
Snow Days

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

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

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

Friday, April 2, 2021 at 12:56:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, I have received several inquiries from parents regarding make-up days for weather and the staff Covid vaccinations. They are noting that we used asynchronous learning for those days and so are (apparently) not using our snow days or extending the school year.

While most seem OK not extending the year this year, considering the short summer we're going to have, many are wondering if asynchronous learning is going to be a permanent solution for bad weather or other emergencies - are we going to use eLearning instead of actually closing? Their concern seems to stem from the asynchronous method (instead of eLearning in general) as many parents report their students aren't able to communicate with all of their teachers and actually "be taught" when asynchronous is used.

You don't need to answer me on this - I'm just passing along the concern as you may want to address future plans for bad weather and eLearning in one of your superintendent updates.

I hope you and your family have a great Easter!

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, April 2, 2021 at 4:25:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Although you didn't expect an answer, since this is a question you have heard, I think it is important to offer this information. I'll be sure to include this in my next weekly email since eLearning is new to us in District Five.

Most eLearning days will be Asynchronous (independent) learning days due to the nature of the use of these days being emergency closures. On days with inclement weather, there is no guarantee that power and internet service will not be interrupted. In Synchronous (live) instruction, teachers and students would need to have uninterrupted internet service, which is not guaranteed with weather interruptions. Plus, students and staff need to be in a safe environment to be able to learn successfully. Asynchronous learning allows students 5 days upon return to school to complete assignments from an eLearning day. So interruptions are not a barrier to the completion of assignments as they would be in Synchronous. The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) oversees the eLearning project and they require districts to have Learning Management Systems for teachers to post assignments for students and they require districts to ensure that teachers have office hours for students to be able to contact them with questions as they arise. Hopefully the need for eLearning days will be minimal, but we do have a plan for either Synchronous or Asynchronous learning on these days and that determination will

be made each time. But I feel I do need to reiterate that most eLearning days will likely be Asynchronous due to the reasons referenced above.

I assure you, I will have LOTS of pictures of [REDACTED] searching for eggs and in their Easter wear!!!! Happy Easter!!!



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, Apr 2, 2021 at 12:56 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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

Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 10:40:06 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, Thank you for the clarification. Do you think we need to update policies IC and EBCE and include how eLearning will work and/or create a policy for eLearning? I think a lot of parents are confused and also want to know what to expect going forward. Also, if teachers are expected to be

available during the entire day or a portion of it, those expectations could be included as well - since the biggest complaint I am hearing is that some teachers are not as available as others and parents are unsure of what to expect.

I hope you had a wonderful Easter with your family!

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

Monday, April 12, 2021 at 3:45:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Good question, Mrs. Huddle. It was a beautiful week. I am completely off of my schedule! I hope you were able to see [REDACTED]

Let me have the staff review these two policies. I'm not aware that we have received any questions but I would like to follow up to make sure.



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Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 12:15:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Welcome back! The questions I had from parents were phone calls to me. Also, someone shared a social media post where several parents were questioning if eLearning would be a recurring thing or was only for Covid. Personally, I think it would be great to use eLearning when weather or needs make it problematic to have schools physically open. Sounds like we may just need to have parameters and communicate how and when eLearning will likely be used and how it will work. While I'm in favor of it, I did enjoy snow days with my kids when we were fortunate to get a really good snow - once every 5 or so years!

Thanks,
Cathy

On Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 3:46 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Good question, Mrs. Huddle. It was a beautiful week. I am completely off of my schedule! I hope you were able to see [REDACTED]

Let me have the staff review these two policies. I'm not aware that we have received any questions but I would like to follow up to make sure.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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I don't want to jinx the week but yesterday was a smooth first day back for us.

Yes ma'am. Thank you for that info.

eLearning is intended for inclement weather; however, it is an annual approval from the Education Oversight Committee. Since we have not received confirmation about weather eLearning will be allowed for next year (or not) I'm hesitant to recommend a policy change. Originally, we had included reference to eLearning on the calendar we brought to the board but removed it after the SDE responded that these days are not guaranteed for the coming year.

Would it be appropriate for us to await confirmation from the EOC before any policy changes are considered? Any approval from EOC would alert us to revisit the needs and review how this first year of our participation was implemented.

Now, it concerns me that a teacher was not accessible during eLearning. We haven't heard these concerns directly, and I would be interested in any details you can share. Perhaps it was an isolated incident that can be addressed directly or if you could encourage the parent to notify the principal.



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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 12:16 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thanks,
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Good question, Mrs. Huddle. It was a beautiful week. I am completely off of my schedule! I hope you were able to see [REDACTED]

Let me have the staff review these two policies. I'm not aware that we have received any questions but I would like to follow up to make sure.

Weekly Message to the Board - April 2, 2021

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

Friday, April 2, 2021 at 3:06:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Vaccination Event

Hundreds of Lexington-Richland School District Five staff members participated in the first of two COVID-19 staff vaccination events, on Friday, March 26. Held in partnership with Lexington Medical Center, the March 26 event was held at Dutch Fork High School and included nearly 700 vaccinations, with school nurses administering doses to staff. Staff members expressed their appreciation for our health care partners, district staff and nurses, leaving "thank you" notes as they exited the event. The second vaccination event for School District Five staff will occur on Friday, April 16. Included is a photo of Lauren Lott Moore of Lexington Medical Center.

Vaping / JUUL Information

During Executive Session on March 22, Mr. Kenny Bingham, et al, presented information to the full Board regarding the current JUUL litigation. At the conclusion of the presentation, a request for current Board policies pertaining to juuling (i.e. alternative nicotine products) was made. Attached are current policies that address student use of juuls, e-cigarettes, etc. Each policy was vetted by the SC School Boards Association, shared with districts across South Carolina and later approved by the Board of Trustees in School District Five.

Vacancy Fill Rate

The Office of Human Resources regularly monitors the number of positions that are vacant throughout the district to determine the fill rate. At this time, the fill rate for School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties for the 2020-2021 academic year stands at 99.7% for certified staff. Although there have been resignations and retirements of certified staff during the academic year, School District Five continues to attract high-quality, certified candidates to fill the vacancies. As a part of the ongoing work on behalf of the District, The Office of Human Resources and school leaders will continue to work together to fill each classroom with a highly qualified teacher.

Energy Performance Contracting

During the March 22 board meeting, Mr. Loveless requested that the District look into Guaranteed Savings Programs. Many of these programs are structured where the investment costs in the new equipment are reduced by the guaranteed energy savings (Performance Contracting). With District Five having the available capital to invest in new systems, there would be an opportunity to identify the energy savings at a higher rate providing for other upgrades to be funded through future savings. This can be accomplished with LED lighting upfits, HVAC system replacements, and various other system upgrades. School District Five has already been working towards such projects. Currently, 86% of District Five schools are equipped with LED lighting. This includes projects underway and projects completed. District Facilities are researching delivery methods that can best serve and benefit our District. We are meeting with various contacts regarding Performance Contracts in the coming weeks as requested to see if any such programs can benefit the District.

Thompson Turner Construction

During the second and final reading of the 2021-2022 Capital Budget at the March 22 board meeting, Mr. Loveless asked about the district's contract with Thompson Turner Construction. After review, the Thompson Turner Construction contract is not an indefinite delivery contract. The Thompson Turner contract is a design build contract with no target value.

Envision Chapin Invitation

On Tuesday, March 30, I was invited to take part in a Stakeholder Listening Session for the Town of Chapin called "Envision Chapin". These sessions offered a chance for community members to offer their voice regarding ways the town of Chapin can plan for the next 10 to 20 years.

Bond Costs

Mrs. Huddle sent an email to me on March 28 asking the following, "I would like to know what the bond fees, estimated interest costs and any other costs are for:

- 1) The \$10m bond issuance the board approved
- 2) The \$11.7m bond issuance estimated by our consultants
- 3) The maximum \$12.5m bond issuance originally proposed"

In response to questions #1 and #2: attached is information regarding the costs of the 8% bonds.

Based on our financial advisors calculations, the District was planning to issue \$11,170,000 in bonds. Additional capital projects would have been identified for the amount over the \$10,000,000 capital budget. These additional projects would have been provided to the Board for approval.

In response to question #3: There was never an intent to issue \$12,500,000 in bonds. The request was for approval of a resolution to issue up to \$12,500,000 in bonds.

Debt Service Millage

In response to Mr. Loveless' question about Debt Service Millage rate variances between Lexington and Richland County, Chris Harmon (Lexington County Auditor), stated that for the 3 years in question Lexington County and Richland County assessed different Debt Service Millage rates. For each of those years, Lexington County assessed at a rate of 54.80 mills, and Richland County assessed at a rate of 52.50 mills.

Mr. Harmon reached out to the SC Department of Revenue to determine the legality. SCDOR stated to him that there is no legal requirement for the counties to assess the same rate.

When calculating the rate in 2016, Lexington County originally calculated the required Millage to be 52.50 mills. That rate was later updated to the 54.80 mills based on the debt outstanding and County's required sinking fund balance. The original rate was communicated to Richland County by Lexington County and never updated. The 2 subsequent years, the Millage Certification letter stated that District Five certified maintaining the "same" millage rate - no numbers were specified. Mr. Harmon and his staff communicated to Richland County to maintain the same Millage without verifying the number. This was an error by Lexington County, and not District Five.

Going forward, District Five will certify specific Millage Rates in order to reduce the risk of this recurring.

Spring Break Closure

All schools and offices will be closed for Spring Break the week of April 5. This includes the District Office and all 240-day employees. Schools and offices will reopen on Monday, April 12. I hope to "social distance" from email and my phone but will check my phone periodically.

I wish each of you a blessed weekend!

April 26, 2021 Board Meeting location

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Friday, April 2, 2021 at 6:50:20 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

All,

I suggest we move the location of the meeting scheduled for The Center to the district office. Now that the plan agreed upon by the board in the March 22, 2021 meeting has been changed by attorneys not in attendance at the meeting, we will need executive session to start at 2:00 pm. That way we may have time to review all the legal invoices.

Moreover, in the likely event that we need additional time to review we can hold executive session open and continue after public session. It believe it is most important to limit the imposition on schools staff should we have to stay late.

Please consider this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Loveless

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, April 2, 2021 at 4:02:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

Mr. Loveless,

I appreciate your concern about the hours at our schools and ending times. I will be available to start whenever it is determined. It is much easier to move to the district office. The number of audience members, of course, will be less. I'll await the guidance of Officers.



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 Fri, Apr 2, 2021 at 6:50 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Please consider this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Loveless

Five Year Comprehensive Plan and Annual Updates

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 6:04:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

Dr. Melton, I was looking for the five year plan that I believe you sent me but I cannot find it - can you resend it?

Also, can you explain how that plan fits in with policies AE, AR AE-R and CM? It looks like the state requires the plan and annual updates by April 30th each year and the plans must be approved by the board. Did we get an extension from the state this year due to Covid?

I have copied Jan and Ken as this may impact the agenda for an upcoming meeting.

Thanks,
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email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

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Mrs. Huddle,
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Let me have someone look into the policies you've identified. Our team has been working on the strategic plan - we are in the phase of reporting rather than creating. I'll follow up once I can confirm our progress.



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In addition to letting us know if this year's annual update is due by 4/30, please send me the latest 5 year strategic plan submitted to the state and the most recent annual update we submitted, including the assurances/signature page(s).

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Yes ma'am, I'll be happy to.



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Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Invitation: Board Officers @ Wed Apr 14, 2021 4:30pm - 5:30pm (EDT) (kloveless@lexrich5.org)

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Monday, April 12, 2021 at 3:29:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org"

You have been invited to the following event.

Board Officers

When Wed Apr 14, 2021 4:30pm – 5:30pm Eastern Time - New York

[more details »](#)

Where District Office ([map](#))

Calendar kloveless@lexrich5.org

Who

- Christina Melton - organizer
- estrangle@lexrich5.org - creator
- kloveless@lexrich5.org
- ngardner@lexrich5.org
- jhammond@lexrich5.org

Going (kloveless@lexrich5.org)? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account kloveless@lexrich5.org because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar kloveless@lexrich5.org.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#).

Attachments:

invite.ics 1.6k

invite.ics 1.6k

Fwd: District Strategic Plan Information

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 10:31:03 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Mrs. Huddle,

Attached is additional information on our strategic plan. This is prior to the revisions that we are currently finalizing. The seven page document includes a response to your policy questions and also summarizes the timeline as required to the State Department of Education. We are on track for the April 30 submission which requires Board Chair signature.

I'll be forwarding this to the Board following this message to 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: **Erin Strange** <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 9:34 AM

Subject: District Strategic Plan Information

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

Attached is the information requested by Mrs. Huddle regarding the District Strategic Plan.



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

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

From: **Michael Harris** <mrharris@lexrich5.org>
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 9:16 AM
Subject: Fwd: strategic plan
To: Erin Strange <EStrange@lexrich5.org>

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

From: **Vann Holden** <vholden@lexrich5.org>
Date: Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 5:51 PM
Subject: strategic plan
To: Michael Harris <mrharris@lexrich5.org>

This is the full 18-19 document.

--



Vann Holden

Director of Planning and Accountability
School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
o: (803) 476-8189 e: vholden@lexrich5.org

--



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

Attachments:

3205-5YearPlan-2019.pdf 3.0M

Strategic Plan Information 4.13.21.pdf 1.8M

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

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

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 10:32:53 AM Eastern Daylight Time

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees in response to a question from Mrs. Huddle.

Attached is our full strategic plan. This copy is prior to the revisions that we are currently finalizing .

The seven page document includes a response to policy questions and also summarizes the timeline as required to the State Department of Education.

We are on track for the April 30 submission which requires Board Chair signature.



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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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

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Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 9:16 AM

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This is the full 18-19 document.

