

Minutes

DRAFT

5:00 p.m., May 16, 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-	None
District personnel-	Linda Blackwell (Elementary Director), Michael Belk (BHS Principal), Ashley Bradley (BMS Principal), Rachel Bradley (Superintendent's Assistant), Michelle Craig (Communications Specialist), Mary Faile (Finance Director), Trevor Hammond (Procurement Director), Cory Hyslop (EES Principal), Lindsey Marino (Student Services Director), Angela McCrorey (Food Service Director), Paul McKenzie, Jr. (LearnTV), Kevin Miller (ILHS Principal), Shuntay Miller (AJHS Principal), Jatana Norris (Chief Financial Officer), Kelli Overcash (KES Principal), Jonathan Phipps (Superintendent), Lonnie Plyler (Safety & Transportation), John Poovey (Safety & Transportation), Lydia Quinn (COO), Ray Sapp (Security Guard), David Small (Facilities Director), Phillip Taylor (Security Guard), Chris Thorpe (ILMS Principal)
Guests-	Alex Sherard (White & Story, LLC),
Press-	Haley Jones (The Lancaster News)
Citizens-	90

Open session

Call to order and invocation-	At 5:00 p.m., the Chair called the meeting to order and 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, 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	The chair announced the purpose for executive session was to receive resignations/retirements/terminations, 2022-2023 certified employment recommendations, 2022-2023 non-certified employment recommendations, 2023-2024 administrative employment recommendations, 2023-2024 certified employment recommendations, 2023-2024 working retirees employment recommendations, 2023-2024 non-certified employment recommendations, student transfers, discussion of proposed contractual negotiations regarding cooperative contract for carpet & flooring products & services, superintendent evaluation, Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and receipt of legal advice related to the Old Bar Street building, discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements for the Board Parliamentarian and receipt of legal advice subject to the attorney-client privilege.
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The **MOTION** to enter executive session was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Ms. Green.

The motion **PASSED** unanimously (5-0).
Mr. Stroble and Ms. Gamble were absent

Open session

Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance -

At 7:00 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 the Discussion Information Items are completed.

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

In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Green to modify the agenda to move Section K, Public Forum, to before Section H, Discussion Action Items.

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

In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Boykin to approve the agenda as modified and 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 Ms. Gamble and seconded by Ms. Green 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. Boykin 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. Faulkner and seconded by Ms. Gamble to accept the superintendent's administrative employment recommendations for the 2023-24 school year.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Stroble to separate the administrative contract extensions from the other administrative contracts. The amendment received no second and died.

Mr. Stroble made **MOTION** to table the motion. The motion to table received no second and died.

The board voted on the original motion.

The motion **PASSED** (6-1).

Mr. Stroble voted against.

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Cato to accept the superintendent's certified employment recommendations for the 2023-24 school year.

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

- In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Ms. Green to accept the superintendent's working retirees employment recommendations for the 2023-24 school year.
The motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).
- In open session, a **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. 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-

- **SC Ready Math Perfect Score**
Riles Hilton, AJMS
- **South Carolina Junior Scholars**

Andrew Jackson Middle School

Lydia Phillips

A.R. Rucker Middle School

Caroline Collins
Lualu Yingst
Buford Middle School
Ethan Evans
Anthony Flynn
Kinzey McManus
Leia Nunnery
Violet Still
Karleigh Walden
Addyson Wright
South Middle School
Jasauni Chandler
Jesse Fort
Dessa Goshorn

- **All-State Chorus**
Brooke Bachini, ILHS
Emma Himel, AJHS
Caryss Jordan, AJHS
Gabrielle Pesackis, ILHS
Eliana Pokopac, ILHS
Jadon Reid, BHS
McKenna Riggins, AJHS
Keira Smith, ILHS
- **National ACDA Honor Choir**
Eliana Pokopac, ILHS
- **2023 SC AAAA 106lb State Wrestling Champion**
Josh Horn, ILHS

- **2023 SC Region 3 AAAA Athletic Director of the Year**
Vernon Hunter, ILHS
- **1st Place in the 9th Annual State Championship of Academics**
Academic Challenge Team, ILMS
Danielle Payne, Adviser
Nadine Scopoulis, Adviser
Natalee Austin
Dennis Connors
Skand Ganeshmoorthy
Nirvan Gyawali
Hasani Kethe
Raeda Khan
Benjamin Levinson
Michael O'Gorman
Aidan Patrowic
Harkeerat Singh

Public forum -

BCBI

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

Mr. Joe Martus spoke about his concerns regarding bullying and student threats. Mr. Dan Duley spoke about his concerns regarding athletic playoffs and the high schools' athletic trainers. Ms. Regan O'Dell spoke about organizational change and supporting and educating students. Ms. Natalie Lesnefsky spoke about district leadership, communication, and the district threat protocol. Ms. Jan Caron spoke about the district threat protocol and communication with parents and the community. Ms. Amanda Contesso spoke about her concerns regarding communication between the board, the district, and the community. Ms. Demetra Cornwell made public FOIA requests and spoke about her concerns for the district. Ms. Katrina Grier spoke about her concerns regarding updating the district website, grievance process, and Safety & Transportation access to PowerSchool for contact information. Ms. Tonya Ross spoke about her concerns regarding public forum and conflicts of interest for board members. Mr. John T. Jones spoke about his concerns regarding black history month, school dress codes, and student education. Ms. Linda Blackmon spoke about her concerns regarding the district's budget and community relations.

