Minutes/January 12, 2026

The Board of Trustees of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties met at the Center for Advanced Technical Studies with the following members present:

Mrs. Elizabeth Barnhardt (Absent)
Mr. Jason Baynham, Secretary
Dr. Scott Herring, Vice-Chair
Mrs. Catherine Huddle
Mr. Mike Satterfield
Mr. Kevin Scully
Mrs. Kimberly Snipes, Chair
Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr., Superintendent

The following staff were in attendance:

Dr. Gerald Gary, Chief Operations Officer
Dr. Michael Harris, Chief Student Services and Planning Officer
Mrs. Tina McCaskill, Chief Academics Officer
Mrs. Amanda Taylor, Director of Communications
Mrs. Heather Tucker, Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Tamara Turner, Chief Human Resources Officer

A livestream video link was made available to the public for viewing the January 12, 2026, board meeting.

Chair Snipes called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and gave welcoming remarks.

Mike Satterfield, Board of Trustees, gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board conducted the School Board Spotlight.

During the public participation, Beth Sherer spoke about teacher transfers.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Ross provided updates on the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan and the 2026-2027 LR5 Redistricting and Magnet/Choice options. Dr. Michael Harris, Chief Student Services and Planning Officer, presented a Student Services and Planning Report, and Mrs. Tina McCaskill, Chief Academics Officer, and Mr. Michael Guiliano, Director of Elementary Education, presentedan Academics Report.

The Board presented for discussion:

- Discussion of District's Realtor Listing for 2025-2026 (Exhibit O)
- Discussion of FY 2026-2027 Budget Calendar and State Aid to Classrooms (Exhibit P)

The Board presented for information:

- 90th -Day Enrollment Report (Exhibit Q)
- Capacity Links/Resources (Exhibit R)

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

Record of Voting

1. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion to approve the agenda.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	y

2. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion to enter executive session to consider the following: a. executive Session to consider the following: a. Selected employment items (Exhibit A) (Action) b. Selected employment items (Exhibit B) (Information Only) c. Request for Instruction at a Place Other Than School (Exhibit C) d. Contractual matter regarding the new cafeteria at Irmo High School-Phase II (Exhibit D) e. Legal advice regarding contractual matter regarding construction and access easements for the property at 1400 Kennerly Road f. Contractual matter regarding Lexington County Easement for the Corridor Improvement on Columbia Avenue (Exhibit E) g. Legal advice regarding the sale and purchase of property for Chapin Bus Depo h. Legal advice regarding Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Richland County Recreation Commission (RCRC) and School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties regarding facility usage (Exhibit F) i. Legal advice regarding C/A No. 3:23-cv-02156-MGL j. Legal advice regarding C/A No. 2021-CP-40-03694 (Exhibit G).

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y

3. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I move that the Board approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025, Board Meeting.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

4. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion to approve the selected employment items shown in Exhibit A for action.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

5. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion that the Board approve the request for instruction at a place other than school for the student identified with the initials AK. (Exhibit C)

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

6. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion that the Board approve the contractual matter regarding the new cafeteria at Irmo High School- Phase II, with the requirement that an agreed-upon substantial completion date will be made prior to the payment of the third payout. (Exhibit D)

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

7. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion that the Board approve the easement for Lexington County for the Corridor Improvement on Columbia Avenue per Exhibit E.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

8. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion that the Board approve the issuance of an RFP for A&E Services for the design of a car rider loop and potential locations for Chapin Bus Depot.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt	Baynham	Herring	Huddle	Satterfield	Scully	Snipes
	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

9. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:**

I make a motion that the Board approve entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Richland County Recreation Commission (RCRC) and School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties regarding facility usage, as shown in Exhibit I.

THIS MOTION WAS MADE BUT NOT SECONDED - MOTION FAILED

10. **Motion:** Scully **Second:**

I make a motion that the Board direct our general counsel to amend a motion for reconsideration shown in Exhibit G to remove the first and last sentences of paragraph A.

11. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Huddle

I make a motion that the Board approve the renewal of the District 5 Foundation of Education Excellence, Inc. Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement (Exhibit J).