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Vann Holden

Director of Planning and Accountability

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

o: (803) 476-8189 e: vholden@lexrich5.org

--



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

Attachments:

3205-5YearPlan-2019.pdf 3.0M

Strategic Plan Information 4.13.21.pdf 1.8M

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 9:36:24 AM Eastern Daylight 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 sending these. I want to make sure I understand - are you saying the board as a whole does not need to approve the annual submission for the district but the board chair signs it?

Thanks,
Cathy

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

From: **Vann Holden** <vholden@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Apr 12, 2021 at 5:51 PM

Subject: strategic plan

To: Michael Harris <mrharris@lexrich5.org>

This is the full 18-19 document.

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Vann Holden

Director of Planning and Accountability

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

o: (803) 476-8189 e: vholden@lexrich5.org

--



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

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 9:51:15 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Jan,

Contrary to the statement herewith from Dr. Melton as to past practices by Board Chair Robert Gantt, it is my understanding that this requires action and approval from the full board and NOT just a sign off from the board chair.

Please do not sign this without a full discussion and vote in public.

Thanks

Ken

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 9:36 AM

Subject: Re: District Strategic Plan Information

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton, Thank you for sending these. I want to make sure I understand - are you saying the board as a whole does not need to approve the annual submission for the district but the board chair signs it?

Thanks,

Cathy

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 10:33 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Attached is our full strategic plan. This copy is prior to the revisions that we are currently finalizing .

The seven page document includes a response to policy questions and also summarizes the timeline as required to the State Department of Education.

We are on track for the April 30 submission which requires Board Chair signature.



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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Subject: District Strategic Plan Information

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

Attached is the information requested by Mrs. Huddle regarding the District Strategic Plan.

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 11:12:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Yes, ma'am, you are correct. The board chair's signature is required but approval of the board is not required. If the Board wants to make a change, please advise.



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, Apr 14, 2021 at 9:36 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Thank you for sending these. I want to make sure I understand - are you saying the board as a whole does not need to approve the annual submission for the district but the board chair signs it?

Thanks,
Cathy

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 10:33 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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**Vann Holden***Director of Planning and Accountability*

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

o: (803) 476-8189 e: vholden@lexrich5.org**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

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 11:15:29 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Thank you for the clarification.

On Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 11:13 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Yes, ma'am, you are correct. The board chair's signature is required but approval of the board is not required. If the Board wants to make a change, please advise.

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

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 10:14:06 PM Eastern Daylight 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 believe that is correct. The signature page of the report submission references the applicable laws and the SC law requiring board approval. Attached is a screenshot of the signature page with the reference to state law: SC 59-18-1300 which is also attached.

Also please see applicable SC Dept of Ed Requirements - see #4 of <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/state-accountability/district-strategic-and-school-renewal-plans/sbe-regulation-43-2611/>

Further our board policy AE states "The board must review and revise the accountability system annually" and policy CM states "the board will issue a district annual report".

I realize that this has not been done in the past but I believe state law and board policy requires that the board review and approve the district annual report and 5 year reports.

Please understand that I am not trying to be difficult. I believe that strategic planning by the board together with the superintendent should be one of our primary purposes. Also, I am trying to ensure that we comply with state law and that Jan is not asked to sign something stating we complied with a law if we did not do so.

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 11:13 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Yes, ma'am, you are correct. The board chair's signature is required but approval of the board is not required. If the Board wants to make a change, please advise.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:**State of SC Strategic Plan Signatures.pdf** 99k**Screen Shot 2021-04-14 at 10.02.23 PM.png** 856k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"**Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 8:56:30 AM Eastern Daylight Time****To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"****Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"**

I appreciate your thorough review and caution . Officers discussed this yesterday. I had 3 staff confirm before I sent the reply to you . This information will help us . I truly appreciate your outreach and sharing of this information.

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

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 14, 2021, at 10:14 PM, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I don't believe that is correct. The signature page of the report submission references the applicable laws and the SC law requiring board approval. Attached is a screenshot of the signature page with the reference to state law: SC 59-18-1300 which is also attached.

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

<State of SC Strategic Plan Signatures.pdf>

<Screen Shot 2021-04-14 at 10.02.23 PM.png>

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

Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 12:07:21 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thank you. I understand now that y'all agreed yesterday that it would be on the agenda for board review and approval. Is that correct?
Thanks
Cathy

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 8:56 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I appreciate your thorough review and caution. Officers discussed this yesterday. I had 3 staff confirm before I sent the reply to you. This information will help us. I truly appreciate your outreach and sharing of this information.

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

Sent from my iPhone

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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"

Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 12:48:33 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Yes ma'am. It will be on the agenda for "provisional approval" .



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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re: Email

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 12:00:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Mrs. Hammond and Mr. Loveless,

Thank you both for your quick alert to me of the email you received yesterday evening.

The Office of Human Resources (Dr. Turner) and The Office of Planning and Administration (Dr. Harris, Officer Wise, and the Lexington County Sheriff's Department) have attempted to contact [REDACTED] via the email address that he used to reach out to you, and have not yet been able to identify or locate anyone by this name. We have searched databases without success of locating this identity . Do you know him or have any additional way to contact him?

We are making every attempt to connect with [REDACTED] but thus far, we are not having success with receiving a response.

Thank you for your concern and prompt attention to this matter last 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: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 1:49:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

Thank you for the update.

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 12:01 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond and Mr. Loveless,

Thank you both for your quick alert to me of the email you received yesterday evening.

The Office of Human Resources (Dr. Turner) and The Office of Planning and Administration (Dr. Harris, Officer Wise, and the Lexington County Sheriff's Department) have attempted to contact [REDACTED] via the email address that he used to reach out to you, and have not yet been able to identify or locate anyone by this name. We have searched databases without success of locating this identity . Do you know him or have any additional way to contact him?

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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

4.13.21 Messages to SOES/IES Staff and Families

email: "kgoggins@lexrich5.org Katrina Goggins"

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:22:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "communications@lexrich5.org Communications Office"

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

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

D5 Board members:

This message is being blind copied to all members of the Board of Trustees.

Messages will be sent to staff and families at two of our schools after incidents today. The first message (below) will be sent to families at Irmo Elementary School after a Taser was found onsite, while the second message (below) is being sent to families at Seven Oaks Elementary School after a knife was confiscated from a student. These types of messages are part of our typical process and are aimed at keeping families informed about incidents on school grounds.

IRMO ELEMENTARY MESSAGE TO STAFF & FAMILIES

Dear Irmo Elementary School Families,

This email is to inform you of an incident at our school today. A Taser was found on our campus today after a student reported seeing the item. Once the report was made, administrators and law enforcement immediately took action to confiscate the item.

At Irmo Elementary, we aim to keep our staff and families well informed, work hard to ensure a safe learning environment at our school and work closely with law enforcement to make safety our top priority. Thank you for your support, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Shannon Fincannon

Principal

803-476-4200

sfincannon@lexrich5.org

SEVEN OAKS ELEMENTARY MESSAGE TO STAFF & FAMILIES

Seven Oaks Elementary School MEDIA Magnet Families,

This email is to inform you of an incident at our school today. A small knife was confiscated from a student at our school today without incident. It's important to note that no specific threats were made to students or staff. A tip from another student led to the discovery of the knife, and administrators and law enforcement immediately took action to confiscate the item. Appropriate disciplinary procedures are being followed.

At Seven Oaks Elementary MEDIA Magnet, we aim to keep our staff and families well informed, work hard to ensure a safe learning environment at our school and work closely with law enforcement to make safety our top priority. Thank you for your support, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Christian English, Principal

803-476-8500

wenglish@lexrich5.org

Regards,



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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 8:47:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, A parent at IES asked if we know where the taser came from. They were looking for names but wanted to know if it came from a student, staff or somewhere else.

Thanks

Cathy

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

From: **Katrina Goggins** <kgoggins@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 6:22 PM

Subject: 4.13.21 Messages to SOES/IES Staff and Families

To: Communications Office <communications@lexrich5.org>

CC: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

D5 Board members:

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IRMO ELEMENTARY MESSAGE TO STAFF & FAMILIES

Dear Irmo Elementary School Families,

This email is to inform you of an incident at our school today. A Taser was found on our campus today after a student reported seeing the item. Once the report was made, administrators and law enforcement immediately

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 11:17:26 AM Eastern Daylight Time
 To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Confidentially, [REDACTED] "I'll work with Mrs. Goggins for appropriate details for future incidents. She's vetted our releases with legal counsel - let me see what we can add.



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, Apr 13, 2021 at 8:48 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, A parent at IES asked if we know where the taser came from. They were looking for names but wanted to know if it came from a student, staff or somewhere else.

Thanks

Cathy

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

From: **Katrina Goggins** <kgoggins@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 6:22 PM

Subject: 4.13.21 Messages to SOES/IES Staff and Families

To: Communications Office <communications@lexrich5.org>

CC: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

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Shannon Fincannon
Principal
803-476-4200
sfincannon@lexrich5.org

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Christian English, Principal
803-476-8500
wenglish@lexrich5.org

Regards,



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

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 9:41:13 PM Eastern Daylight Time

That's good information. I think he was worried perhaps an owner was not identified.
Thanks,

Graduation and Masks

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 1:03:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Dr. Melton,

I have had a few folks reach out to me regarding some concerns, some of which I can share and understand. I wanted to share them with you and get some feedback.

The first issue is about limitations on family members at graduation. I am being told that the limit is 4 family members and that this is causing issues for those with blended families and siblings. As these ceremonies are outdoors, allowing for spacing among families, and more people are vaccinated while cases are on the decline, many are concerned by these limitations. I understand this may be an operational decision, but could you provide clarification on this and whether this is subject to change?

Another issue that I have had constituents reach out about, and one that I feel pretty strongly about myself, is the issue of masks and next school year. I know this was a policy set by the board last July. I was wondering if you have heard anything regarding recommendations from SDE. I have copied Chair Hammond to this as well, as it may warrant discussion by the board before we head into the next school year. As teachers will have had the opportunity for vaccines, and vaccines are now available for all in SC over the age of 16, and we do not have county/state mask mandates, my thoughts are that the board should have the discussion in the next few months. I know this issue has very strong opinions on both sides. Personally, I believe that those that would prefer to wear masks should be able to do so, but I am concerned by an indefinite mask mandate policy. I would welcome your thoughts - and Jan, I would welcome yours as well.

I hope you are both doing well and had a nice spring break. I am looking forward to our policy workshop next week.

Kind regards,
Rebecca

--

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

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 1:48:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

I agree these are all questions that need to be answered for our public and discussed with the board. Rebecca I have already asked Dr. Melton about graduation and extending the number of invitations. Thank you for your email. It is important for all of us to share in these important discussions.

Jan Hammond

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 12:58 PM Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton,

I have had a few folks reach out to me regarding some concerns, some of which I can share and understand. I wanted to share them with you and get some feedback.

The first issue is about limitations on family members at graduation. I am being told that the limit is 4 family members and that this is causing issues for those with blended families and siblings. As these ceremonies are outdoors, allowing for spacing among families, and more people are vaccinated while cases are on the decline, many are concerned by these limitations. I understand this may be an operational decision, but could you provide clarification on this and whether this is subject to change?

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Kind regards,
Rebecca

--

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

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 2:14:58 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thanks for your response Jan! I haven't heard anything from any other board members on this. Do you know when the mask policy will be discussed, now that teachers have (or will be) vaccinated?

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 1:48 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I agree these are all questions that need to be answered for our public and discussed with the board. Rebecca I have already asked Dr. Melton about graduation and extending the number of invitations. Thank you for your email. It is important for all of us to share in these important discussions.
Jan Hammond

On Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 12:58 PM Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org> wrote:
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Kind regards,
Rebecca

--

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:54:44 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Yes ma'am. Thank you for your questions.

To provide context - last year D5 was the only district in the midlands who allowed 4 guests - others allowed 2 or held graduations virtually. I hope our improving climate doesn't allow people to forget graduation isn't something that we can take for granted. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated when you hear questions.

Mrs. Goggins is working with Ryan Brown of SCDE and the Department of Commerce along with our principals and district staff (operational purposes) to manage the crowd within our facilities. Another layer is compliance with the SC High School League since we are using athletic facilities. This is a complicated process but please reassure those expressing concerns that we are managing these decisions with responsibility.

As for masks, we are too far out to project where we may be in June. Friday is our second vaccination date for our staff. Dr. Harris and I have been discussing if we need to bring to the board a relief to mask mandates but feel it is too premature at this point to seek that revision.

In an effort to include all board members with information, I will be sending this response via blindcopy to the board to assist with consistency of available information.



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, Apr 13, 2021 at 12:58 PM Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

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I hope you are both doing well and had a nice spring break. I am looking forward to our policy workshop next week.

Kind regards,
Rebecca

--

Kind regards,

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

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 4:55:36 PM Eastern Daylight Time

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees for consistency in information.



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: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:54 PM

Subject: Re: Graduation and Masks

To: Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Yes ma'am. Thank you for your questions.

To provide context - last year D5 was the only district in the midlands who allowed 4 guests - others allowed 2 or held graduations virtually. I hope our improving climate doesn't allow people to forget graduation isn't something that we can take for granted. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated when you hear questions.

Mrs. Goggins is working with Ryan Brown of SCDE and the Department of Commerce along with our principals and district staff (operational purposes) to manage the crowd within our facilities. Another layer is compliance with the SC High School League since we are using athletic facilities. This is a complicated process but please reassure those expressing concerns that we are managing these decisions with responsibility.

As for masks, we are too far out to project where we may be in June. Friday is our second vaccination date for our staff. Dr. Harris and I have been discussing if we need to bring to the board a relief to mask mandates but feel it is too premature at this point to seek that revision.

In an effort to include all board members with information, I will be sending this response via blindcopy to the board to assist with consistency of available information.

email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 3:09:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

hey Jan,

following up from our conversation yesterday, i CC'ed rebecca since im piggybacking on her questions to Dr. Melton.

