Minutes/February 9, 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
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:

Mrs. Melanie Cohen, Coordinator of Professional Staff
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 (Absent)

A livestream video link was made available to the public to view the February 9, 2026, board meeting.

Chair Snipes called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and gave welcoming remarks.

Kevin Scully, Board of Trustees, gave the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board conducted the School Board Spotlight.

During the public participation, Debra Ouzts spoke about Choice Lottery; Savannah Lawner spoke about the School of Choice for IEP students; Greg Denison spoke about special education students not being allowed school of choice; Tara Safriet spoke about Dutch Fork High School stadium and scoreboard improvements; Jim Taylor spoke about Irmo High School stadium improvements; Jamie Timmerman spoke about special education students impacted by rezoning; Kim Murphy spoke about unnecessary new & costly elementary school; and Kim Werts spoke about Dutch Fork High School stadium upgrades.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Ross provided updates on the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, the 2026-2027 LR5 Redistricting and Magnet/Choice options, and Virtual Lunch and Learn: Pathways to Hot Jobs. Mrs. Heather Tucker, Chief Financial Officer, presented the October and November financials (Exhibit J). Mrs. Melanie Cohen, Coordinator of Professional Staff, and Mrs. Cassy Young, Coordinator of Support Staff, presented Human Resources Reports, and Mrs. Brook Bridges presented District Teacher of the Year Reflections.

The Board presented for discussion:

- Discussion of FY2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Exhibit P)
- Discussion of FY 2026-2027 Budget Calendar and State Aid to Classrooms (Exhibit Q)
- Update on the McMillian Pazdan Smith 2023 Report and Annual Capital Maintenance Strategic Planning
- Discussion of Proposed 2026-2027 Board Meeting Schedule (Exhibit R)

The Board presented for information:

- FY2025-2026 Semi-Annual Progress Report of Minority Business Expenditures, Sole Source Procurements, and Emergency Procurements (Exhibit S)

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

Record of Voting

1. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Baymham

I make a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Huddle **Second:** Baymham

I move to amend the agenda to move items 19 & 20, which are #19 approval of A&E Services for Middle School Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Facilities and Inclusive Playgrounds, and #20, which is Press Boxes for Dutch Fork and Irmo High Schools and Athletic Scoreboards, to move those two items to the first two items on the discussion agenda. So that would be for us to discuss tonight, but we would not vote tonight.

Motion: Huddle **Second:** Baymham

Actually, I would like to amend and move it to after item #23.

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

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION

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

2. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Barnhardt

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.) Receipt of legal advice regarding student matter; d.) Contractual matters regarding the New Dutch Fork Elementary School (Exhibits C & D); e.) Contractual matter regarding the Lexington County Easement for the Corridor Improvement on Columbia Avenue (Exhibit E); f.) Legal advice regarding contractual matters regarding the Lexington County Sewer Easement and the City of Columbia Water Easement for the new Student Center Cafeteria for Irmo High School (Exhibit F); g.) Contractual matter regarding the Chapin High School Auditorium (Exhibit G); h.) Contractual matter regarding construction and access easements for the property at 1400 Kennerly Road (Exhibit H) i.) Legal advice relating to a data security incident; and j.) Legal advice regarding C/A No. 3:23-cv-02156-MGL (Exhibit I).

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

3. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I move that the Board approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, Board Meeting.

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

Motion: Herring **Second:** Scully

I move that the Board approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026, Special-Called Board Meeting.

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

4. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

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
	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

5. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion to approve the contractual matters regarding the New Dutch Fork Elementary School (Exhibit C&D)

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

6. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion to approve the contractual matter regarding the Lexington County Easement for the Corridor Improvement on Columbia Avenue, as shown in Exhibit E.

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

7. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion to approve the contractual matter regarding the Lexington County Sewer Easement and the City of Columbia Water Easement for the new Student Center Cafeteria at Irmo High School, as shown in Exhibit F.

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

8. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion that the Board approve the contractual matter regarding the Chapin High School Auditorium as shown in Exhibit G.

Motion: Huddle **Second:** Baynham

I would like to amend the motion to require Board approval if capacity is changed by more than 10% above or below the designed 500-seat auditorium.

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

VOTE ON THE ORIGINAL MOTION

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

9. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion to approve the contractual matter regarding construction and access easements for the property at 1400 Kennerly Road, as shown in Exhibit H.

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

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

I make a motion that the Board approve the full and complete "Release" resolving the Hefner lawsuit and that the Board Chair be empowered to sign the release on behalf of this Board (Exhibit I).

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

11. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion that the Board approve the Middle School Locally Board Approved Courses (ONLY CRMS 2026-2027): (1) The Advancement Via Determination (AVID) Elective Course; (2) Innovators' Workshop as shown in Exhibit K.

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

12. **Motion:** Huddle **Second:** Barnhardt

I make a motion that the Board approve the Locally Board Approved Course for Honors Course: JROTC Navy and Air Force Honors Framework, as shown in Exhibit L.

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

13. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Huddle

I make a motion that the Board approve the second and final reading of proposed revisions to Board Policy GBEB "Staff Conduct" as shown in Exhibit M.

Motion: Satterfield **Second:** Huddle

I would like to amend the motion to defer this to a third reading after getting legal advice, and have the Superintendent/Staff look over this and brainstorm to make it a little more concise.

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

14. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Barnhardt

I make a motion that the Board approve the District's Realtor Listing for 2025-2026 as shown in Exhibit N.

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

15. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Barnhardt

I make a motion that the Board approve the Letter of Support for the Growing Hope Grant Application as shown in Exhibit O.

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

16. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion that the Board approve A&E Services for the feasibility and cost estimates for Middle School Co-Curricular and Extra Curricular Facilities and Inclusive Playgrounds.

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

17. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Scully

I make a motion that the Board approve A&E Services for press boxes for Dutch Fork and Irmo High Schools and athletic scoreboards.

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

18. **Motion:** Herring **Second:** Barnhardt

I make a motion to adjourn at 9:41 p.m.

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