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham Y	Herring Y	Huddle Y	Satterfield Y	Scully Y	Snipes Y

12. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Herring

I make a motion that the Board approve the first reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy GBEB "Staff Conduct" per Exhibit K.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham Y	Herring Y	Huddle Y	Satterfield Y	Scully Y	Snipes Y

13. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Satterfield

I move that we approve the third and final reading of the proposed revisions to Board Policy KE "Public Concerns & Complaints" (Exhibit L).

Motion: Huddle **Second:** Baynham

I make a motion to amend the proposed revisions to Board Policy KE "Public Concerns & Complaints" to add the following list of bullets:

- Parents/guardians and the public are encouraged to present their concerns starting with the person, per above, with the most direct responsibility based on the nature of the concern. This will ensure the most expeditious resolution.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham Y	Herring Y	Huddle Y	Satterfield Y	Scully AB	Snipes Y

Motion: Huddle **Second:** Baynham

- Add to the paragraph that starts with: Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or retaliation will be processed according to policy AC, Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity. Staff member grievances will be processed in accordance with policy GBK, Staff Concerns/ Complaints/Grievances, or as otherwise required by

law. Add at the end of this paragraph, amend the proposed revisions to Board Policy KE to add: Complaints regarding library or instructional materials will be processed in accordance with board policy KEC Library/Media Materials Selection.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham Y	Herring Y	Huddle Y	Satterfield Y	Scully AB	Snipes Y

Motion: Huddle **Second:** Baynham

- Amend the proposed revisions to Board Policy KE to add: As representatives of the community, at any time, any member of the community has the right to present any concern to one or more board members. Board members will refer all such concerns to the superintendent for resolution. If, in the opinion of any board member, the issue should be referred to the entire board, the board member will request the issue be added to the agenda of the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The board chair may elect to add the issue to the agenda or require a board vote to determine whether or not the issue will be heard by the board.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham Y	Herring N	Huddle Y	Satterfield N	Scully N	Snipes N

14. **Motion:** Satterfield **Second:** Herring

I make a motion to add back the sentence that was deleted in the proposed revisions to Board Policy KE: Anyone who defames a district staff member and damages a person's professional reputation, whether before students or any third party, may be subject to legal action brought by the staff member.

Mrs. Huddle requested that an attachment be added to the minutes.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham N	Herring Y	Huddle N	Satterfield Y	Scully Y	Snipes Y

15. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion that the Board approve the 2025-2026 General Fund Amendments as shown in Exhibit M.

Motion: Baynham **Second:** Huddle

I make a motion to amend the motion to note that this is a first reading and that a public budget workshop and second reading are required before this change to the budget is passed by the Board.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham Y	Herring N	Huddle Y	Satterfield N	Scully N	Snipes N

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham N	Herring Y	Huddle N	Satterfield Y	Scully Y	Snipes Y

16. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Huddle

I make a motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Name & Vote	Barnhardt A	Baynham Y	Herring Y	Huddle Y	Satterfield Y	Scully Y	Snipes Y

Board Policies Concerning Concerns and Complaints

At our last meeting we voted to remove the statement "Anyone who defames a district staff member and damages a person's professional reputation, whether before students or any third party, may be subject to legal action by the staff member." from the proposed changes to policy KE Public Concerns and Complaints. Tonight we're having a discussion about adding this language back.

There are 22 other board policies that mention complaints and how they will be addressed, including:

CFA – How principals will handle complaints
GBAA – How complaints of sexual discrimination and harassment will be handled
GBK – Staff concerns, complaints, grievances
JII – Student concerns, complaints grievances

Why would be want to add policy language regarding "legal action" ONLY to the policy regarding complaints directed by the public to board members? Doing so looks like a targeted effort to dissuade the public from bringing their concerns to their elected representatives.

This language isn't needed - Individuals are always free to bring legal action if they feel their legal rights have been infringed. It is not up to the district to implicitly threaten legal action that may be taken by a person or entity that is not up to the district.

Considering this language sends the message that the public better be careful when they present their concerns lest they get sued. To even consider this addition to the policy is the type of thing that drives the public to want tax payer funding for school choice, including private schools. We need to stop putting the public on the sidelines except when we want their taxes.

Attachment #1 pg. 1 is included with the minutes of the 1-12-26 meeting, at the request of Board member Cathy Waldrep 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.