I also received calls with concerns from the community regarding the number of attendees for graduation along with mask mandates for the 21-22 school year. With the short summer, I feel we need to start the conversation on the mask policy with a first reading at the May board meeting.

With regards to graduation limitations, knowing Friday night lights were well received by the community, I am hopeful the number allowed to attend graduation is not less than allowed during sporting events.

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

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

Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:56 PM

Subject: Fwd: Graduation and Masks

To: Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees for consistency in information.



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: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:54 PM

Subject: Re: Graduation and Masks

To: Rebecca Hines <rhines@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Yes ma'am. Thank you for your questions.

To provide context - last year D5 was the only district in the midlands who allowed 4 guests - others allowed 2 or held graduations virtually. I hope our improving climate doesn't allow people to forget graduation isn't something that we can take for granted. Any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated when you hear questions.

Kind regards,
Rebecca

--

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

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 3:14:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan"
Cc: email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

I agree with you. I have brought that up to Dr. Melton. Good points.

On Wed, Apr 14, 2021 at 3:09 PM Matt Hogan <mhogan@lexrich5.org> wrote:
hey Jan,

following up from our conversation yesterday, i CC'ed rebecca since im piggybacking on her questions to Dr. Melton.

I also received calls with concerns from the community regarding the number of attendees for graduation along with mask mandates for the 21-22 school year. With the short summer, I feel we need to start the conversation on the mask policy with a first reading at the May board meeting.

With regards to graduation limitations, knowing Friday night lights were well received by the community, I am hopeful the number allowed to attend graduation is not less than allowed during sporting events.

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Date: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 at 4:56 PM
Subject: Fwd: Graduation and Masks
To: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees for consistency in information.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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

Meeting

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 5:03:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org"

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

I met with Tyler Tucker today along with another representative. They will be available to present on the 26th .

They will send a PowerPoint to me for inclusion with packet .

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, April 15, 2021 at 8:25:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Cc: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org"

Great!

On Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 5:03 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I met with Tyler Tucker today along with another representative. They

will be available to present on the 26th .

They will send a PowerPoint to me for inclusion with packet .

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: List of Requested Attorney Fee Invoices

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 3:00:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Dr. Melton,

At yesterday's meeting you stated that I needed to provide you with a list of attorney invoices we will review during executive session of the 4/26/21 meeting.

Please see the list in the attached email from Mrs. Huddle.

Thanks

Ken Loveless

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>
Date: Thu, Apr 15, 2021, 10:47 AM
Subject: List of Requested Attorney Fee Invoices
To: Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

Ken, Per your request, I found what I originally sent Dr. Melton. Below is that list but I extended the dates on Montgomery. Following are the ones that I would like to see:

All invoices from the Montgomery firm from 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2018 and 9/1/20 through 11/30/20.

All invoices for the Mahoney firm from 2/1/2020 through the most recently received invoice

All invoices from the Richardson Plowden firm from 2/1/2021 through the most recently received invoice

All invoices from Childs and Halligan paid in January and February 2013.

Thanks,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 3:23:45 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"
Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Received, thank you Mr. Loveless.

I've copied Erin so we can begin the retrieval process.

Am I correct that we will also provide the invoices requested by Mr. White? If Erin has that email, we will retrieve those as well.



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, Apr 15, 2021 at 3:00 PM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton,

At yesterday's meeting you stated that I needed to provide you with a list of attorney invoices we will review during executive session of the 4/26/21 meeting.

Please see the list in the attached email from Mrs. Huddle.

Thanks

Ken Loveless

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To: Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

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All invoices from Childs and Halligan paid in January and February 2013.

Thanks,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Face Covering Policy

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

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

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

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 11:16:51 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, As you're heard, there is a growing movement to "un mask". I understand that you are wisely following the SC DOE so that we do not risk CARES or other funding. In addition, in my personal opinion we should generally keep masks in place at least 3 weeks after the staff receive their second vaccine - which then puts us so close to the end of the school year that we wait to reevaluate the policy until the summer for 21-22.

That said, If we could relax the current guidelines and still meet SCDOE guidelines, I would like to consider doing so.

Our policy provides The board authorizes the superintendent or his/her designee to amend these requirements as necessary to meet health and safety guidelines. I also reviewed the state's guidelines (<https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/covid-19-coronavirus-and-south-carolina-schools/south-carolina-department-of-education-face-covering-guidelines-for-k-12-public-schools/>).

To me, this allows you to amend the current requirements to align more closely with the state's guidelines for the remainder of this year.

While our policy is consistent in many ways with the state's guidelines, there are a few areas that I think you could change that would ease parent's concerns without placing our staff in harm's way, including:

- * Eliminate any requirement to wear masks outside unless done so while entering or exiting buses or buildings
- * Eliminate any requirement to wear masks during PE and any other physical activity within a facility where students can maintain a distance of 6 ft or more as determined by the teacher.
- * Student face coverings may be removed upon teacher or administrator direction while in the classroom or during special activities outside the classroom.
- * Allow (not require) teachers to use shields instead of masks when at least 6 ft from children and when teaching children with disabilities and young children learning to read

Also, while not a mask issue, with warm weather here and more known about virus transmission via surfaces, perhaps we could let children use playground equipment?

Thank you for the opportunity to share this. I look forward to your next update.

Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

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

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

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 12:03:34 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thank you, Mrs. Huddle.

We will use your suggestions to discuss Monday in Executive staff and again on Wednesday with our Reentry Committee.

I am not aware that masks influence receipt of state or federal funds. I need to check into that.

Today, of course, is our second vaccination event. We understand that it takes on average two weeks for the vaccine to be effective.

Your feedback provides us time that if we need to adjust the agenda for the 26th, we will have time 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 Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 11:17 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, As you're heard, there is a growing movement to "un mask". I understand that you are wisely following the SC DOE so that we do not risk CARES or other funding. In addition, in my personal opinion we should generally keep masks in place at least 3 weeks after the staff receive their second vaccine - which then puts us so close to the end of the school year that we wait to reevaluate the policy until the summer for 21-22.

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Also, while not a mask issue, with warm weather here and more known about virus transmission via surfaces, perhaps we could let children use playground equipment?

Thank you for the opportunity to share this. I look forward to your next update.

Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathv Huddle"

To: email: "[REDACTED] Valek"

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:10:20 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Jason, Per your request about the SCDE policy, here is an email that I sent Dr. Melton which includes the link.

Thanks,
Cathy

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 11:16 AM

Subject: Face Covering Policy

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton, As you've heard, there is a growing movement to "un mask". I understand that you are wisely following the SC DOE so that we do not risk CARES or other funding. In addition, in my personal opinion we should generally keep masks in place at least 3 weeks after the staff receive their second vaccine - which then puts us so close to the end of the school year that we wait to reevaluate the policy until the summer for 21-22.

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Also, while not a mask issue, with warm weather here and more known about virus transmission via surfaces, perhaps we could let children use playground equipment?

No subject

email: " ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Ken Loveless"
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 11:12:24 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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.

Attachments:

doc09681320210415092116.pdf 79k

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 11:30:29 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Dr. Melton,

As we discussed at the Officer's Meeting on Wednesday April 14, 2021, the officers placed on the agenda for you to invite SLED Agent Blake and his superior to appear in executive session during the April 26, 2021 board meeting. The document you gave to us above indicates continued administration involvement in a board investigation matter.

I wish to bring into focus one point of discussion from the Wednesday's meeting. Rather than seeking out Agent Blake and hand-delivering it, the party who has the newly discovered 2012 document clarifying the intent of those in authority at the time, plans to present Agent Blake and his superior with the document during the executive session.

Please copy us with SLED's response to the invitation to appear.

Respectfully,

Ken Loveless

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

From: **Ken Loveless** <
Date: Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 11:12 AM
Subject:
To: Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

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.

Attachments:

doc09681320210415092116.pdf 79k

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 6:30:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Matt and Cathy, please see attached an email 8 sent earlier.

Thanks

Ken

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

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

Date: Fri, Apr 16, 2021, 11:30 AM

Subject: Fwd:

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>, Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>, Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org>

Dr. Melton,

As we discussed at the Officer's Meeting on Wednesday April 14, 2021, the officers placed on the agenda for you to invite SLED Agent Blake and his superior to appear in executive session during the April 26, 2021 board meeting. The document you gave to us above indicates continued administration involvement in a board investigation matter.

I wish to bring into focus one point of discussion from the Wednesday's meeting. Rather than seeking out Agent Blake and hand-delivering it, the party who has the newly discovered 2012 document clarifying the intent of those in authority at the time, plans to present Agent Blake and his superior with the document during the executive session.

Please copy us with SLED's response to the invitation to appear.

Respectfully,

Ken Loveless

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

From: **Ken Loveless** 

Date: Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 11:12 AM

Subject:

To: Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org>

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.

Attachments:

doc09681320210415092116.pdf 79k

April 16, 2021 Weekly Update to the Board

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

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 3:57:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees.

Below is this week's update.

eLearning Days

Most eLearning days will be Asynchronous (independent) learning days due to the nature of the use of these days being emergency closures. On days with inclement weather, there is no guarantee that power and internet service will not be interrupted. In Synchronous (live) instruction, teachers and students would need to have uninterrupted internet service, which is not guaranteed with weather interruptions. Plus, students and staff need to be in a safe environment to be able to learn successfully. Asynchronous learning allows students 5 days upon return to school to complete assignments from an eLearning day. So interruptions are not a barrier to the completion of assignments as they would be in Synchronous. The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) oversees the eLearning project and they require districts to have Learning Management Systems for teachers to post assignments for students and they require districts to ensure that teachers have office hours for students to be able to contact them with questions as they arise. The need for eLearning days should be minimal, but we do have a plan for either Synchronous or Asynchronous learning on these days and that determination will be made each time. eLearning is an annual approval by the EOC. We have not received confirmation of this as an option for the coming academic year. I will keep you updated.

Second Vaccination Event

School District Five held the second of two COVID-19 vaccination events today (April 16) for staff members in our district. These events were in partnership with Lexington Medical Center, and we are so grateful for the work of the hospital staff and our staff who made this optional vaccine availability a success. Due to the success of these events in our district, Lexington Medical Center officials have expressed interest in hosting similar events for students in the future, if and when they are cleared to administer shots to younger populations. Though no formal partnership has been planned for possible student vaccination events at this time, we will continue to explore this opportunity.

Strategic Planning and School Renewal Updates

There have been several questions regarding the process and procedures for board approval of Strategic Planning and School Renewal updates.

To date, we have spoken to the South Carolina School Board Association and the South Carolina Department of Education staff directly involved with strategic planning processes and requirements. Both organizations agree that the local school board has a role in the approval of the Strategic Plan and its annual update. Both also agree that **the approval process is determined locally and likely differs by district across South Carolina**. Our process has followed expectations of previous School Boards of School District Five.

The District Strategic and School Renewal Plans must be updated by April 30th of each year. During the 2019-20 school year, schools and districts were allowed to delay their annual update to the state until April 30, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, the most recent plan submitted to the state is from the 2018-19 school year which was provided to you via an email from me on April 13. The review of the district strategic plan is near completion and on schedule for the April 30, 2021 deadline and input has been sought from stakeholder groups in a manner consistent with state guidance and previous practice.

District and school plans are **currently in the reporting phase** rather than their creation phase. The District Strategic and School Renewal Plans were developed following the 2014-15 reaccreditation review. We are now at the end of the current five-year cycle (which includes the delay as previously explained). A new needs assessment is being conducted that will allow the district to identify areas of strength as well as opportunities for improvement. Parents, teachers, staff, community members, and administrators are meeting in teams to review data related to the required areas of the strategic plan: school climate, student achievement, teacher/administrator quality, and gifted and talented. New goals will be developed based on this needs assessment. Following that stage, the district and schools will develop strategies and actions aligned to those goals.

A similar process will be used for the development of overall strategies that will assist the district in reaching its goals. District and school administrators are responsible for the development of the detailed action steps associated with the overall

strategies.

Due to questions and research, you will see on the April 26th agenda an item for approval of our current plan. It is my request that the board collectively decide what portions of the Strategic Plan and annual updates it desires to approve and what the anticipated process for approval will be with sensitivity to due dates and timelines required of School District Five.

Annual Report

South Carolina statute (Act 135 of 1993) requires each of the state's local School Improvement Councils (SICs) to publish and distribute a Report to the Parents by April 30 of each year. Those are updated on the state SIC site and posted on school websites. These "annual reports" are not required to be reviewed by the school board.

Chapin Sewer Tap Timeline

Attached is the timeline of events since the March 8 motion was made in regards to the Chapin sewer tap issues. A full report will be offered during Executive Session at the April 26 board meeting.

Inquiry Matters

The Inquiry Matters Conference continues to be a partnership between the University of South Carolina and School District Five through our innovative PDS-D (Professional Development School-District) initiative. Typically the conference is housed at Dutch Fork Elementary School and Irmo Middle School, but will be a virtual conference this year, with the plan of returning to an in-person conference next year. This inviting, informative, and inspiring conference is FREE and open to pre-service and in-service teachers from UofSC, UofSC-PDS, and Consortium for Inquiry-based Instruction sites. K-12 classroom teachers, students, and university partners will demonstrate the power of inquiry to enhance teaching and learning across grade levels, schools, and disciplines. Many School District Five staff members are presenters at the conference so teachers and college students across the state will learn from our teachers and staff.

Teacher Salary Comparisons/Teacher Incentives

The attached salary information was requested by the Board at the March 8, 2021 Board Meeting during Executive Session.

If you have any questions regarding this update, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you Monday evening, April 19.

Attachments:

Timeline for Sewer Tap Certificate Research 4-13-2021.docx 13k

Teacher Salary Comparisons _ Teacher Incentives - Neighboring Districts.pdf 39k

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

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 6:02:48 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, I was very surprised by the timeline you provided on the sewer taps as we discussed that it would be turned over to SLED and the administration would stop pursuing and let SLED handle it.

