virtual school?
 - A- Classes needed for graduation will be offered in FIVE. APEX and SC Virtual courses will be options for some, but not all, classes. FIVE will have a course guide specific to the program. Students will not be able to attend other schools to take courses not offered in FIVE.
- Activities: Could a student take virtual core classes but come to school for sports, marching band?
 - A- A student enrolled in FIVE would be able to participate in sports and after school clubs not aligned to an in-person class. Since marching band requires attendance in an in-person class, FIVE students would not be able to participate in marching band.
- Balancing Enrollment: How will this be done? For example, if an elementary school has 5 fourth grade classes with an average of 25 students (125 total students) but only 12 choose FIVE, will the difference of 13 be distributed among the other classes for an average of 28-29 students per class?
 - A- Classes will be balanced and maintained with a maximum enrollment based on Policy IIB: Class Size and the accompanying Administrative Rule.
- Timing: What time commitments do students/parents have to make? If less than 1 year, how do you deal with teachers gaining or losing students that may be paced differently and maximum class sizes?
 - A- As a program of choice, FIVE would follow the same guidelines as other choice programs. A student would be making a commitment for the entire 2021-22 school year. They would be able to request to return to their home school one time during the 2021-22 school year. If they later wanted to return to FIVE, they would have to reapply for the 2022-2023 school year if FIVE is offered. They would not be allowed to go back and forth between FIVE and their home school.
- Targeted Enrollment: Will the target class sizes be the same, smaller or larger than in person?
 - A- Class sizes will be based upon Board Policy IIB: Class Size and the accompanying Administrative Rule.
- Available Space: What will be done with the newly available classrooms in schools? Can we use that space to limit redistricting and building of new schools?
 - A- It is not determined at this point in time if FIVE teachers will be allowed to work from home. Regardless of that decision, some FIVE teachers choose to teach from a school, therefore some space will be needed for those FIVE teachers.
- Efficacy: Have we done any studies to measure the difference in student achievement between in-person and virtual by grade and student performance percentiles?
 - A- We continue to monitor data for all students, which includes FIVE students. We have analyzed multiple data points on student growth at the district and school level. We also analyze this data through a range of filters including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, ability/disability status, poverty status, English learners, and instructional model (FIVE or in-person). Teachers engage in the regular process of analyzing formative assessment data and addressing student needs as part of our regular instructional processes.
- Shared School Services: For example, would the home school counselor be responsible for students who would be on their case load if in the brick and mortar school? Who would handle the IGP?
 - A- Counselors will be reallocated to serve FIVE students in this program of choice.
- Teacher Location for FIVE: Would teachers be in the school or at home? If at school, where could they be located in order to not take up empty classrooms?
 - A- This will be determined at a later date.

- Cost/Budget: Can we get a 3-5 year projected net income statement for FIVE to include, projected income and projected cost for at least 3 scenarios (low/medium/high) on enrollment? What is the minimum enrollment by grade and school to ensure the program does cost more than revenue for that grade and school?
 - A- Budgeting information for FIVE will be shared with the Board of Trustees at the February 8th board meeting.
- Internet Connectivity: Will the district pay for Internet or hot spots for families that cannot afford Internet and/or where Internet is not available?
 - A- Hot spots and internet service will not be provided to students/families with FIVE as a program of choice.
- Attendance/Participation: How do we ensure that students are participating at the same level as in person? Will there be any additional testing or measures? What is the process to report concerns to the proper authorities?
 - A- Attendance and participation will be monitored daily by teachers as instruction in FIVE is live as it is for in-person instruction. Counselors, social workers, and interventionists will be assigned to support students, families and staff in FIVE. Also, as a program of choice, FIVE would adhere to Policy JFBA: Intra-District Transfer and Withdrawal, which states that "...student(s) must maintain an acceptable discipline and attendance record in order for the approval to remain in effect." Testing requirements will follow State and local requirements.

On Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 8:56 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:



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

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Feb 1, 2021 at 8:45 AM

Subject: Re: FIVE Timing

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton, Attached are the questions I have received thus far. The ones in bold are also my questions.

I have copied the board executive team as well as I would really like to see a presentation on FIVE, including your survey results, the budget scenarios and your plan before we commit to this for 21-22.

Thank-you,
Cathy

accepted to FIVE for 21-22. Please remember your code of ethics to always put our children first - do not allow the creation of a program that could do long lasting harm to our students and our entire district without a full review and board approval.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Many voices: Guiding Instruction
One message: Success

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 8:39:24 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Do you have this?



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

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

From: **Michael Guliano** <mguliano@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Feb 3, 2021 at 7:55 AM

Subject: Re: FIVE Timing

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Drafted responses below:

- Taking in person classes: Would it be all or nothing for each student? Would students only be allowed to take virtual classes therefore eliminate the ability to take CATE classes or classes in person at their school?
 - A- FIVE students would be allowed to attend courses at The Center in-person and Business courses virtually. This ensures students have the opportunity to be a CATE completer. Other electives will only be offered through FIVE. Students will not go to their home school to attend additional courses.
- Limited availability of classes: If a class a student needs is not offered at their assigned school, would be they able to take it at another virtual school?
 - A- Classes needed for graduation will be offered in FIVE. APEX and SC Virtual courses will be options for some, but not all, classes. FIVE will have a course guide specific to the program. Students will not be able to attend other schools to take courses not offered in FIVE.
- Activities: Could a student take virtual core classes but come to school for sports, marching band?
 - A- A student enrolled in FIVE would be able to participate in sports and after school clubs not aligned to an in-person class. Since marching band requires attendance in an in-person class, FIVE students would not be able to participate in marching band.
- Balancing Enrollment: How will this be done? For example, if an elementary school has 5 fourth grade classes with an average of 25 students (125 total students) but only 12 choose FIVE, will the difference of 13 be distributed among the other classes for an average of 28-29 students per class?
 - A- Classes will be balanced and maintained with a maximum enrollment based on Policy IIB: Class Size and the accompanying Administrative Rule.
- Timing: What time commitments do students/parents have to make? If less than 1 year, how do you deal with teachers gaining or losing students that may be paced differently and maximum class sizes?
 - A- As a program of choice, FIVE would follow the same guidelines as other choice programs. A student would be making a commitment for the entire 2021-22 school year. They would be able to request to return to their home school one time during the 2021-22 school year. If they later wanted to return to FIVE, they would have to reapply for the 2022-2023 school year if FIVE is offered. They would not be allowed to go back and forth between FIVE and their home school.
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 - A- We continue to monitor data for all students, which includes FIVE students. We have analyzed multiple data points on student growth at the district and school level. We also analyze this data through a range of filters including but not limited to ethnicity, gender, ability/disability status, poverty status, English learners, and instructional model (FIVE or in-person). Teachers engage in the regular process of analyzing formative assessment data and addressing student needs as part of our regular instructional processes.
- Shared School Services: For example, would the home school counselor be responsible for students who would be on their case load if in the brick and mortar school? Who would handle the IGP?
 - A- Counselors will be reallocated to serve FIVE students in this program of choice.

PWES

email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 4:17:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Hey Dr. Melton!

I am sorry I was unable to visit PWES today. I had a few meetings come up that I couldn't move.

Rebecca said it's amazing! I am really looking forward to the next visit so I can see it in person.

Thank you for all your hard work. Please let me know how I can help.

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 9:16:08 PM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you , Mr. Hogan .

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.
Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 28, 2021, at 4:17 PM, Matt Hogan wrote:

>

> Hey Dr. Melton!

>

> I am sorry I was unable to visit PWES today. I had a few meetings come up that I couldn't move.

>

> Rebecca said it's amazing! I am really looking forward to the next visit so I can see it in person.

>

> Thank you for all your hard work. Please let me know how I can help.

Five Days a Week.

email: [REDACTED] - Danielle Cabaup" Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 4:00:22 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White"

Good Afternoon.

