

Minutes

5:00 p.m., April 18, 2023, Regular Monthly Meeting

Lancaster County School District Board of Trustees Regular Monthly Meeting

In attendance

Board members present-

Eddie Boykin, Casey Cato, Courtney Green, Tyrom Faulkner (Secretary), Margaret Gamble, Brad Small (Chair), and Melvin Stroble (Vice-Chair)

Board members absent-

Margaret Gamble (Open Session)

District personnel-

Linda Blackwell (Elementary Director), Rachel Bradley (Superintendent's Assistant), Michelle Craig (Communications Specialist), Mary Faile (Finance Director), Trevor Hammond (Procurement Director), Lindsey Marino (Student Services Director), Angela McCrorey (Food Service Director), Jatana Norris (Chief Financial Officer), Kelli Overcash (KES Principal), Jonathan Phipps (Superintendent), Lydia Quinn (COO), Mark Rhoden (ILMS Asst. Principal), Ray Sapp (Security Guard), David Small (Facilities Director), Quinton Thomas (LearnTV), Chris Thorpe (ILMS Principal), Bryan Vaughn (Safety & Communications Director)

Guests-

Alex Sherard (White & Story, LLC)

Press-

Haley Jones (The Lancaster News)

Citizens-

100

Open session

Call to order and invocation-

At 5:00 p.m., the Chair called the meeting to order and gave the INVOCATION.

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, WBTV, WRHM and WSOC were notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

Executive session

Executive session-

BCBK, GBC/D, GBO, GBN, DFN, FGB

Chairman Small announced the purpose for executive session was to receive resignations/retirements/terminations, 2022-2023 certified employment recommendations, 2023-2024 certified employment recommendations, 2023-2024 professional, administrative, and teacher contracts, 2023-24 working retirees recommendations, 2022-2023 non-certified employment recommendations, student transfers, discussion of proposed contractual negotiations and receipt of legal advice subject to attorney-client privilege regarding lease amendment of portion of Barr Street facility, discussion of employment matter and receipt of legal advice related to the Superintendent's employment contract, discussion of proposed contract negotiations regarding Board parliamentarian, discussion of proposed contractual negotiations regarding banking services, uniform rental services, and fire alarm testing & inspections, and receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege.

The MOTION to enter executive session was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Mr. Faulkner

The motion PASSED unanimously (5-0).

Mr. Boykin and Ms. Green were absent

At 7:00 p.m., Chairman Small requested a motion to be made to come out of executive session.

The MOTION to come out of executive session was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner

The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

Open session

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance -

At 7:02 p.m., the chair welcomed the public on behalf of the board.

Approval of meeting agenda-

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 amend the agenda to include that the board will return to Executive Session after section K, Discussion Information Items, is completed.

The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

In open session, a MOTION was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Mr. Faulkner to approve the agenda as amended.

The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

Executive session action-

BCBK

The chair noted that the board held an executive session at 5:03 p.m.

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Boykin and seconded by Ms. Gamble to accept resignations/retirements/terminations.

The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Faulkner and seconded by Ms. Cato to accept the superintendent's certified employment recommendations for the 2022-23 school year.

The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Boykin and seconded by Mr. Faulkner to accept the superintendent's 2023-2024 certified contract employment recommendations with the exception of Lori Small (at North Elementary).

The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0).

Chairman Small recused himself

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Green to accept the superintendent's 2023-2024 certified employment recommendations with the exception of Ashley Bradley (at Kershaw Elementary), John Cato (at Buford High), and Jeffrey Cato (at Indian Land High).

The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Cato recused herself.

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Mr. Stroble to accept the superintendent's 2023-2024 Professional contract employment recommendations.

The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0)

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner to accept the superintendent's student transfer recommendations.

The motion PASSED unanimously (7-0).

The chair reported that the board had not completed its executive session business and would return to executive session after the Discussion Information Items were finished.