This is very disconcerting. I am quickly learning that the only way to ensure things happen as agreed is a very specific public motion and vote. I won't make that mistake again.

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 3:57 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees.

Below is this week's update.

eLearning Days

Most eLearning days will be Asynchronous (independent) learning days due to the nature of the use of these days being emergency closures. On days with inclement weather, there is no guarantee that power and internet service will not be interrupted. In Synchronous (live) instruction, teachers and students would need to have uninterrupted internet service, which is not guaranteed with weather interruptions. Plus, students and staff need to be in a safe environment to be able to

pre-service and in-service teachers from UofSC, UofSC-PDS, and Consortium for Inquiry-based Instruction sites. K-12 classroom teachers, students, and university partners will demonstrate the power of inquiry to enhance teaching and learning across grade levels, schools, and disciplines. Many School District Five staff members are presenters at the conference so teachers and college students across the state will learn from our teachers and staff.

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The attached salary information was requested by the Board at the March 8, 2021 Board Meeting during Executive Session.

If you have any questions regarding this update, please let me know. I look forward to seeing you Monday evening, April 19.

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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

Monday, April 19, 2021 at 9:56:31 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Mrs. Huddle,
I am confused as to what I did wrong. The administration hasn't influenced the agent's work but engagement was necessary. I had hoped the timeline would ease concerns that this item was taken with urgency.



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, Apr 16, 2021 at 6:03 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I was very surprised by the timeline you provided on the sewer taps as we discussed that it would be turned over to SLED and the administration would stop pursuing and let SLED handle it.

This is very disconcerting. I am quickly learning that the only way to ensure things happen as agreed is a very specific public motion and vote. I won't make that mistake again.

Thank-you,
Cathy

On Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 3:57 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees.

Below is this week's update.

Fwd: Invitation/Request

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, April 16, 2021 at 3:36:19 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond"

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Date: April 16, 2021 at 2:19:34 PM EDT
To: mkeel@sled.sc.gov, kblake@sled.sc.gov
Cc: Marty Rawls <mrawls@lexrich5.org>
Subject: Invitation/Request

Chief Keel and Agent Blake,

Thank you for assisting the administration of Lexington Richland School District 5 with the investigation into the unused Sewer Tap Certificates purchased by the District. The Officers of the Board of Trustees have requested to speak with Agent Blake during the Executive Session at their April 26, 2021 meeting to provide the results of your investigation.

Location and details can be provided if Agent Blake is available to attend.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

Review of legal bills at 4/26/2021

email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 7:50:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Dr. Melton,

I addition to the legal invoices requested earlier, we need to see these all invoices concerning this matter from Dan Neal, Montgomery and Quackenbush.

Thank you for your help,
Ken Loveless

Attachments:

Screenshot_20210417-074113_OneDrive.jpg 108k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, April 19, 2021 at 9:53:43 AM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"
Cc: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

This is to confirm receipt of your email with the attachment.
Mrs. Strange will coordinate the preparation of these documents.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Sat, Apr 17, 2021 at 7:50 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton,

I addition to the legal invoices requested earlier, we need to see these all invoices concerning this matter from Dan Neal, Montgomery and Quackenbush.

Thank you for your help,
Ken Loveless

Fwd: SCSBA Weekly Legislative Update

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Monday, April 19, 2021 at 3:09:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

Officers,

Mrs. Rawls and I discussed this morning the (April 26th) agenda item regarding budgeting for the coming fiscal year. Due to the information captured below, we will move the item from Discussion to my report. Until we have more information from the state, a discussion item would not be successful. We will keep you posted.



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: **South Carolina School Boards Association** <info@scsba.org>

Date: Mon, Apr 19, 2021 at 9:17 AM

Subject: SCSBA Weekly Legislative Update

To: <csmelton@lexrich5.org>



Monday, April 19, 2021

- Senate Finance Committee to finalize budget plan this week
- Bill to dissolve school boards in state takeover heads to full committee
- Clarendon consolidation bill signed into law

Senate Finance Committee to finalize budget plan this week

The Senate Finance Committee will likely complete work on its budget plan ([H.4100](#)) this week after finalizing its work this past week adopting new and amended budget provisos, including [K12 budget provisos](#). The committee is set to meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday. The Finance K12 Subcommittee adopted most of the House provisos including allowing retired teachers to return to work in response to the challenges of COVID-19 with no salary or retirement length restrictions.

Senate to decide fate of in-person instruction resolution

The Senate could take up its amended resolution ([S.704](#)) directing school districts to begin offering in-person, five-days-a-week instruction as early as Tuesday. After recalling the bill from committee this past week, the House voted to amend the bill by striking all of the provisions except the date when school districts must begin offering in-person instruction (no later than April 12). The House amendment changes the date for all districts to begin offering in-person, five-days-a-week instruction to April 26, 2021, and strikes other language in the bill including allowing teachers to return to work under certain conditions and prohibiting districts from assigning teachers to instruct students simultaneously in-person and virtually unless it is "reasonable and necessary due to extreme and unavoidable circumstances." The Senate can agree to the House's

changes, non-concur with the changes and amend the bill further. (*SCSBA supports concurring with the House amendments.*)

The Senate will also decide whether to adopt the conference committee report on the bill establishing the process and

this week

Tuesday, April 20

- 10 a.m., Senate Finance Committee will meet in Gressette room 105, [agenda](#), [live broadcast](#)
- Noon, Senate in session, [live broadcast](#)
- Noon, House in session, [live broadcast](#)
- 1 hour upon adjournment, House Early Childhood Education Subcommittee will meet in Blatt room 321, [agenda](#), [live broadcast](#)

Wednesday, April 21

- 9 a.m., Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children will meet in Blatt room 110, [agenda](#), [live broadcast](#)
- 1 hour upon adjournment, House

criteria for local school boards to create one or more of its schools as schools of innovation ([H.3589](#)). The House this past Thursday voted to adopt the report, which is a blend of both the House and Senate versions, to reach a compromise. Under the compromise, innovative schools are eligible to be exempt from certain state laws and regulations and local board policies if approved by two-thirds of the State Board of Education. The board must hold a public meeting to cite the laws, regulations and policies the school(s) will be exempt from adhering to and disclose the financial model to be used for the school. The exemption may be granted by the governing board of the district only if there is a two-thirds affirmative vote of the board for each exemption and an explanation of how the flexibility will support academic achievement for students and the Profile of the Graduate. Each school of innovation annually must demonstrate compliance by providing full financial statements detailing how it receives and expends funds and the academic achievement of its students. Finally, the bill clarifies that nothing in the law permits a local school district board of trustees to relinquish control or oversight of the schools.

Education and Public Works Committee will meet in Blatt room 433, [agenda](#), [live broadcast](#)

Thursday, April 22

- 10 a.m., Senate Education Subcommittee will meet in Gressette room 407, [agenda](#)



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Senate subcommittee to consider House computer science bill

The Senate K12 Education Subcommittee is scheduled on Thursday to take up the bill to enact the South Carolina Computer Science Education Initiative Act to expand and enhance computer science education in high schools ([H.3612](#)). Among other things, the bill directs each high school and public charter high school to offer at least one rigorous and standards-based computer science course no later than the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. The computer science course must meet the needs of diverse students who will pursue postsecondary education or who will enter careers in computing and information technology upon graduation and must be made available in a traditional classroom setting, in a dual-enrollment course, blended-learning environment, online-based, or other technology-based format tailored to meet the needs of each participating student. Information on computer science course offerings and student enrollment must be reflected on the annual high school report cards.

Homeschool participation bill ratified

The joint resolution waiving certain requirements that allow students who were homeschooled at the beginning of either the 2019-20 or 2020-2021 school years to participate in public school interscholastic activities and sports in 2021-22 and 2022-23 ([H.3925](#)) is on its way to the governor after being ratified by the House this past week. The requirements that students must have been taught in a home school setting for

a full academic year prior to participating in interscholastic activities of a public school district and the requirement that students in grades nine through 12 must achieve an overall passing average in at least four academic courses are waived for participation eligibility.

House committee to take up school board dissolution bill

The House Education and Public Works Committee on Wednesday is scheduled to take up the bill revising the state accountability system that dissolves duly elected boards in districts declared to be in a state of education emergency ([S.201](#)). The K12 subcommittee this past week amended the bill with much of the language the House passed in its bill that was sent to the Senate. This includes changing the definition of an underperforming school and district and a chronically underperforming school and district based on the percentage of students scoring “meets” or “exceeds” on the state’s standardized tests, adding as a criteria for the state superintendent to declare a state-of-education-emergency in a school or district as having an insufficient turnaround plan. The subcommittee kept the Senate language providing a process for a local board to appeal the declaration except they redefined the 10 days to appeal the decision as 10 business days and redefined a Chronically Unperforming District as underperforming for three consecutive years or five out of the last seven years.

The committee is to take up the following bills that were approved by the subcommittee:

- a bill to evaluate the state’s teacher preparation programs and develop and release an annual report of the South Carolina Teacher Preparation Report Card ([H.3591](#)).
- a bill revising the state assessment program to remove social studies subject tests in the grades 3 - 8, to direct certain diagnostic information be included in the assessments and to direct all high school students to take the ACT ([H.3592](#)).
- a bill prohibiting a school district from using debt collection agencies to collect or attempt to collect outstanding student debts on lunch or breakfast accounts and assessing or collecting any interest, fees or other penalties for outstanding debt ([H.3006](#)).
- a bill authorizing the governor to remove for cause school board members of charter schools and provides a process for filling vacant seats and removing the state charter school district from these provisions ([S.607](#)).

House subcommittee passes K12 regulations

The House Education and Public Works Regulations and

Administrative Procedures Subcommittee approved the following proposed [State Board of Education Regulations](#):

- Document 4980, amending the Transfers and Withdrawals regulation to clarify how districts should treat the evidence of work provided by students who desire to transfer from a home school association to a public school.
- Document 4981, amending the Minimum Standards of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Enforcement Procedures regulation to identify “sexting” as a Level II disciplinary infraction and distinguish it from the “illegal use of technology” that is currently addressed in the regulation.
- Document 4991, amending Credential Classification to include proviso language and longstanding department policy that an educator earning a master’s degree with 60 or more semester hours of graduate course work is eligible for the master’s plus 30 credential classification. Amendments also address longstanding department policy regarding the eligibility of an educator who earns a single master’s degree containing at least 51 graduate semester hours to complete additional courses to equal 60 or more graduate semester hours to remain eligible for the master’s plus 30 credential classification.

Governor signs bill consolidating Clarendon County districts

A bill to consolidate the soon-to-be Clarendon County School District Four, which is the consolidation of Clarendon School Districts One and Three, and Manning-based Clarendon School District Two ([S.648](#)), was signed into law April 12 by Gov. Henry McMaster. The consolidation of all three districts will become effective by July 1, 2022, and will be known as Clarendon County School District. The district will be governed by a nine-member board of trustees initially appointed by the Clarendon delegation before the board members are elected from a single-member election district by the beginning of 2024. The bill also states that board members must be “elected in unbiased elections conducted at the same time as the 2024 general election and every four years after” and that the school district will have total fiscal autonomy by 2024.

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Fwd: Urgent Matter at CES!!!

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

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7:21:14 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Track this for me

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Date: April 22, 2021 at 7:20:55 AM EDT
To: [REDACTED] Michael Harris <mrharris@lexrich5.org>
Cc: jhammond@lexrich5.org, kloveless@lexrich5.org, ngardner@lexrich5.org, Rhines@lexrich5.org, mhogan@lexrich5.org, chuddle@lexrich5.org, ewhite@lexrich5.org
Subject: Re: Urgent Matter at CES!!!

[REDACTED]
Dr. Harris , Chief of Planning and Administration, will contact you today. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

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

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 21, 2021, at 10:46 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hello Dr. Melton and School Board,

My name is [REDACTED], my son, [REDACTED] is in first grade at Chapin Elementary School. This past Wednesday, April 14th 2021 my son [REDACTED] came home telling me about a child in (what he believes to be) second or third grade followed him and another child in his class, into the bathroom in the cafeteria and the child pulled down his pants and exposed himself and also talked to my son and this other boy about it. He was only able to give 3 details about the child. He told me that he told his teacher [REDACTED] as soon as it happened and she then told them to go to a different bathroom.

I proceeded then to call the school and speak to [REDACTED]. The first question was "was there any touching". I then told him that there was no touching and that I don't believe that to make much difference, it is still inappropriate and made my son feel very uncomfortable. He asked for my permission to pull my son the next day to question him and told me he was gonna pull the footage off the cameras facing those bathrooms and I gave him the timeframe that it would have been between 12-2:30 and said if he talked to [REDACTED] he could probably break it down even more for him. He then said I would hear from him about the next steps shortly after. I waited all day and decided to go in around 1:30 when I would be getting in the car line, just to check on things. He then invited me back to his office and told me he had spoken to [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] told him the same 3 details he told me 1. the kid was older 2. he had glasses and 3. he was wearing orange crocs. I then voiced my concern on the lack of communication and lack of protocol, as to why when my son told his teacher no one else was notified, including myself. He apologized for the lack of protocol and said he would be addressing it with the teachers. He said he had talked to [REDACTED] her comment about it all was "yes they did come to me, but I was unaware of what to do with the information" I also asked him if the other student that was with my son's parents had been contacted yet. He told me that from what he understood that this other child was in a stall when it happened. He then told me that he is unable to pull the footage from the cameras because it is "live feed" but assured me he was doing everything he could to figure out who the other kid is. He told me he spoke to the gym teachers to see if anyone had worn orange crocs to class that day and that they both had told him they didn't notice anything and gave him the names of the teachers that they had during that time. So we finished our conversation and I felt very uneasy. So I asked [REDACTED] if the other classmate was in the stall when it happened and he told me that no he was not and that he was standing right next to him. So I emailed [REDACTED] and told him what [REDACTED] said and expressed how important I felt it was for him to reach out to the other students' parents and let them know what happened. He then emailed me back and said he did reach out and the other student gave the same description of the child but didn't see anything on the child. Shortly after getting his email back I also received an email from [REDACTED] apologizing for not contacting me, that she "didn't realize the extent of it".