As you know, I spoke at your board meeting on Monday night, even after a specific board member told students that it was in their best interest not to stand up for themselves. I wasn't lying when I said we would strike. We are planning a strike and I won't back down from it. Now, as I was looking over the reentry slides I noticed this liiiiittle note at the bottom of the slide.

 School Reentry.jpg

At the bottom in white print "Superintendent's priority #5 is to promote a learning environment where students and staff feel safe physically, emotionally and socially. The safety of our students and staff is a top priority for School District Five, and it has been a top consideration during each phase of reentry."

So I beg to differ. But on Monday night you had a protest outside of this board meeting, Students who protested because they did not feel PHYSICALLY SAFE in your buildings. They are anxious and afraid and their emotional state is not in a good place right now. You had teachers telling you that they did not feel safe at their job. And you had students like me who decided to tell you face to face how terrified we were. And yet we are still going five days a week. And you really think that you have a right to say that our safety and mental health is a top priority. Today I had teachers stop me in the hallways all day to thank me for speaking to you because they are too afraid to. You are going to lose some of the most valuable teachers in the state because you want to make yourselves look good because our district is back to five days a week. Going back five days a week will not fix things. They will only make them worse. We are already dealing with covid in the schools and if you send us back full time it'll get infinitely worse. You have seen how happy we are in hybrid. And I am willing to stay four days a week because at least we have Wednesday to emotionally recharge and to have a day away from the exposure at the schools. If you send us back and a student dies because of covid, that will be on YOU. The blood will be on YOUR hands. That student's friends will never forgive you, their parents will never forgive you and neither will the teachers who taught that student. And trust me, if one of my friends dies because of your NEGLIGENCE. I will NEVER forgive you.

We will keep striking and protesting until you keep your word and make this safe PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY.

- D

Attachments:**School Reentry.jpg** 101k**email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"****Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 5:35:10 PM Eastern Standard Time**

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

Dr. Melton, I cannot imagine how busy you must be trying to run the district and still reply to all of these emails. I draw this one to your attention because I think the student may need some counseling. I am specifically concerned about the following wording:

"If you send us back and a student dies because of covid, that will be on YOU. The blood will be on YOUR hands. That student's friends will never forgive you, their parents will never forgive you and neither will the teachers who taught that student. And trust me, if one of my friends dies because of your NEGLIGENCE. I will NEVER forgive you."

I will leave you to handle or not as you and your team see fit - and do not need to inform me. I will not be replying to the student.

Thank-you,
Cathy

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

From: Danielle Cabaup

Date: Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Subject: Five Days a Week.

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, Edward White <ewhite@lexrich5.org>

Good Afternoon.

As you know, I spoke at your board meeting on Monday night, even after a specific board member told students that it was in their best interest not to stand up for themselves. I wasn't lying when I said we would strike. We are planning a strike and I won't back down from it. Now, as I was looking over the re entry slides I noticed this liiiiittle note at the bottom of the slide.

Yes ma'am. Thank you for your concern. I've involved Dr. Lofton.



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 Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 5:35 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I cannot imagine how busy you must be trying to run the district and still reply to all of these emails. I draw this one to your attention because I think the student may need some counseling. I am specifically concerned about the following wording:

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Thank-you,
Cathy

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

From: **Danielle Cabaup** <[REDACTED]>

Date: Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Subject: Five Days a Week.

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>, Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>, Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org>, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>, Edward White <ewhite@lexrich5.org>

Good Afternoon.

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Final Map for PWES

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 12:13:14 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Dr. Melton, Before the final map of PWES is released to the public, could the consultants please provide the board with a final revised map and the projected enrollment by grade and school for PWES, CES and LMES? I just want to be prepared for the inevitable emails :)

Thank-you!
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 8:41:54 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Yes ma'am.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 12:13 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Before the final map of PWES is released to the public, could the consultants please provide the board with a final revised map and the projected enrollment by grade and school for PWES, CES and LMES? I just want to be prepared for the inevitable emails :)

Thank-you!
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle

2020-2021 Board Meeting Planning

email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 4:46:32 PM Eastern Standard Time

Dr. Melton,

Attached is the working draft of the 2020-2021 Board Meeting Planning document.

Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Attachments:

2020-21 Board Meeting Planning .pdf 80k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 4:50:57 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond"
Cc: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Officers,

Attached is an updated forecast of content the administration needs for future meetings. I hope this will assist.

I have used the format during my tenure to assist with pacing of items.

I hope you find this helpful.



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

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

From: **Erin Strange** <estrange@lexrich5.org>
Date: Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:47 PM
Subject: 2020-2021 Board Meeting Planning
To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

Attached is the working draft of the 2020-2021 Board Meeting Planning document.

Erin



Erin Strange

*Executive Administrative Assistant
Board of Trustees and Superintendent*
School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063
office: 803.476.8169
estrange@lexrich5.org
www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Attachments:

2020-21 Board Meeting Planning .pdf 80k

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Saturday, January 30, 2021 at 2:51:12 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
Cc: email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Very helpful.

On Thu, Jan 28, 2021, 4:51 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Officers,

Attached is an updated forecast of content the administration needs for future meetings. I hope this will assist.

I have used the format during my tenure to assist with pacing of items.

I hope you find this helpful.

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

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

From: **Erin Strange** <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Date: Thu, Jan 28, 2021 at 4:47 PM

Subject: 2020-2021 Board Meeting Planning

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

Attached is the working draft of the 2020-2021 Board Meeting Planning document.

Erin



Erin Strange

Executive Administrative Assistant

Board of Trustees and Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063

office: 803.476.8169

estrange@lexrich5.org

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Board Agenda Item Request

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Friday, January 29, 2021 at 10:54:31 AM Eastern Standard Time

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

Chair Hammond,

I wanted to reach out to request items on the next meeting's agenda (and to explain my thoughts as to why I would like them included). Matt called me on Wednesday morning to ask me about my thoughts, but he didn't know when the officer's meeting would be scheduled. I am also not aware of any protocol as to how to request items, so I am sending this request to you and Dr. Melton.

First, I would respectfully request that our board meeting agendas be prepared with consideration as to the length of time each meeting requires. I do believe that the additional meetings added for this year should help alleviate this issue. I understand that board members may have agenda items that they would like to bring and believe they are important; however, I am just relaying that my opinion is that items brought forth by the Superintendent should always take priority and allow for proper discussion. Also, our first three meetings have lasted beyond 11:00, which requires district staff to work extremely long hours. I know this has not been intentional; we have many important issues beyond our control that we need to address.

Second, I would respectfully request that Mr. Scott Price from the SCSBA be present at the next board meeting to discuss policy and answer questions relating to best practices prior to the vote regarding board committees. As a new board member, I do not believe it is appropriate to vote on changing policy without counsel or training on best practices for school boards. New member training does not occur until March 4th. I am not opposed or disagree that we have board policies that need to be reviewed; I just want to ensure that the correct process is followed and that the language used is consistent with state law and best practices; and, that we are being transparent as to the need for such revisions/additions in policy.

Third, I would request that a discussion item relating to any potential conflicts of interests between Mr. Loveless and Contract Construction be added to the agenda, prior to the discussion item (voted on at the Monday meeting) regarding the Superintendent's expectations. I do not wish to perpetuate any conflict between board members and previous discussions. I am not asking for any additional explanation about discussions with a previous board. I am simply concerned by the SC Ethics Advisory Opinion put into the record by Mr. Loveless in September 2020. As I believe that the intent of the board committee policy is to create committees, such as a facility committee (although I am not sure the board has had a formal discussion on this), and, with the emails sent from Mr. Loveless to Dr. Melton requesting specific information on construction at PWES, I just want to ensure that we are protecting our Trustees and the District from any unwarranted or unwanted ethics violations. In no way am I accusing any Trustee of any wrongdoing; I believe the issue can be cleared up with a simple conversation and, perhaps, advice from counsel as to the specific requirements of recusal.