Trustee Awards-

• **South Carolina Junior Scholar**

Indian Land Middle School

Lia Abrams	Medha Nuthakki
Govind Amar	Ava Pasqualone
Natalee Austin	Aidan Patrowic
Brody Bishop	Emily Sawitoski
Caroline Brobst	Blake Slepokura
Conner Bryant	Ava Torres
Tyler Chirico	Winston Walker
Nolan Clark	Alexis West
Lucy DeVault	William Whitmore
Anna Eklund	Jaylen Woodberry
Nicholas Enireb	
Shahmira Farhadi	
Sophie Francis	
Aiden Iannelli	
Rachel Kuruvila	
Cora Lech	
Benjamin Levinson	
Scarlett LoCascio	
Harshil Maddhukuri	
Suzanna Mally	
Ana Mendez	
Candace Molina	
Lucia Moore	
Faith Mortimore	
Tiffany Nguyen-Davis	

• **Perfect Score on 2022 State Testing**

Indian Land Middle School

Melanie Arcila (SC Ready Math)
Mason Green (SC Ready Math)
Faith Mortimore (SC Ready ELA)
Sara Luis (SC Ready Math)
William Micci (SC Ready Math)
Amelia Patsiyeva (SC Ready Math & ELA)

• **SC Counselor's Association Administrator of the Year**

Mark Rhoden, ILMS Assistant Principal

Public forum -

BCBI

The chair outlined the procedures for addressing the board and invited any member of the audience to come forward. Fifteen members of the public came forward. Ms. Desiree Accetturo, Ms. Regan Odell, Ms. Sherrie Drepaull, Ms. Danielle Bolick, Mr. Ben Lesnefsky, Ms. Jan Caron, Mr. Richard Caron, Miss Sienna Lesnefsky, Miss Sophia Lesnefsky, Mrs. Natalie Lesnefsky, Mr. Justin Inkpen, Ms. Demetra Cornwell, and Ms. Tonya Ross came forward and expressed their concerns regarding student safety and district leadership. Ms. Amanda Contesso came forward to express her concerns regarding accountability and the process for filing a complaint on an employee. Mr. Revery Johnson came forward to express his concerns for student achievement and duties of the board.

Approval of consent action items -

The chair called for approval of consent action items below.

- Approval of minutes of **March 21** regular meeting
- Recommendation to approve Early Head Start monthly financial **report**
- Recommendation to approve Head Start monthly financial **report**
- Recommendation to approve correction to October 25, 2022 regular board meeting **minutes**.

A MOTION to approve the consent action items was made by Mr. Boykin and seconded by Mr. Stoble. The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Receipt of Regular monthly financial reports, ESSER update, Fiscal Watch update -

Chairman Small referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and recognized Ms. Faile and Ms. Norris. Ms. Faile reviewed the monthly financial reports. Ms. Faile informed the board that the district is approximately 75% through the fiscal year and that the budgets are in line with what is normal for revenue and expenditures at this point in the year. Ms. Faile explained to the board that the Reimbursement for Homestead Exemption revenue typically comes in around April, May, and June so that line item in the financial reports should show revenue received in the coming months. Ms. Faile gave a brief update on the ESSER funds and explained that ESSER II funds must be spent by September 30, 2023 and ESSER III funds must be spent by September 30, 2024. Ms. Norris updated the board on the Fiscal Watch continuation declaration. Ms. Norris informed the board that the Fiscal Watch Recovery plan and cover letter were submitted to the SCDE. Ms. Norris also informed the board that on April 14th the district received a letter from SCDE that stated that the SCDE conducted their annual risk assessment and gave the district a risk score of 15 which is considered "low risk". Ms. Norris explained the ten different factors that are taken into account in the assessment. Mr. Stroble inquired about whether the district or Chairman Small have received any response from SCDE regarding the official letters that have been sent out in response to the Fiscal Watch continuation declaration. Ms. Norris stated that Daniel Haven from the SCDE Fiscal Practices Committee did email and confirm receipt of her email

Recommendation to approve changes to 2023-2024 school year calendar -

containing the Fiscal Watch Recovery plan and cover letter. A **MOTION** to approve the monthly financial report was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Chairman Small recognized Dr. Phipps who explained that there was a change to the 2023-2024 school year calendar. The approved 2023-2024 school year calendar has labeled October 16th as a professional development day for teachers and staff. Dr. Phipps informed the board that October 9th is a professional development day across the Olde English Consortium, which the district is a part of. Dr. Phipps asked the board to approve the change of date from October 16th to October 9th so that the district can be in alignment with the other school districts in the Consortium and participate in important professional development and training on that date. A **MOTION** to approve the change to the 2023-2024 school year calendar to move the October 16th professional development day to October 9th was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Recommendation to approve first reading of revisions to Board Policy Section D - Fiscal Management and memo -