One thing about my conversation with [REDACTED] still was not sitting right with me though, Something that just didn't sound right. So I started doing some digging and came across [REDACTED] Contact information on the district website. So I called him just to ask him the simple question "are the cameras only live feed, or is there saved footage" which then he told me that they are not live feed, and that unless a camera is down, there is footage that could have been pulled to find this kid. I was planning on giving [REDACTED] until Friday before I followed back up with him and brought this up to him. But then there was tonight when I ran into One of the PE teachers outside of school at our son's sporting events. I came out and asked her if [REDACTED] did actually question her about "the kid in orange crocs" like he said he already had done. She had absolutely no idea what I was talking about and told me that she herself was never questioned about this at all. She had no idea this even happened.

So I am done going to [REDACTED] just to have him lie to my face. As a parent it is very unsettling to feel like my child is not safe even at school, because stuff is not taken seriously. I hope by reaching out to you that I will not have to go elsewhere to get my voice heard. And that something can be done about this. Because as a parent i would want to know if this was my child doing this so I could explain to him that it's not ok and that when getting older it can have way more extreme consequences.

Thank you so much for taking your time to read this email, I know it was very lengthy. But I hope that I can get your help in figuring all of this out.

I look forward to hearing from you.

You can either email me back or if you prefer to call my number is [REDACTED]

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

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

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 10:12:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time

I appreciate your concerns and Dr. Melton's staff will be contacting you.

Sincerely.

Jan Hammond.

On Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 7:20 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

[REDACTED]
Dr. Harris , Chief of Planning and Administration, will contact you today. Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Christina S. Melton , Ed.D.

Superintendent of School District 5 of Lexington & Richland Counties

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 21, 2021, at 10:46 PM [REDACTED] wrote:

>

Information on Cenergistic

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 4:09:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Dr. Melton, I saw this item on the agenda and would like some additional information prior to Monday's meeting:

A copy of our contract with Cenergistic
 Copy of the RFP and how and when it was advertised
 Copy of Cenergistic's bid
 Copy of any RFIs or other materials on how the RFP was developed
 Our average monthly cost and the date/month payments began

I understand their purpose on the agenda may be a new arrangement but I am asking for this information so I can better understand our existing arrangement.

Thank-you,
 Cathy

--
 Catherine Huddle
 Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 4:21:02 PM Eastern Daylight 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

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 4:09 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, I saw this item on the agenda and would like some additional information prior to Monday's meeting:

A copy of our contract with Cenergistic
 Copy of the RFP and how and when it was advertised
 Copy of Cenergistic's bid

Copy of any RFIs or other materials on how the RFP was developed
Our average monthly cost and the date/month payments began

I understand their purpose on the agenda may be a new arrangement but I am asking for this information so I can better understand our existing arrangement.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Fwd: Nautical Notes: Week of April 26-April 30

email: "kreese@lexrich5.org Kelly Reese"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 5:35:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Good afternoon, Dr. Melton!

Per your request, I am forwarding my weekly email to parents. Page 3 of Nautical Notes spotlights our teachers' grant award.

Have a great weekend!

Kelly

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

From: **Lake Murray Elementary** <noreply@lexrich5.org>
Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 5:31 PM
Subject: Nautical Notes: Week of April 26-April 30
To: <kreese@lexrich5.org>

Good afternoon, LMES Families!

Please see [Nautical Notes](#) for updated information. Have a great weekend!

Kelly Reese, Principal

kreese@lexrich5.org

--

Kelly Reese, Principal
Lake Murray Elementary School
School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties
(803) 476-4600 | kreese@lexrich5.org



email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:18:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond"

LMES Paddling for Teachers Update

**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: **Kelly Reese** <kreese@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 5:36 PM

Subject: Fwd: Nautical Notes: Week of April 26-April 30

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Good afternoon, Dr. Melton!

Per your request, I am forwarding my weekly email to parents. Page 3 of Nautical Notes spotlights our teachers' grant award.

Have a great weekend!

Kelly

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Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 5:31 PM

Subject: Nautical Notes: Week of April 26-April 30

To: <kreese@lexrich5.org>

Good afternoon, LMES Families!

Please see [Nautical Notes](#) for updated information. Have a great weekend!

Kelly Reese, Principal

kreese@lexrich5.org

Fwd: Cenergistic

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

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 9:32:50 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Mrs. Huddle,
I hope this information is responsive to your requests. I will forward this to the Board following this message.



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: **Marty Rawls** <mrawls@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 8:45 AM

Subject: Cenergistic

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Todd Bedenbaugh <tbedenba@lexrich5.org>, Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Please see the attachments based on Ms. Huddle's request.

1. Presentation made to the Board by Cenergistic - June 2017 - information only
2. Contract signed with Cenergistic - August 2017
3. 1st Payment Documentation - August 2018
4. Current Year payments with monthly average documented

There was no RFP completed.



Marty Rawls

Chief Financial Officer

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8130

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Attachments:**June 2017 Board Presentation.pdf** 601k**SD Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, SC - K12 TK MES 5yr CONTRACT v.3 080817_170901 start_signed 170811.pdf** 568k**Documentation of 1st Payment August 2018.pdf** 70k**2020-2021 payments with average.pdf** 27k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 9:34:17 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

This message is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees.

Below is information requested regarding the Cenergistic report included under my report for Monday night.

This information is in response to questions received yesterday.

**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 -----

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Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 8:45 AM

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To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>Cc: Todd Bedenbaugh <tbedenba@lexrich5.org>, Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

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Marty Rawls**Chief Financial Officer**

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties



office: 803.476.8130

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Attachments:

June 2017 Board Presentation.pdf 601k

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Documentation of 1st Payment August 2018.pdf 70k

2020-2021 payments with average.pdf 27k

Face Covering Policy and Graduation

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

Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 11:15:59 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, Please provide an update on this during your superintendent's report at Monday's meeting. Also, as you know, many parents are asking for more tickets for outdoors graduation so an update on that would also be appreciated.

Thank you,
Cathy

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

From: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Date: Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 12:04 PM
Subject: Re: Face Covering Policy
To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>
CC: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Thank you, Mrs. Huddle.

We will use your suggestions to discuss Monday in Executive staff and again on Wednesday with our Reentry Committee.

I am not aware that masks influence receipt of state or federal funds. I need to check into that.

Today, of course, is our second vaccination event. We understand that it takes on average two weeks for the vaccine to be effective.

Your feedback provides us time that if we need to adjust the agenda for the 26th, we will have time 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 Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 11:17 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, As you're heard, there is a growing movement to "un mask". I understand that you are wisely following the SC DOE so that we do not risk CARES or other funding. In addition, in my personal opinion we should generally keep masks in place at least 3 weeks after the staff receive their second vaccine - which then puts us so close to the end of the school year that we wait to reevaluate the policy until the summer for 21-22.

That said, If we could relax the current guidelines and still meet SCDOE guidelines, I would like to consider doing so.

Our policy provides The board authorizes the superintendent or his/her designee to amend these requirements as necessary to meet health and safety guidelines. I also reviewed the state's guidelines (<https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/covid-19-coronavirus-and-south-carolina-schools/south-carolina-department-of-education-face-covering-guidelines-for-k-12-public-schools/>).

To me, this allows you to amend the current requirements to align more closely with the state's guidelines for the remainder of this year.

While our policy is consistent in many ways with the state's guidelines, there are a few areas that I think you could change that would ease parent's concerns without placing our staff in harm's way, including:

- * Eliminate any requirement to wear masks outside unless done so while entering or exiting buses or buildings
- * Eliminate any requirement to wear masks during PE and any other physical activity within a facility where students can maintain a distance of 6 ft or more as determined by the teacher.
- * Student face coverings may be removed upon teacher or administrator direction while in the classroom or during special activities outside the classroom.
- * Allow (not require) teachers to use shields instead of masks when at least 6 ft from children and when teaching children with disabilities and young children learning to read

Also, while not a mask issue, with warm weather here and more known about virus transmission via surfaces, perhaps we could let children use playground equipment?

Thank you for the opportunity to share this. I look forward to your next update.

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, April 26, 2021 at 9:37:44 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Yes ma'am.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Sat, Apr 24, 2021 at 11:16 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thank you,
Cathy

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Date: Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 12:04 PM

Subject: Re: Face Covering Policy

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

CC: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

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Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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- * Eliminate any requirement to wear masks during PE and any other physical activity within a facility where students can maintain a distance of 6 ft or more as determined by the teacher.
- * Student face coverings may be removed upon teacher or administrator direction while in the classroom or during special activities outside the classroom.
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Also, while not a mask issue, with warm weather here and more known about virus transmission via surfaces, perhaps we could let children use playground equipment?

Thank you for the opportunity to share this. I look forward to your next update.

Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Graduation

email: [REDACTED] Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 5:12:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org"

I am writing to see if D5 plans to increase the number of graduation tickets per student from 4 to 6 as other districts in our area have done? With the decrease in CDC guidelines for social distancing, I would hope that D5 will join other districts and allow for more family members to attend graduation!

Thank you,
 Karen Rayburn

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond" Sunday, April 25, 2021 at 5:24:05 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 To: email: [REDACTED]
 Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org", email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org"

I think that's a good idea and that is the desire of some on our board. I have asked Dr. Melton to speak to that Monday night in her presentation. Thank you for reaching out to us and I certainly will advocate for the number of seats to be increased.

Sincerely, Jan Hammond

On Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 5:12 PM Karen Rayburn [REDACTED] > wrote:

I am writing to see if D5 plans to increase the number of graduation tickets per student from 4 to 6 as other districts in our area have done? With the decrease in CDC guidelines for social distancing, I would hope that D5 will join other districts and allow for more family members to attend graduation!

Thank you,

Karen Rayburn

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:43:10 PM Eastern Daylight Time
 To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"
 Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed 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"

Chair Hammond and Others,

I understand the number of tickets to attend graduation is of concern to some based upon our emails. I hope tonight we can assist with your understanding and that of our community that the number of our tickets is inclusive of CDC, DHEC and also other operational issues unique to District Five. It is my goal to provide you information for your understanding of variables that we as a staff are responsible for that attendees are not likely to consider. Our staff has been working on graduation details for several months already. I assure you, this is not a last minute project that we are leading.

I look forward to the conversation this 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

On Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 5:24 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

I think that's a good idea and that is the desire of some on our board. I have asked Dr. Melton to speak to that Monday night in her presentation. Thank you for reaching out to us and I certainly will advocate for the number of seats to be increased.

Sincerely,

Jan Hammond

On Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 5:12 PM Karen Rayburn <kayburn@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Thank you,

Karen Rayburn

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:54:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Cc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Ed 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 for the update.

On Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 12:43 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Chair Hammond and Others,

I understand the number of tickets to attend graduation is of concern to some based upon our emails. I hope tonight we can assist with your understanding and that of our community that the number of our tickets is inclusive of CDC, DHEC and also other operational issues unique to District Five. It is my goal to provide you information for your understanding of variables that we as a staff are responsible for that attendees are not likely to consider. Our staff has been working on graduation details for several months already. I assure you, this is not a last minute project that we are leading. I look forward to the conversation this evening.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Sincerely,

Jan Hammond

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Thank you,

Karen Rayburn

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

To: email: [REDACTED] Rayburn"

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 8:37:36 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Ms. Rayburn, Thank you for your email. This topic was discussed extensively at last night's board meeting and I am hopeful that the administration is exploring options to be able to increase the number of attendees and develop a "ticketing" or other system that will let families share unneeded tickets with other families.

Thank you,
Catherine Huddle

On Sun, Apr 25, 2021 at 5:12 PM Karen Rayburn <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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Thank you,

Karen Rayburn

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "b...@lexrich5.org" Karen Rayburn
To: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org" Cathy Huddle"

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 10:48:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Thank you for responding. If "they" can do it for football games, they can do it for graduation! Hopefully the right decision will be made!

On Apr 27, 2021, at 8:37 AM, Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Ms. Rayburn, Thank you for your email. This topic was discussed extensively at last night's board meeting and I am hopeful that the administration is exploring options to be able to increase the number of attendees and develop a "ticketing" or other system that will let families share unneeded tickets with other families.

Thank you,
Catherine Huddle

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Thank you,

Karen Rayburn

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Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:21:56 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Will there be a special meeting to address the governor's statement and how will this impact graduation? We need to remove the restrictions on graduation and make masks a choice now rather than later! Families need time to notify other family members if they will be able to attend. Families, like mine, have

grandparents who live out of state and plan vacations around this milestone. It is not right to make families wait until the last minute! Do the right thing now!

Thank you,
Karen

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I think that's a good idea and that is the desire of some on our board. I have asked Dr. Melton to speak to that Monday night in her presentation. Thank you for reaching out to us and I certainly will advocate for the number of seats to be increased.

Sincerely,

Jan Hammond

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Thank you,

Karen Rayburn

email: "chuddell@lexrich5.org Cathy 'C' Chudde" [REDACTED]
To: email: [REDACTED] Karen Rayburn"

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:26:54 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Ms. Rayburn, Thank you for your email.

Regarding Masks: I too saw the governor's statement yesterday. Prior to his statement I felt that we were in a bit of a predicament because board policy requires a minimum 2 readings at 2 separate regular meetings to change a policy. In my personal opinion, the governor's statement could be used to designate the situation as an emergency (our policy now conflicts with the governor's directive) and therefore a temporary repeal could be made at 1 regular or special meeting. Our next regular meeting is May 10th. Yesterday I sent an email to board chair Hammond and Dr. Melton asking them to schedule a special meeting or at least put it on the 5/10 agenda. I do not have the power to force a special meeting or an agenda item but I have made the request.

