

Minutes

5:30 p.m., November 16, 2021, Regular Monthly Meeting

Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting

In attendance

Board members present-	Ken Buck (Secretary), Janice Dabney (Chair), Tyrom Faulkner, Margaret Gamble, Bobby Parker, Brad Small (Vice Chair), and Melvin Stroble
Board members absent-	None
District personnel-	TJ Armbrust (LearnTV), Tim Bowers (Facilities), Rachel Bradley (Superintendent's Assistant), Rick Chandler (Attorney), Michelle Craig (Public Information Specialist), Trevor Hammond (Procurement Director), John Hicks (Security Guard), Nicki Letterman (Public Information Assistant), Lindsey Marino (Student Services Director), Angela McCrorey (Food Service Director), Jonathan Phipps (Superintendent), David Small (Facilities Director), Blake Stacks (IT Director), Ray Sapp (Security Guard), Quinton Thomas (LearnTV), Lydia Qunn (Chief Operations Officer), Jennifer White (Chief Financial Officer).
Guests-	Brian Carnes (Lancaster County Council), Alex Sherard (White & Story)
Press-	Mac Banks (The Lancaster News)
Citizens-	16

Open session

Call to order and invocation- BABA	At 5:30 p.m., the chair called the meeting to order. Mr. Chandler gave the <u>INVOCATION</u> .
Notice to media- BCBB	In accordance with the SC Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80(d), as amended, Cable 2, The Herald, the Kershaw News Era, The Lancaster News, WBTW, WRHM and WSOC were notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.
Election of 2022 Chair - BBAA, BBABA	<p>Mr. Chandler explained the process for election of officers. Mr. Chandler called for nominations for chair.</p> <p>Mr. Stroble nominated Ms. Dabney for chair. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Chandler called for a motion to close nominations.</p> <p>A motion to close nominations was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously (7-0).</p> <p>Ms. Dabney commented on her past experience leading the board and being a consensus builder.</p> <p>A vote to elect Ms. Dabney passed unanimously (6-0).</p> <p>Ms. Dabney Abstained.</p>

**Election of 2022 Vice Chair -
BBAA, BBABA**

Mr. Chandler called for nominations for vice chair.
Mr. Parker nominated Mr. Small for vice chair.
Mr. Buck nominated Mr. Stroble for vice chair.
Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Chandler called for a motion to close nominations.
A motion to close nominations was made by Mr. Faulkner and seconded by Mr. Parker.
The motion passed unanimously (7-0).
Mr. Small thanked the board for the opportunity to serve and commented that he would work to bring all of Lancaster County together.
Mr. Stroble thanked the board for the opportunity to serve and commented that he would bring consensus to the community.
A vote to elect Mr. Small passed (4-3)
A vote to elect Mr. Stroble did not pass (3-4).

**Election of 2022 Secretary -
BBAA, BBABA**

Mr. Chandler called for nominations for secretary.
Mr. Faulkner nominated Mr. Buck for secretary.
Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Chandler called for a motion to close nominations.
A motion to close nominations was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded Ms. Dabney.
The motion passed unanimously (6-0).
Mr. Buck commented that he was thankful for he nomination and that he would only accept an officer position if it was at the pleasure of the board.
A vote to elect Mr. Buck did pass (6-1),
Ms. Gamble voted against.
Mr. Chandler thanked Mr. Faulkner for his hard work and dedication to the board and his officer position as chair for the last year.

Executive session

**Executive session-
BCBK, GBC/D, GBO, GBN, DFN, FGB**

The chair announced the purpose for executive session was to receive resignations/retirements/terminations, 2021-22 certified and working retirees employment recommendations, and two contractual matters.
The **MOTION** to enter executive session was made and seconded. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

Open session

**Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance -
BCB
Approval of meeting agenda-
BCBD**

At 7:04 p.m., the chair welcomed the public on behalf of the board.
The chair called for approval of the agenda as emailed.
In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner to move Discussion Information item COVID-19 Update, M1, to before Public Forum making it Section I on the agenda.
The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).
A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr.

**Executive session action-
BCBK**

Small to move Discussion Information item Lancaster County Redistricting Presentation - Brian Carnes, M3, to Discussion Action item K7.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

The chair called for approval of the agenda as amended.

In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Parker to approve the agenda as amended.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

The chair noted that the board held an executive session at 5:45 p.m.

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Stroble to accept resignations/retirements/terminations.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Faulkner and seconded by Mr. Buck to accept the superintendent's certified employment recommendations for the 2021-22 school year.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Small to accept the superintendent's recommendation to extend the following contracts for services for the 2022-2023 school year:

– Catering Services for Celebration

The Friendly Caterer of Columbia, SC

– Online Student Enrollment

Power School of Los Angeles, CA

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

The chair reported that the board had completed its executive session business.

COVID-19 Update-

Dr. Phipps recognized Ms. Quinn who gave an update on the latest COVID-19 cases in the district and county. Mr. Stroble asked for clarification on how the district handles athletes who are on COVID-19 quarantine in regards to practicing and playing their sport. Ms. Quinn explained that fully vaccinated athletes should not have to have to quarantine unless they are showing symptoms. This means they should be able to practice with the team and play in games. Mr. Stroble also asked if the district is planning on offering free rapid COVID testing at schools to help identify symptomatic students and close contacts quicker so there is less spread and they can begin the quarantine process quicker. Dr. Phipps and Ms. Quinn explained that the district is looking into a third party program that would provide free rapid COVID testing at schools on a rotating basis.