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Quinn who explained to the board the revisions in Board Policy Section D - *Fiscal Management*. Ms. Quinn informed the board that suggestions can be made for changes to policies after the first reading and before approval of the second reading. A **MOTION** to approve the first reading of Board Policy Section D - *Fiscal Management* and memo was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Green. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Recommendation to approve first reading of revisions to Board Policy Section E - Business Management and memo -

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Quinn who explained to the board the revisions in Board Policy Section E - *Business Management*. Ms. Quinn informed the board that suggestions can be made for changes to policies after the first reading and before approval of the second reading. A **MOTION** to approve the first reading of Board Policy Section E - *Business Management* and memo was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Boykin. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Recommendation to approve first reading of revisions to Board Policy Section F - Facility Expansion Program and memo -

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Quinn who explained to the board the revisions in Board Policy Section F - *Facility Expansion Program*. Ms. Quinn informed the board that suggestions can be made for changes to policies after the first reading and before approval of the second reading. A **MOTION** to approve the first reading of Board Policy Sec-

Recommendation to approve first reading of Board Policy BBDA - Board/Community Relations and memo -

tion F - *Facility Expansion Program* and memo was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Recommendation to approve the use of School Board Association to facilitate the superintendent search -

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Quinn who explained to the board Board Policy BBDA - *Board/Community Relations* was created by board members to provide accountability for the board in reference to the "town hall" meetings and communication with the community. The board thought it was important that the community is heard in a two-way conversation and this policy was intended to ensure clear communication between the board, the district, and the community. A **MOTION** to approve the first reading of Board Policy BBDA - *Board/Community Relations* and memo was made by Mr. Faulkner and seconded by Ms. Green. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Establish superintendent search and bond referendum committees -

Chairman Small addressed the board and called for a motion to approve SCSBA to facilitate the superintendent search. A **MOTION** to approve the use of the South Carolina School Board Association to facilitate the superintendent search for the district and to ensure that process is initiated no later than May 15th was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Green. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Receipt of consent information items -

Chairman Small addressed the board and called for a motion to approve the bond referendum and superintendent search subcommittees. A **MOTION** to approve the bond referendum subcommittee consisting of Mr. Stroble, Mr. Boykin, and Ms. Gamble, the superintendent search subcommittee consisting of Mr. Faulkner, Ms. Green, and Ms. Cato, and that Chairman Small will be a part of both subcommittees as an ex-officio member was made by Mr. Faulkner and seconded by Mr. Stroble. The motion **PASSED** unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Facilities update -

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

- School Library Month - **April**
- Early Head Start/Head Start **Director's monthly report**
- Early Head Start/Head Start March Policy Council **minutes**
- Early Head Start/Head Start monthly federal progress **summary**
- Early Head Start/Head Start monthly enrollment & **attendance**

Chairman Small recognized Mr. Small who spoke to the board about current and upcoming capital project requests across the district. Mr. Small informed the board that the smaller requests

Executive session-

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are underway. Mr. Small stated that completing these smaller requests as well as the upcoming larger capital projects will take care of many of the principals' capital requests and make the buildings safer.

Chairman Small called for a motion to enter into executive session.

The MOTION to enter executive session was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Boykin

The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Gamble was absent.

Open session -

The Chair called for a motion to exit executive session.

The MOTION to exit executive session was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Cato

The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0).

Ms. Gamble was absent.

Executive session Items -

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Cato to accept the superintendent's 2023-2024 Administrative employment recommendations. The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

- In open session, a MOTION was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner to accept the superintendent's 2023-2024 Working Retiree employment recommendations. The motion PASSED unanimously (6-0). Ms. Gamble was absent.

Adjournment -

With no other business before the board, the chair adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved: _____

Tyrom Faulkner, Secretary

Brad Small, Chair