Regarding Graduation: Unlike face coverings, which is a Board Policy and therefore the providence of the board, graduation attendance procedures are not covered by board policy and fall completely under the direction of the superintendent. Since you included her in your email, I expect you will hear back from her on that matter.

Thank-you,
Catherine Huddle

On Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 10:21 AM Karen Rayburn <[REDACTED]> wrote:

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Thank you,

Karen Rayburn

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Fwd: D5 Foundation grant recipient information

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:15:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond"

During our last Officers meeting, the request to publicize Paddling For Teachers was shared.

Below is a follow up from Mrs. Bright, Principal of BES. I commend BES for three different highlights dating back to January.

Please note the blue hyperlink near the bottom.



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: **Robin Bright** <rbright@lexrich5.org>

Date: Sat, Apr 24, 2021 at 3:36 PM

Subject: D5 Foundation grant recipient information

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Good afternoon,

As requested I am sending you the documentation of promoting the grant we received from the D5 Foundation.

We first advertised the grant back in January - before the "official" picture was taken. Here are the snapshots from the school newsletter (Jan 11) and social media (Jan 28.).


Jan 11 - newsletter.jpg


Jan 28 - social media.jpg

We advertised again in February in the school newsletter. Here is the snapshot from that.

Feb 1 - newsletter.jpg

We re-ran the grant info this week with the specific photograph and wording recently provided by Katrina. [Here is the link to that newsletter](#) and the social media post below (April 20.)

 April 20 - social media.jpg



Have a great weekend!

Robin

Attachments:

Jan 11 - newsletter.jpg 41k

Feb 1 - newsletter.jpg 47k

Jan 28 - social media.jpg 133k

April 20 - social media.jpg 130k

Meeting Tonight

email: "ewhite@lexrich5.org Edward White"

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 3:43:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Jan,

I have project deadlines that are going to keep me at the office late and cannot make the meeting tonight.

Thanks,

Ed

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 3:43:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

Ok, thanks for letting me know.

On Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 3:43 PM Edward White <ewhite@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Jan,

I have project deadlines that are going to keep me at the office late and cannot make the meeting tonight.

Thanks,

Ed

Fwd: Irmo High School Weekly "Buzz" Newsletter April 23rd

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:16:31 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless" , email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond"

An IHS update re: Paddling for Teachers.



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: **Robin Hardy** <rlhardy@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 5:08 PM

Subject: Fwd: Irmo High School Weekly "Buzz" Newsletter April 23rd

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Dear Dr. Melton,

Note our school newsletter content below.

With Irmo Pride,

Dr. Robin L. Hardy, Proud Principal

Irmo High School International School for the Arts

803.476.3010 (school)

803.237.3411 (cell)



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

From: **Notification from Irmo High School** <noreply@lexrich5.org>

Date: Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 5:01 PM

Subject: Irmo High School Weekly "Buzz" Newsletter April 23rd

To: <rlhardy@lexrich5.org>

Dear Yellow Jacket Families!

In response to feedback from staff and parents, we are moving The Buzz publishing date back to Fridays. We hope you enjoy this week's edition. It is packed full of student and staff highlights as well as useful exam information. Have a great weekend!

<https://www.smores.com/f8aye>

Brick stain or brick supplier's warranties... Chapin High School 2008 Bond Referendum Renovations and Additions

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

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 11:11:12 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton,
Please ask Mr. Cannon to bring a copy of all above warranties in his pos to the meeting tonight.
Thank you in advance,
Ken Loveless

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

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:17:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Mr. Loveless,
I will see if Mr. Cannon can have this information prepared for this evening. If we are not able to have it prepared for tonight, I will forward this email 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 Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 11:12 AM Kenneth Loveless <kloveless@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton,
Please ask Mr. Cannon to bring a copy of all above warranties in his pos to the meeting tonight.
Thank you in advance,
Ken Loveless

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

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 2:04:28 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Mr. Loveless,
In an effort to keep you updated, Mr. Cannon will try to pull this information before the Board Meeting. Some of this information dates back to the settlement agreements that the district entered into with China Construction so it may require more time than he can provide for this project 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 Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 12:17 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mr. Loveless,

I will see if Mr. Cannon can have this information prepared for this evening. If we are not able to have it prepared for tonight, I will forward this email as soon as possible.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Dr. Melton,

Please ask Mr. Cannon to bring a copy of all above warranties in his pos to the meeting tonight.

Thank you in advance,

Ken Loveless

Additional Information Needed for Board Packet/Tonight's Meeting

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

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

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

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 9:57:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, Can you please provide some additional information for tonight's meeting:

- 1) The estimated fees to be paid to Burr & Forman, Compass Municipal Advisors and Amtec (presented individually) and any other costs associated with issuing the refunding bonds.
- 2) The actual full 20-21 District Strategic Plan to be submitted to the state and the most recent previous full District Strategic Plan submitted to the state.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

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

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

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 10:58:57 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Mrs. Huddle,
I am in Executive Staff now.

Mrs. Rawls will search for item #1 following our meeting. Anything readily available will be forwarded this afternoon. If we cannot pull this information for this evening, this information will be forwarded upon collection.

Erin,
Please resend the full strategic plan. Mr. Holden can assist with information you may not have readily available regarding number 2.

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, Apr 26, 2021 at 9:57 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:
Dr. Melton, Can you please provide some additional information for tonight's meeting:

- 1) The estimated fees to be paid to Burr & Forman, Compass Municipal Advisors and Amtec (presented individually) and any other costs associated with issuing the refunding bonds.
- 2) The actual full 20-21 District Strategic Plan to be submitted to the state and the most recent previous full District Strategic Plan submitted to the state.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--
Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

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

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:12:49 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Good morning,

The documents in response to Mrs. Huddle's item #2 shown below are attached.

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

On Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:59 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Huddle,
I am in Executive Staff now.

Mrs. Rawls will search for item #1 following our meeting. Anything readily available will be forwarded this afternoon. If we cannot pull this information for this evening, this information will be forwarded upon collection.

Erin,

Please resend the full strategic plan. Mr. Holden can assist with information you may not have readily available regarding number 2.



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

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Dr. Melton, Can you please provide some additional information for tonight's meeting:

- 1) The estimated fees to be paid to Burr & Forman, Compass Municipal Advisors and Amtec (presented individually) and any other costs associated with issuing the refunding bonds.
- 2) The actual full 20-21 District Strategic Plan to be submitted to the state and the most recent previous full District Strategic Plan submitted to the state.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle

Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:**District Strategic Plan - 4-30-2019.pdf** 3.0M**District Strategic Plan - 4-26-2021 Draft.pdf** 2.6M

email: "estrangle@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 12:19:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

Bcc: email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org"

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

Good afternoon,

In response to Mrs. Huddle's item #1, below is Mrs. Rawls response as well as an attachment for your information.

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

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

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

Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 12:09 PM

Subject: Fwd: Additional Information Needed for Board Packet/Tonight's Meeting

To: Erin Strange <estrangle@lexrich5.org>

Erin,
Please forward response to Mrs. Huddle's first question.



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: **Marty Rawls** <mrawls@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 11:57 AM

Subject: Re: Additional Information Needed for Board Packet/Tonight's Meeting

To: Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

AMTEC costs are incurred as issuances are checked for compliance with Arbitrage Calculations. This will be completed regardless of whether or not the issuance is refunded.

The \$284,000 issuance costs are included in the Par Amount of the Bonds. Therefore, the savings realized is net of the Cost of Issuance. The amount of savings from interest payments is **substantial** as compared to these costs.

Marty

On Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:59 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: **Christina Melton** <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:58 AM

Subject: Re: Additional Information Needed for Board Packet/Tonight's Meeting

To: Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Cc: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>

Mrs. Huddle,

I am in Executive Staff now.

Mrs. Rawls will search for item #1 following our meeting. Anything readily available will be forwarded this afternoon. If we cannot pull this information for this evening, this information will be forwarded upon collection.

Erin,

Please resend the full strategic plan. Mr. Holden can assist with information you may not have readily available regarding number 2.



Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 9:57 AM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Dr. Melton, Can you please provide some additional information for tonight's meeting:

- 1) The estimated fees to be paid to Burr & Forman, Compass Municipal Advisors and Amtec (presented individually) and any other costs associated with issuing the refunding bonds.
- 2) The actual full 20-21 District Strategic Plan to be submitted to the state and the most recent previous full District Strategic Plan submitted to the state.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Attachments:

Refunding Bond Issuance Costs - 2012B.pdf 161k

This ain't it folks!!!

email: [REDACTED] Jason Valek"

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 3:58:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org"

Cc: email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "Chuddle@lexrich5.org", email:

"Kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "Ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org", email: [REDACTED]@lexrich5.com
Jennifer Valek"

Good Afternoon Dr Melton,

Pride in 5!!! Catchy slogan and hopefully still means something as I hold this school system near and dear to my heart as do many and we expect the absolute best as this expectation has spanned many decades in our community.

We have a situation that has arose from last nights meeting regarding the Superintendents Advisory group on masks. There is an individual, [REDACTED] on the panel that represents the interest of my child that believes Roman Polanski should be cleared of his charges (See Attached). It's sick on the surface and even sicker that this person has any oversight over my child and decisions made that impact him, not to mention the other 17k+/- in D5.

A quick google search would also show some past discretions that are not representative of D5's mission and aim regardless of innocence or guilt.

Im calling for immediate removal of this individual from this committee and from any future considerations for alliance or affiliation with D5 governance and oversight. I am dismayed as are many that this oversight has occurred.

I have attached some items for your review and I look forward to a speedy and emphatic ending to this issues.

Kindest regards,

Attachments:

image0.png 594k

image1.jpeg 247k

image4.jpeg 319k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:17:43 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: [REDACTED] Jason Valek"

Cc: email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond", email:

"Chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "Kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "Ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: [REDACTED] m Jennifer Valek"

Mr. Valek,

Your email which includes three attachments has been received and will be reviewed appropriately.

Thank you for bringing this to my attention.

Jason Valek

Sent from my iPhone

email: "[REDACTED]" Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:29:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "[REDACTED]"
Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org", email: "[REDACTED] Jennifer Valek"

Jason,

Thank you for speaking out. So many people are stunned by this highly inappropriate choice. It is clear there was a gross oversight in the vetting of this candidate.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 27, 2021, at 3:58 PM, Jason Valek wrote:

>

> Good Afternoon Dr Melton,

>

> Pride in 5!!! Catchy slogan and hopefully still means something as I hold this school system near and dear to my heart as do many and we expect the absolute best as this expectation has spanned many decades in our community.

>

> We have a situation that has arose from last nights meeting regarding the Superintendents Advisory group on masks. There is an individual, [REDACTED] on the panel that represents the interest of my child that believes Roman Polanski should be cleared of his charges (See Attached). It's sick on the surface and even sicker that this person has any oversight over my child and decisions made that impact him, not to mention the other 17k+/- in D5.

>

> A quick google search would also show some past discretions that are not representative of D5's mission and aim regardless of innocence or guilt.

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> Im calling for immediate removal of this individual from this committee and from any future considerations for alliance or affiliation with D5 governance and oversight. I am dismayed as are many that this oversight has occurred.

>

> I have attached some items for your review and I look forward to a speedy and emphatic ending to this issues.

>

> Kindest regards,

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>
> Jason Valek
>
> Sent from my iPhone

email: [REDACTED] **anna Booth** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 5:33:02 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: [REDACTED] Jason Valek"
Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "chudc'le@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org", email: [REDACTED] Jennifer Valek"

Jason,

I, too, was deeply disturbed to see [REDACTED] me on the list, as I had been made aware of these indiscretions many months ago. For him to be the only parent chosen to serve on a committee that will be tasked with ESSER fund planning (most notably with Loss of Learning initiatives), that is troubling at best.

Dr. Melton, please heed the advice and urging of Mr. Valek and replace [REDACTED] with someone else in the community with loftier morals and the betterment of our children at top of mind (instead of political posturing).

Juli Booth
[REDACTED]

> On Apr 27, 2021, at 3:58 PM, Jason Valek wrote:
>
> Good Afternoon Dr Melton,
>
> Pride in 5!!! Catchy slogan and hopefully still means something as I hold this school system near and dear to my heart as do many and we expect the absolute best as this expectation has spanned many decades in our community.
>
> We have a situation that has arose from last night's meeting regarding the Superintendents Advisory group on masks. There is an individual, [REDACTED] on the panel that represents the interest of my child that believes Roman Polanski should be cleared of his charges (See Attached). It's sick on the surface and even sicker that this person has any oversight over my child and decisions made that impact him, not to mention the other 17k+/- in D5.
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> I have attached some items for your review and I look forward to a speedy and emphatic ending to this

issues.

>

> Kindest regards,

>

Attachments:

image0.png 594k

image1.jpeg 247k

image4.jpeg 319k

email: [REDACTED] Jason Valek"

Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 11:39:29 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: [REDACTED] Amye Hawkins"

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org" , email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org" , email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org" , email:

"Chuddle@lexrich5.org" , email: "Kloveless@lexrich5.org" , email: "Ngardner@lexrich5.org" , email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org" ,

email: [REDACTED] Jennifer Valek"

Greetings,

Just following up to see if remedy had been sought in regards to the attachments I had previously sent concerning potential pedo innuendos and D5 committee appointees

Many thanks

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 27, 2021, at 4:30 PM, Amye Hawkins wrote:

>

> Jason,

>

> Thank you for speaking out. So many people are stunned by this highly inappropriate choice. It is clear there was a gross oversight in the vetting of this candidate.

>

> Amye Hawkins

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Apr 27, 2021, at 3:58 PM, Jason Valek wrote:

>>

>> Good Afternoon Dr Melton,

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>> I have attached some items for your review and I look forward to a speedy and emphatic ending to this issues.