Speaking of which, at the last board meeting, it was mentioned by board officers that they had been provided with counsel from attorneys regarding district matters. As I am aware, board policy BDG does required (except in unusual circumstances) the board will make all communication to the school attorney through the superintendent or board chairman. I do believe that all communication provided by a school attorney should be provided to the entire board, at the same time, in the same manner. If a school attorney responds to a request from the board, through the board chair or superintendent, any response should be given in person or through written correspondence. This would alleviate any miscommunication or inadvertent discrepancies in legal advice.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my requests (and apologize for the long email). I am not sure when board officers are meeting, but I would again renew the request that board officers meetings be open and recorded, as I know that all of our board members believe that transparency is important.

There is no need to reply; I have bcc'd all board members to this email.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines

--

Kind regards,
Rebecca Blackburn Hines
Board Trustee
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
To: email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Friday, January 29, 2021 at 11:47:13 AM Eastern Standard Time

Mrs. Blackburn-Hines,

This is to confirm receipt of your email. I'll defer to Mrs. Hammond but am available to assist however is appropriate.



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 Fri, Jan 29, 2021 at 10:51 AM Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Chair Hammond,

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re: Weekly update

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, February 26, 2021 at 4:34:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Bcc: email: "d5-board-members@lexrich5.org D5 Board Members"

This message is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees.

The purpose of this message is to provide my weekly update.

Monday:

I look forward to returning to the office Monday after being out this week. Thanks to the Officers for your assistance Monday as the details for Monday evening were adjusted. My second test yesterday was negative and an antibiotic was prescribed for a sinus infection. It is so easy to take health and health benefits for granted.

Introductions:

Monday evening, Chief of Finance Martha "Marty" Rawls will be in attendance. Also Monday evening, Director of Personnel Dr. Reggie Wicker will be introduced.

Quarantine Expectations:

During my absence this week, Dr. Harris and Nurse Stanek have continued to review our quarantine protocols along with our compliance efforts. I am scheduled to meet with them Monday morning and review any recommended adjustments.

I wish you a restful weekend and look forward to seeing you Monday evening.



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

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Friday, February 26, 2021 at 5:12:52 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

Thank you for the recap. I am so happy you're feeling better and that it wasn't Covid!
Cathy

On Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 4:34 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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The purpose of this message is to provide my weekly update.

Monday:

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Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 2:29:42 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thank you for the update.

On Fri, Feb 26, 2021 at 4:34 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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The purpose of this message is to provide my weekly update.

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**Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.*****Superintendent***

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Inquiry about staff vaccination plan

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 9:29:38 AM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "[REDACTED]" "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Ms.Stiles,

My belief is that Superintendent Melton intends to discuss this matter in the board meeting Monday night.

Thank you for your inquiry,

Ken Loveless

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 6:36:18 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Mr. Loveless,
Can you provide me context? I don't see a previous message.
Thank you.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 9:29 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Ms.Stiles,

My belief is that Superintendent Melton intends to discuss this matter in the board meeting Monday night.

Thank you for your inquiry,

Ken Loveless

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Sunday, February 28, 2021 at 7:18:56 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Dr. Melton,

Oh! Sorry about that. Ms. Stiles was asking if the district had its COVID vaccination plan ready. I know I saw the memo Ms. Goggins sent out and I thought you said you were going to discuss it tomorrow night. Hope I didn't misinterpret that.

Thanks

Ken

On Sun, Feb 28, 2021, 6:36 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mr. Loveless,

Can you provide me context? I don't see a previous message.

Thank you.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Ms.Stiles,

My belief is that Superintendent Melton intends to discuss this matter in the board meeting Monday night.

Thank you for your inquiry,

Ken Loveless

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

Monday, March 1, 2021 at 3:44:08 PM Eastern Standard Time

Gotcha - yes, sir, it's on the list tonight.
We also have a media release ready for tomorrow.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116