**Public forum-
BCBI**

The chair outlined the procedures for addressing the board and invited any member of the audience to come forward. Eight members of the public came forward.

Mr. Solomon Goldiamond came forward to pray for the community and that everyone can come together. Mr. Seth Delconte spoke about a student writing on a classroom white board and inquired as to how a teacher is instructed by administration if found to be showing bias in what can be written on the board by students. Ms. Amanda Contesso read an anonymous letter by a concerned parent and inquired about how the district serves special needs children while they are on quarantine. Mr. Steve Giagiakos spoke about his concerns regarding the COVID quarantine policies and that since the recovery rate for children is 99.99% these policies should stop. Ms. Demetra Cornwell spoke about wanting the district to conduct independent research outside of CDC and SCDHEC on COVID-19. She also spoke about her concerns with services provided to students with IEPs while they are on home instruction or quarantine. Ms. Courtney Green came forward to speak about moving the board meetings to a bigger venue. Mr. Jose Luis spoke about the 5 minute limit for each public forum speaker and wanted to request the board meetings be more accessible by having a Spanish speaker present to translate for the community. Ms. Charlene Hunter spoke about the issues with the Lancaster High practice field and the weight room as well as her concerns regarding lunch choices for students.

**Approval of consent action items-
BCBD**

The chair called for approval of consent action items below.

- Minutes of **October 19** regular meeting (BCBH)
- **Early Head Start** monthly financial report (DC, IDDH)
- **Head Start** monthly financial report (DC, IDDH)
- Second reading of revisions to **Board Policy JCAB- Searches & Seizures** and **Memo**.
- Approval of LCSD Review of board policies **memo**
- Approval of course guide **courses**

A **MOTION** to approve the items was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Parker.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

**Recommendation to approve regular
monthly financial report-
DCH**

Dr. Phipps referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and recognized Ms. White, who reported expenditures and revenues were in line with the budget.

A **MOTION** to approve the report was made by Mr. Buck and seconded by Mr. Parker.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

**Lancaster County Comprehensive
Plan Steering Committee -**

Dr. Phipps recognized Ms. White who relayed to the board that Lancaster County requested a board member join the Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan Steering committee. The Board discussed who would be available to volunteer. Mr. Stroble volunteered to be the board's representative on the committee.

Affirm the board policies for 2022 -

Dr. Phipps referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and explained that the board needs to affirm its existing policies for 2022. Affirming the board policies does not prevent the board from revising, deleting, or creating policies during the year.

A **MOTION** to affirm the board policies for 2022 was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

Board meeting **dates** for 2022 -

Dr. Phipps referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and explained the new board meeting dates for 2022. He pointed out the April, June, and December meeting do not follow the third Tuesday rule and instead are on the second Tuesday.

A **MOTION** to approve the board meeting dates for 2022 was made by Mr. Small and seconded by Mr. Buck.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

Lancaster County Redistricting presentation -

Dr. Phipps recognized Mr. Carnes from Lancaster County Council who gave a presentation on the redrawing of district voting lines to make sure the community is fairly and equitably represented. The redrawing of district lines affects the Lancaster County School Board because the school district follows the county's district voting lines when determining its districts for electing board members. The board discussed the need to have a committee involved in the redrawing of the lines and to attend the upcoming County Council meetings. Board Chair, Ms. Dabney, appointed Mr. Stroble, Mr. Faulkner, and Mr. Parker to represent the school board while meeting with County Council to determine the new district voting lines.

A **MOTION** to approve the committee was made by Ms. Gamble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

Recommendation to approve first reading of revisions to Board Policy **Section GA - Personnel General** and **Memo, Section GB - Personnel Certified/Professional** and **Memo, Section GC - Personnel Classified** and **Memo**

Dr. Phipps referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and introduced Ms. Quinn who explained the revisions to Board Policy Section G. Ms. Quinn noted this section currently has three parts, GA - *Personnel General*, GB - *Personnel Certified/Professional*, GC - *Personnel Classified*. These revisions were brought to the board as part of the project to review and update all of the district's board policies.

A **MOTION** to approve the first reading of revisions to Board Policy Section G was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Buck.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

Receipt of consent information items-
BCBD

The board agreed to receive without discussion the reports below as consent information items. The reports were emailed to board members before the meeting.

- FY 2020-21 audit **update**
- 2021 College **Application Day**
- Parent/teacher **Conferences**

- Early Head Start/Head Start monthly director's **report**
- Early Head Start/Head Start monthly October Policy Council **minutes**
- Early Head Start/Head Start monthly federal progress **summary**
- Early Head Start/Head Start monthly enrollment and **attendance**
- South Carolina School Boards Association **information**
(MGB, BBC)

Facilities Update -
IHA

Dr. Phipps referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and recognized Mr. Small and Mr. Bowers. Mr. Small updated the board on several projects around the district. The HVAC ionizers have been installed in all classrooms. The bigger units in gyms and auditoriums are being completed as the new units are delivered. All schools have touch-less water fountains and maintenance is continuing to install more as they are delivered to the district. Mr. Bowers updated the board on the final items at Indian High School. The ball fields should be ready for spring sports. The ILHS auditorium is still being completed and is awaiting information and instructions from the architect. The design phase for the planned additions for Indian Land Middle and Harrisburg Elementary has begun. Kershaw Elementary will have their HVAC unit replaced over Christmas break. Buford Middle rooftop HVAC system will be replaced over the summer.

Adjournment-
BCBF

With no other business before the board, the chair adjourned the meeting at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____

Ken Buck, Secretary

Janice C. Dabney, Chair