>>

>> Kindest regards,

>>

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>>

>> Jason Valek

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

email: '[REDACTED] Jason Valek'

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:12:22 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: '[REDACTED] Amy Hawkins'

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org", email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org", email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org", email:

"Chuddle@lexrich5.org", email: "Kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "Ngardner@lexrich5.org", email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org",

email: '[REDACTED] Jennifer Valek'

Good Morning Dr Melton

Last nights public participation reminded me I had not heard remedy or resolution on this issue despite subsequent follow ups attempts.

Last night [REDACTED] andering reminded me to check the status of my initial request where he was a representative of our district on the Superintendents Advisory Committee.

I had previously supplied several pictures to illustrate my concern that a representative of our district supports a know pedophile and fugitive from justice. I desperately hope this isn't ok in a community that serves 16,800 +/- children daily

Look forward to hearing from you

Thanks for your time

Jason Valek

Sent from my iPhone

> On Apr 27, 2021, at 4:30 PM, Amye Hawkins wrote:

>

> Jason,

>

> Thank you for speaking out. So many people are stunned by this highly inappropriate choice. It is clear there was a gross oversight in the vetting of this candidate.

>

> Amye Hawkins

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Apr 27, 2021, at 3:58 PM, Jason Valek wrote:

>>

>> Good Afternoon Dr Melton,

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>> We have a situation that has arose from last nights meeting regarding the Superintendents Advisory group on masks. There is an individual [REDACTED] on the panel that represents the interest of my child that believes Roman Polanski should be cleared of his charges (See Attached). It's sick on the surface and even sicker that this person has any oversight over my child and decisions made that impact him, not to mention the other 17k+/- in D5.

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>> Kindest regards,

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email: [REDACTED] Jason Valek"

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:17:47 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org" , email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org" , email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org" , email:

"Chuddle@lexrich5.org" , email: "Kloveless@lexrich5.org" , email: "Ngardner@lexrich5.org" , email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org" ,

email: [REDACTED] Jennifer Valek"

Good Morning Dr Melton

What time do you have availability to discuss this item in person or via phone? I can make myself available at anytime over the next three days as email correspondence and response seems not to be working thus far.

Thank you and I look forward to a response

>>>
 >>> Im calling for immediate removal of this individual from this committee and from any future considerations for alliance or affiliation with D5 governance and oversight. I am dismayed as are many that this oversight has occurred.
 >>>
 >>> I have attached some items for your review and I look forward to a speedy and emphatic ending to this issues.
 >>>
 >>> Kindest regards,
 >>>
 >>>
 >>>
 >>>
 >>>
 >>>
 >>> Jason Valek
 >>>
 >>> Sent from my iPhone
 >

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 9:05:19 AM Eastern Daylight Time
 To: email: [REDACTED] Jason Valek", email: "tturner@lexrich5.org Tamara Turner", email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"
 Cc: email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond", email: "Chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "Kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "Ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "[REDACTED] Jennifer Valek"

Mr. Valek,
 I've included Dr. Turner in this reply. Mrs. Strange will give you a call today to coordinate a time.



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, May 26, 2021 at 7:17 AM Jason Valek [REDACTED] wrote:

Good Morning Dr Melton

What time do you have availability to discuss this item in person or via phone? I can make myself available at anytime over the next three days as email correspondence and response seems not to be

>>>

>>> I have attached some items for your review and I look forward to a speedy and emphatic ending to this issues.

>>>

>>> Kindest regards,

>>>

>>> <image0.png>

>>> <image1.jpeg>

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>>> <image4.jpeg>

>>>

>>>

>>> Jason Valek

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"
To: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"
Cc: email: [REDACTED]

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 9:42:12 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Dr. Melton, I looked back at Mr. Valek's earlier emails and saw the photo of what appears to be wearing a Roman Polanski t-shirt - more info on Polanski: <https://abcnews.go.com/Entertainment/roman-polanski/story?id=8705958>

I respectfully ask that you simply ask [REDACTED] if that is him in the photo. If it is, that alone should be enough to remove him from your counsel. This committee was published during a school board meeting and represented as an official committee of our district. I know you don't want the board choosing your committee members (and I for one don't want to do so), but speaking solely for myself, I will ask for an agenda item to address this if needed.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "estrangle@lexrich5.org Erin Strange"

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 9:41:56 AM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: [REDACTED] Jason Valek"

Cc: email: "tturner@lexrich5.org Tamara Turner", email: "Mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond", email: "Chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "Kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "Ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "Rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "i [REDACTED] Jennifer Valek", email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Good morning, Mr. Valek,

After a quick glance at this email thread, I did not see your contact phone number noted. I am happy to arrange a phone call at your convenience today, as early as 9:45 this morning. Please let me know what time suits your schedule best. If you prefer to call, my direct line is [REDACTED]

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from 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

On Wed, May 26, 2021 at 9:05 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mr. Valek,

I've included Dr. Turner in this reply. Mrs. Strange will give you a call today to coordinate a time.



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

D5's mission and aim regardless of innocence or guilt.

>>>

>>> Im calling for immediate removal of this individual from this committee and from any future considerations for alliance or affiliation with D5 governance and oversight. I am dismayed as are many that this oversight has occurred.

>>>

>>> I have attached some items for your review and I look forward to a speedy and emphatic ending to this issues.

>>>

>>> Kindest regards,

>>>

>>> <image0.png>

>>> <image1.jpeg>

>>>

>>> <image4.jpeg>

>>>

>>>

>>> Jason Valek

>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

>

email: "[REDACTED] on Valek"

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 11:41:54 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Cc: email: "tturner@lexrich5.org Tamara Turner", email: "mhogan@lexrich5.org Matt Hogan", email: "Jhammond@lexrich5.org Jan Hammond", email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner", email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines", email: "[REDACTED] Jennifer Valek", email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Great

Thank you for your attention to this matter. My cell [REDACTED]

Look forward to speaking with you soon

Jason

Sent from my iPhone

On May 26, 2021, at 9:42 AM, Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Good morning, Mr. Valek,

After a quick glance at this email thread, I did not see your contact phone number noted. I am happy to arrange a phone call at your convenience today, as early as 9:45 this morning. Please let me know what time suits your schedule best. If you prefer to call, my direct line is [REDACTED]

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from 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

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Mr. Valek,

I've included Dr. Turner in this reply. Mrs. Strange will give you a call today to coordinate a time.



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

On Wed, May 26, 2021 at 7:17 AM Jason Valek [REDACTED] wrote:

Fwd: April 26, 2021 Agenda Item 21, no information in the Board Packet

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:36:55 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

From: **Sarah Ostergaard** [REDACTED]
Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:35 PM
Subject: April 26, 2021 Agenda Item 21, no information in the Board Packet
To: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Good evening, Chairwoman Hammond,

I noticed that the board meeting adjourned with no information discussed or provided about items 19-21. I understand that those were placed on the agenda after adjournment; however, there is no information in the board packet corresponding to Item 21.

Please provide clarification -- why was there no information about Item 21 in the board packet? If no information was provided, why was it included as an Information Only Item on the agenda?

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sarah Ostergaard

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 11:56:08 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Mrs. Hammond,
She is correct. Item 21 does not have an attachment. Did either you or Mrs. Gardner write the board committee information and send separately to the Board?

I suggest something like:

Thank you for bringing your question to my attention. You are correct, "Information Agenda" items are recorded after adjournment of meetings. Please allow me an opportunity to talk with the Board Secretary about the exhibit for item 21. Any information for information agenda items are made available to the public. If there was an oversight, I will make sure this is corrected in the next board packet.



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, Apr 27, 2021 at 9:37 AM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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

From: **Sarah Ostergaard** <

Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:35 PM

Subject: April 26, 2021 Agenda Item 21, no information in the Board Packet

To: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

Good evening, Chairwoman Hammond,

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Please provide clarification -- why was there no information about Item 21 in the board packet? If no information was provided, why was it included as an Information Only Item on the agenda?

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sarah Ostergaard

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 12:16:17 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thank you for the clarification. Those mistakes would be helpful if Erin could direct us as to anything missing when she checks with us before it is sent out. I had no idea it was missing or that it had to have an item attached. Thanks so much.

Jan

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 11:56 AM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Superintendent

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Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sarah Ostergaard

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 12:24:50 PM Eastern Daylight Time

In the future, I'll prompt you to assign items when Officers meet or that may be something that you want to assign to Mrs. Gardner as Secretary.



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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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

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Thank you!

Sincerely,
Sarah Ostergaard

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 1:29:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Thank you! I had been used to Sybil who had done this job so long and she was assertive with guidance about the agenda procedures. I can use that guidance as I am sure Ms. Gardner could use guidance on rules such as information only. I will call her and share what we need to correct.

Jan

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 12:25 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

In the future, I'll prompt you to assign items when Officers meet or that may be something that you want to assign to Mrs. Gardner as Secretary.



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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Superintendent

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Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 9:37 AM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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

From: **Sarah Ostergaard** [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 10:35 PM

Subject: April 26, 2021 Agenda Item 21, no information in the Board Packet

To: Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org>

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FYI - Procurement Code

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:14:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Mrs. Hammond,

Thank you again for our conversations last night and again this morning. I feel it is important for me to provide this information to you as we plan to move forward from last night's meeting.

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

- a. *Attorney Services* (subject to Board approval), court recorders, expert witness services, *bond rating services and costs associated with issuance or refinancing of bonds*.
- d. *Financial Advisors*, investment management, brokerage services (subject to Board approval).

These are not Sole Source Contractual Agreements and are subject to Board approval.

The service that Compass Municipal (Mike Gallagher) provides is not a "Bond Broker" service. Mr. Gallagher is our Financial Advisor. His services provide guidance and recommendations to position the District soundly with regards to the Debt Structure. Mr. Gallagher monitors the market, updates our Building Program Funding Report, and makes recommendations on how to issue debt when it is the best time for the District.

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

Mrs. Rawls and I continue to reflect on our communication, preparation and presentation from last night's meeting. I regret we did not know of the concerns that were shared thus we were not properly prepared to be responsive in the public's eye.

I am happy to forward this information to the Board or support if you choose to forward this email to them. I felt it was important to get this information to you today to clarify some of the discussion.

Thank you, as always, for your leadership.
Christina



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: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 9:22:06 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Thank you for the information.

On Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 4:15 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Mrs. Hammond,

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Thank you, as always, for your leadership.
Christina

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

www.lexrich5.org



Fwd: Approved Attorneys

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

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 4:12:16 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Mrs. Hammond,

Following our conversation this morning, I had Mrs. Rawls pull our attorney info. Attached is the list of attorneys that the Board approved as we discussed. After hearing of the concerns from last night, you will see there are options in all areas except for one - bond attorneys. This, of course, was an issue last night with the item where no vote was taken.

I'm happy to explain further if needed.



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: **Marty Rawls** <mrawls@lexrich5.org>

Date: Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 9:51 AM

Subject: Approved Attorneys

To: Erin Strange <estrange@lexrich5.org>, Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org>

This list was approved at the 8-24-2020 Board Meeting by a 4-3 vote.



Marty Rawls

Chief Financial Officer

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8130

www.lexrich5.org



Pursuing Excellence for Tomorrow's Challenges

Attachments:

Approved Attorneys 8-24-2020.pdf 212k

Board Officers Meeting

email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 2:31:40 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Hello all,

I wanted to coordinate a board officers meeting for next week. I am available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 4:00 pm on. Is there a time that does or does not work for each of you? I will text also to coordinate just in case that is faster.

Thanks,
Nikki

email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org Janis Hammond"

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:14:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Tuesday works for me.

On Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 2:31 PM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Hello all,

I wanted to coordinate a board officers meeting for next week. I am available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 4:00 pm on. Is there a time that does or does not work for each of you? I will text also to coordinate just in case that is faster.

Thanks,
Nikki

email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:41:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Cc: email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" , email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org Kenneth Loveless"

Ok great. I've heard from all via text (or here). We will meet Tuesday at 4 pm. Thanks!

On Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 3:14 PM Janis Hammond <jhammond@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Tuesday works for me.

On Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 2:31 PM Nikki Gardner <ngardner@lexrich5.org> wrote:

Hello all,

I wanted to coordinate a board officers meeting for next week. I am available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 4:00 pm on. Is there a time that does or does not work for each of you? I will text also to coordinate just in case that is faster.

Thanks,
Nikki

Invitation: Board Officers Meeting @ Tue May 4, 2021 4pm - 5pm (EDT) (jhammond@lexrich5.org)

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:50:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org", email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org", email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org"

You have been invited to the following event.

Board Officers Meeting

When Tue May 4, 2021 4pm – 5pm Eastern Time - New York

[more details »](#)

Where District Office ([map](#))

Calendar jhammond@lexrich5.org

Who

- Christina Melton - organizer
- estrange@lexrich5.org - creator
- kloveless@lexrich5.org
- ngardner@lexrich5.org
- jhammond@lexrich5.org

Going (jhammond@lexrich5.org)? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account jhammond@lexrich5.org because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar jhammond@lexrich5.org.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to send a response to the organizer and be added to the guest list, or invite others regardless of their own invitation status, or to modify your RSVP. [Learn More](#).

Attachments:

invite.ics 1.6k

invite.ics 1.6k

Invitation: Board Officers Meeting @ Tue May 4, 2021 4pm - 5pm (EDT) (jhammond@lexrich5.org)

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton" Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:50:24 PM Eastern Daylight Time
To: email: "jhammond@lexrich5.org" , email: "kloveless@lexrich5.org" , email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org"

You have been invited to the following event.

