Minutes/September 19, 2022

The Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties met at the School District Five District Office with the following members present:

Mrs. Rebecca Blackburn Hines
Mrs. Nikki Gardner, Secretary (Virtually)
Mrs. Jan Hammond, Chair
Mr. Matt Hogan
Mrs. Catherine Huddle
Mr. Ken Loveless, Vice Chair
Mrs. Tifani Moore
Dr. Akil Ross, Superintendent

The following staff were in attendance:

Ms. Maddison Paul, Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Amanda Taylor, Director of Communications
Mr. Dave Weissman, Executive Director of Operations

A livestream video link was provided to the public as a viewing option for the September 19, 2022, special-called board meeting.

Chair Hammond called the regular meeting to order and gave welcoming remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Record of Voting

SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE
OF
LEXINGTON AND RICHLAND COUNTIES

Meeting of September 19, 2022

		BLACKBURN HINES	GARDNER	HAMMOND	HOGAN	HUDDLE	LOVELESS	MOORE
1.	M. Loveless S. Blackburn Hines Approve the agenda.	X	A	X	X	X	X	X
2.	M. Loveless S. Moore I make the motion to enter executive session to consider the following: a.) Legal advice regarding Latent Roof Defects at Chapin High School (Exhibit A) ; b.) Legal advice regarding direction on possible criminal and civil findings from Procurement Examination and consulting results.	X	A	X	X	X	X	X
3.	M. Huddle S. Moore I move that the Procurement Examination and Consulting Phase II report dated September 19, 2022 be reported on the District's website by close of business tomorrow, with active employee names redacted as permitted by FOIA.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4.	M. Huddle S. Moore I move that we direct our attorney to share The Procurement Examination and Consulting Phase II Report dated September 19, 2022 with the South Carolina Attorney General and Office of Inspector General per Section 2420 in the District's procurement code Reporting of Anticompetitive Practices.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5.	M. Huddle S. Moore I move that we direct our attorney to send the letter to the to the vendor as discussed in the executive session in order to recoup excess costs and overbilling we believe the	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

A = Absent
AB = Abstain
N = No
X = Yes
R = Recuse

SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE
OF
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Meeting of September 19, 2022

		BLACKBURN HINES	GARDNER	HAMMOND	HOGAN	HUDDLE	LOVELESS	MOORE
	District incurred.							
6.	M. Huddle S. Moore I move that, in accordance with the District's procurement code Section 4220 Causes for Debarment or Suspension, we instruct the Chief Financial Officer, as the District's Chief Business Official to conduct an administrative review of the audit findings and other relevant information within 90 days to determine if debarment or suspension is warranted for any of the vendors included in the Procurement Examination and Consulting Phase II Report dated September 19, 2022.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
7.	M. Huddle S. Moore I move that we direct the administration to review the internal recommendations and other relevant facts included in The Procurement Examination and Consulting Phase II Report dated September 19, 2022, and present a plan to the Board for review and approval within 60 days.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
8.	M. Hogan S. Blackburn Hines Adjourn at 8:44 p.m.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Remarks for the Record. Submitted by Jan Hammond, Chair
September 19, 2022 – Special-Called Board Meeting

The purpose of this audit is to ensure confidence and trust with the taxpayers of District Five. Being accountable and transparent is vital to moving forward.

School Board members are called trustees for a reason. We have two major responsibilities, to hire the superintendent and to oversee the spending of millions of dollars. I would like to remind the public and the media of the time period of this audit report. I want to make it clear this audit covers a period of time before Dr. Ross became superintendent and a period of time in which no current board members served as officers. Let me explain why that is relevant. Board Officers, by policy, set the agenda items. Until this newly elected Board of 2020 took office, no former board officers had seen a need for a procurement audit.

I can truthfully say I have received numerous requests over the past few years, especially following the 2008 Bond Referendum of 2008 to conduct a procurement audit. However, before becoming chair, my requests were ignored. Now with new officers, Mr. Loveless and Mrs. Gardner, this audit has been brought before the Board.

Our goal is to provide sound procurement policies and ensure school board members and the superintendent see that our policies are followed.

The people deserve to know if past board members and superintendents were as vigilant and accountable in their oversight of taxpayer dollars as they should have been. Those critics claim everything in the past was done right, and there is no need for improvement. And for that, I say, there is always room for improvement where the education of our students is concerned. These economic times demand accountability. I'm proud to report this current Board has already made needed policy changes. My hope has always been for this audit to ease the mind of voters in District 5, and ensure them that if past Board leadership and superintendents engaged in wasteful spending or a lack of proper oversite, it will be corrected. This audit belongs to the people. You create public opinion based on the facts.

This Board has an obligation and a duty to hear the findings of this audit and turn over any findings to the proper state entities in which conclusions can be made by the proper authorities. It is my prayer and hope that this audit will allow us to move forward with an atmosphere of renewed trust and accountability. We must learn from any mistakes and ensure they are never repeated.

Jan Hammond
Board Chair

Attachment #1 is included with the minutes of the 9-19-2022 meeting, at the request of Board member Jan Hammond pursuant to South Carolina Code Ann. Section 30-4-90(a)(4) and Board Policy BEDG. The Board majority did not approve, disapprove, or otherwise act upon the contents of this attachment.