Board Officers Meeting

When Tue May 4, 2021 4pm – 5pm Eastern Time - New York

[more details »](#)

Where District Office ([map](#))

Calendar jhammond@lexrich5.org

Who

- Christina Melton - organizer
- estrange@lexrich5.org - creator
- kloveless@lexrich5.org
- ngardner@lexrich5.org
- jhammond@lexrich5.org

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Attachments:

invite.ics 1.6k

invite.ics 1.6k

Please add repeal of Face Covering Policy to the 5/10 Meeting Agenda

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 10:18:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Ms. Hammon and Dr. Melton, Now that governor McMaster has proclaimed

It is ridiculous for school districts to tell parents whether or not their child should wear a mask in the classroom, that is up to the parent,

I think we can consider a repeal of our face covering policy under this wording of our policy on policies: **Suspension or repeal of policy**

In emergency situations, a majority vote of the board members present at a regular or special meeting may temporarily suspend the operation of any section or sections of board policy which are not established by law or contract.

Our current policy is not established by law. Further, now that our governor has made this public statement, I don't see any way that the SCDE could take our funding or buses for not complying with their "guideline".

I also think we could designate this as an emergency (and therefore vote for a repeal at one meeting and one vote) because the policy was put in place at one meeting as an emergency and we now have a policy that conflicts with the directive of our governor (which I believe could constitute an emergency).

May 10 is well past the time needed for our staff to build immunity from the second vaccination. If we have a way to suspend this policy but do not, I believe we are not fulfilling our mission to "always put children first".

I know this is a difficult situation for all and sincerely appreciate your consideration for this solution.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 10:19:35 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

Nikki, Please see below. We can discuss tomorrow if you'd like.

Thanks,
Cathy

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

From: **Cathy Huddle** <chuddle@lexrich5.org>

Date: Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 10:18 PM

Subject: Please add repeal of Face Covering Policy to the 5/10 Meeting Agenda

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

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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"

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 11:33:25 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Ms. Hammond and Dr. Melton, Based on the dates of the last staff vaccinations, I think we should also consider a special meeting for this Monday to vote on repeal of the policy.

Thanks,
Cathy

On Wed, Apr 28, 2021 at 10:18 PM Cathy Huddle <chuddle@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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Our current policy is not established by law. Further, now that our governor has made this public statement, I don't see any way that the SCDE could take our funding or buses for not complying with their "guideline".

I also think we could designate this as an emergency (and therefore vote for a repeal at one meeting and one vote) because the policy was put in place at one meeting as an emergency and we now have a policy that conflicts with the directive of our governor (which I believe could constitute an emergency).

May 10 is well past the time needed for our staff to build immunity from the second vaccination. If we have a way to suspend this policy but do not, I believe we are not fulfilling our mission to "always put children first".

I know this is a difficult situation for all and sincerely appreciate your consideration for this solution.

Thank-you,
Cathy

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

--

Catherine Huddle
Lexington Richland Five School Board Trustee

Fwd: Face Covering Guidelines

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

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 1:59:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brown, Ryan" <RyBrown@ed.sc.gov>
Date: April 29, 2021 at 12:54:14 PM EDT
To: "csmelton@lexrich5.org" <csmelton@lexrich5.org>
Subject: Face Covering Guidelines

The
[South Carolina Department of Education Face Covering Guidelines for K-12 Public Schools](#)
were authorized by the

[State Board of Education's Health and Safety of Students](#) policy passed on August 11, 2021.

The correct and universal wearing of face masks has been a key mitigation strategy that has allowed schools in South Carolina to fully reopen while those in the majority of states throughout the nation remain on hybrid or fully virtual schedules. We have provided teachers, schools, and districts flexibility in implementing this policy so that it best fits the needs of their local community by allowing face coverings to be removed upon teacher or administrator direction while in the classroom or during special activities outside the classroom. We have also allowed for special considerations and exemptions for our youngest learners, those who have trouble breathing, and those with special healthcare or educational needs.

The current policy will remain in place for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent Spearman will move for the policy to become a recommendation rather than a requirement at the conclusion of this school year.

Statement from yesterday:

By following the mitigation strategies recommended by public health experts, South Carolina is one of only a handful of states in which every school is fully open to in-person learning. We would advise districts to continue to follow these guidelines and if the Governor feels that they are no longer needed, he has the power to issue an executive order directing districts to abandon them.

Ryan Brown

Chief Communications Officer

South Carolina Department of Education

Office:
803-734-5080

Cell:
803-206-5254

[Visit SCDE's Newsroom](#)



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

Attachments:

image001.gif 589

image002.gif 843

image003.gif 1.4k

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 4:53:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "kgoggins@lexrich5.org Katrina Goggins"

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

This email is being blindcopied to all Board of Trustees.

An additional email will be sent this evening to provide further information.

Christina S. Melton, Ed.D.

Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties

office: 803.476.8169 or 803.476-8116

[Visit SCDE's Newsroom](#)



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Attachments:

image001.gif 589

image002.gif 843

image003.gif 1.4k

Mask Policy

email: "rhines@lexrich5.org Rebecca Hines"

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 9:25:42 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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

Dr. Melton and Chair Hammond,

I would like to reiterate my concerns that students in District 5 should not be required to wear masks outdoors. I understand what the policy says. The reality is that students are having to wear masks at outside recess. The current school year began in-person in the fall, with cooler weather and different circumstances. We are now at the end of the school year, we have more information, teachers have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, and the weather is beginning to become consistently warmer. I have heard several concerns (and I share them for my own children) that requiring masks outdoors is causing issues, especially with smaller children. There appears to be confusion with the way that the policy is written or there is lack of consistency as to how the policy is being applied or enforced.

As you both know, I firmly believe the policy is an overreach and I believe we need to address it in the next board meetings. In addition, this is a fluid situation that has been made increasingly political with Governor's commentary. Although his comments are not a directive to school districts, I am aware that there is a possibility that he issues an Executive Order to lift the mandate, prior to the SCDOE changing it at the end of the school year. Unless or until that happens, I do not feel it appropriate to hold an emergency meeting; however, I would strongly request that the issue of outdoor activities be addressed now, to allow choice for students.

Personally, I would like to see our board and administration work together on this issue on a united front. I understand this is a divisive topic for some.

I appreciate you both.

Kind regards,
Rebecca

--

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

Fwd: Mask Requirement Update

email: "csmelton@lexrich5.org Christina Melton"

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 5:06:53 PM Eastern Daylight Time

To: email: "estrange@lexrich5.org Erin Strange" , email: "kgoggins@lexrich5.org Katrina Goggins"

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

D5 Board Members:

This message is being blind copied to all members of the board.

Given SC. [Gov. Henry McMaster's remarks](#) on mask requirements in schools, I wanted to provide the Board with information the administration has gathered to help in your discussion with constituents and help with your next steps as a body. The remarks naturally prompted me and my staff to reach out to agencies for clarification on impacts for our district, and the feedback we gathered is posted below. Today, I have communicated directly with Superintendent Spearman and Ryan Brown , Communications Director, several times. I also organized a meeting of midlands superintendents to ensure clarity of received content.

The debate over mask requirements has become a divisive national issue, with passionate opinions on both sides. Like you, I have received emails from parents on both sides of this issue. To ensure that our schools know my expectations, I held a meeting with school principals moments ago to make sure they are aware of our current mask policy (Policy ADD) and the exemptions and also shared with them the SC Board of Education Policy, attached below. Our principals will have communication with our teachers tomorrow morning to ensure understanding of expectations.

At this time, it is not my recommendation to schedule a special-called meeting, since this matter is being explored and debated on the state level at this time. If a special-called meeting is called, the option to waive or delete Policy ADD would be available to you as a Board. The state policy would still be enforced unless an Executive Order is issued by Governor McMaster.

I will continue to provide updates to this Board so that it can make the best decisions for our schools and will continue to coordinate with state officials to get the clarity we need to assist you.

Note the attachments and hyperlinkis (found in blue font) are important pieces of this complicated puzzle.

Thank you for your patience as this issue has continued to evolve today.

DHEC Response:

Below is a statement attributable to Dr. Edward Simmer, DHEC Director.

"We understand that when the Governor makes a policy or decisions, he has to consider many different factors. At DHEC, our role is to focus on public health and advise the Governor on public health issues. Looking at where we are in the COVID-19 response, we are hopeful. We're making good progress and we are starting to see infection rates drop, but we're also still seeing a percent positivity rate around five percent and that's concerning. That means there is still a lot of disease transmission occurring in our communities.

"Although we are getting more and more South Carolinians vaccinated, we are not close to herd immunity yet. From a public health standpoint, DHEC recommends that those municipalities with mask ordinances in place should keep them in place for now, and children should continue to wear masks in school at least through the end of this school year. When school starts in the fall, we can revisit that recommendation based on how many people are vaccinated and how close we are to herd immunity, and we are hopeful that masks will no longer need to be mandated for students. We support the current federal CDC recommendations, and we believe that staying the course with regard to wearing masks and taking other appropriate precautions for a while longer is currently the best approach for public health, and that has been and continues to be our priority."

State Department of Education Response

In multiple media reports, State schools Superintendent Molly Spearman responded to Gov. McMaster by advising districts to continue following the guidelines of public health experts. However, "if the governor feels that they are no longer needed, he has the power to issue an executive order directing districts to abandon them," her spokesman, Ryan Brown, said.

Currently state and federal health officials (DHEC and CDC), urge that correct and consistent use of masks is critical to reducing risk of transmission in schools; information shared in a Reentry Update on Monday. No gubernatorial executive order has been issued at this time, but we will alert the school board if/when that occurs.

According to state Department of Education officials, local school boards have the authority to rescind their face covering policies. However, [the SC Department of Education's board policy would still be in effect](#). That policy aligns with the district's current policy and states the following:

School Facilities

Students and staff in South Carolina public schools must wear a face covering upon entering a school building, moving through hallways, during carpool/bus drop off or pickup, and when social distancing is not possible or optimal. Student face coverings may be removed upon teacher or administrator direction while in the classroom or during special activities outside the classroom.

Copies of the state policy and our district policy are attached.

SC School Boards Association Response

SCSBA sent the following statement to the media in response to Governor McMaster's remarks regarding masks in schools.

Working with their superintendent and school personnel, local school boards have been very careful to ensure that schools adhere to frequently changing health and safety guidance issued by federal and state authorities. In addition to the continued safety of students and staff, [the adherence to these guidelines is imperative to maintaining immunity from COVID liability, according to SCSBA-supported legislation that was recently enacted and signed by the Governor.](#)

As we approach the next school year, we acknowledge that guidelines may change and masks may not be required in the classroom, but until then, we must follow the recommendations of health experts regarding the safety of students and staff.

- Scott Price, Executive Director of the South Carolina School Boards Association

The legislation referenced in SCSBA's statement is [Senate Bill 147](#).

SCASA Response

Beth Phibbs, Executive Director of the SC Association of School Administrators, issued the following response to Governor McMaster's comments concerning masks in schools:

This school year has been an extremely difficult one for students, teachers, parents and school leaders. We all look forward to the day when medical experts are confident that virus infection rates are consistently low enough to lift health protocols in our schools, such as wearing masks, without jeopardizing the safety of our students and staff.

However, until then, we will continue to work closely with medical professionals, including local hospitals, DHEC and the CDC to determine the necessary protocols to protect our students and staff.

Attachments:

State Policy.pdf 188k

ADD Face Covering.pdf 137k

email: "chuddle@lexrich5.org Cathy Huddle"

Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 6:10:23 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

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

Dr. Melton, I appreciate you doing this research. I am sure you, like the rest of us, have much more important things to do.

Continuing to ask our children to wear masks seems downright unwarranted after staff vaccinations have had a chance to take effect. However, unfortunately I agree that S147 protecting us from immunity with the language "reasonably adheres to public guidance", means we should retain a Face Covering policy.

That said, my concern is that your expectations are not clear to parents, our community or the board.

Could you share with us, in writing, what modifications or clarifications you are making to our mask policy which offers relief to our children while still remaining in compliance with the SCED guidance?

I believe the current policy gives you the right to make adjustments and communicate them to the public. However, if you don't think the policy doesn't allow you to make those adjustments and do so publicly, or you want the board to change the policy to make that intent clear and public, then I think we should call a special meeting.

Thank you,
Cathy

On Thu, Apr 29, 2021 at 5:07 PM Christina Melton <csmelton@lexrich5.org> wrote:

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

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

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 12:25:27 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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

135 Day Enrollment Report

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

Procurement Code

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

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

- a. Attorney Services (subject to Board approval), court recorders, expert witness services, bond rating services and costs associated with issuance or refinancing of bonds.
- d. Financial Advisors, investment management, brokerage services (subject to Board approval).

These are not Sole Source Contractual Agreements and are subject to Board approval.

The service that Compass Municipal (Mike Gallagher) provides is not a "Bond Broker" service. Mr. Gallagher is our Financial Advisor. His services provide guidance and recommendations to position the District soundly with regards to the Debt Structure. Mr. Gallagher monitors the market, updates our Building Program Funding Report, and makes recommendations on how to issue debt when it is the best time for the District.

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

Mrs. Rawls and I continue to reflect on our communication, preparation and presentation from Monday night's meeting. I regret we did not know of the concerns that were shared thus we were not properly prepared to be responsive in the public's eye.

Approved Attorneys

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

Attachments:

135 Day Report.pdf 709k

Approved Attorneys 8-24-2020.pdf 212k

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved Attorneys

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

Face Coverings

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

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

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

Weekly Communications Messages

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

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

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

Attachments:

135 Day Report.pdf 709k

Approved Attorneys 8-24-2020.pdf 212k

email: "ngardner@lexrich5.org Nikki Gardner"

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Nikki Gardner

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

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

135 Day Enrollment Report

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

(MEDIA RELEASE) School District Five Board Chairwoman, Superintendent release joint statement on mask requirements.docx

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

Friday, April 30, 2021 at 9:03:41 AM Eastern Daylight Time

Attachments:

(MEDIA RELEASE) School District Five Board Chairwoman, Superintendent release joint statement on mask requirements.docx 246k