Approval of consent action items -

The chair called for approval of consent action items below.

- Approval of minutes of **March 29** planning meeting and **April 18** regular meeting
- Recommendation to approve Early Head Start monthly financial **report**
- Recommendation to approve Head Start monthly financial **report**

A **MOTION** to approve the consent action items was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Cato.

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

Receipt of Regular monthly financial reports -

Chairman Small referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and recognized Ms. Faile and Ms. Norris. Ms. Faile reviewed the monthly financial reports. She stated everything looks in line for this time in the year and that expenditures were at 79%. Chairman Small inquired about object 322, Cleaning. Ms. Faile stated that cleaning was under budgeted for this fiscal year and the Finance department would reassess for the 23-24 school year. Ms. Green inquired about function, 256, Food Services, being at 96% expended. Ms. Norris and Ms. Faile stated that this was normal since there were approximately 7 days left of school to feed students. Ms. Faile gave an update to the board on **ESSER funds**. Ms. Faile stated that ESSER I was completely spent, ESSER II was completely spent as of the day of this meeting, and ESSER III was approximately 64% spent. The deadline for spending ESSER III funds is September 30, 2024. Ms. Norris stated that the ESSER funds plans were on the district's website to be viewed by the public.

Dr. Blackwell and Dr. Marino spoke to the board about the summer programs being offered throughout the district that would be supported by the ESSER III funds as well as other funds. Ms. Norris reported an update on the Fiscal Watch declaration and the appeal hearing. Ms. Norris informed the board that the SC Department of Education did not overturn the Fiscal Watch declaration. Ms. Norris explained to the board why she felt the SCDE should have overturned the declaration. She also informed the board that the Finance Dept. has weekly meetings with the district's auditors. Ms. Norris stated that the SCDE had not been in contact in regards to the submitted Fiscal Watch Recovery Plan and has not provided any communication on the promised technical assistance.

A **MOTION** to approve the monthly financial report was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Mr. Stroble.

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

Recommendation to approve proposed 2023-2024 student fees & hourly rates -

Chairman Small referred board members to appropriate agenda pages and recognized Ms. Norris and Ms. Quinn who explained to the board the 2023-2024 student fees and hourly rates. Ms. Quinn informed the board about the addition of the \$5 parking fee for the LCSD Career Center to help identify who should be parking in the lot and is a safety precaution. Ms. Quinn pointed out the adult lunch fees and informed the board that these fees cannot be updated until July when the formula is released from the federal government. Ms. Quinn and Ms. Norris also informed the board that 2023-2024 out-of-county and out-of-state tuition cannot be set until Finance closes the current fiscal year. Ms. Quinn informed the board that the only change made to the hourly rates schedule for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is an increase in the rate of pay for nurses for the summer programs. Mr. Stroble and Ms. Quinn discussed the hourly rates schedule and the hourly rates on the

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

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

current district facility rental agreement. Ms. Quinn stated that she would work with Mr. Small to check on the rates on the facility rental agreement and get clarification on any discrepancies.

A **MOTION** to approve the proposed 2023-2024 student fees and hourly rates was made by Mr. Boykin and seconded by Ms. Gamble.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Stroble to approve the hourly rates schedule with contingency of reviewing the schedule again for consistency once changes are made to the current facility rental agreement. The amendment received no second and died.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Stroble to approve the 2023-2024 student fees and hourly rates schedule separately. The amendment received no second and died.

The board voted on the original motion.

The motion **PASSED** (6-1).

Mr. Stroble voted against.

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Quinn who explained to the board the revisions in Board Policy Section D - *Fiscal Management*.

A **MOTION** to approve the second reading of Board Policy Section D - *Fiscal Management* and memo was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Green.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Cato to postpone the second reading of Board Policy DC - *Annual General Fund Budget*.

The amendment to the motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner to change the first sentence in the third paragraph of Board Policy DCH - *Fiscal Accounting and Reporting* to state "The Superintendent or his designee".

The amendment to the motion **PASSED** unanimously (7-0).

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Stroble postpone the second reading of Board Policy DCH - *Fiscal Accounting and Reporting*. The amendment received no second and died.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Stroble to change the first sentence in the third paragraph of Board Policy DCH - *Fiscal Accounting and Reporting* to state "The Superintendent or his designee will present the Board with monthly financial statements which reflect the financial condition of the District for consideration." The amendment received no second and died.

The amended **MOTION** to approve the second reading of Board Policy Section D - *Fiscal Management* and memo except Board Policy DC - *Annual General Fund Budget* was voted on by the board.

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

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Quinn who explained to the board the revisions in Board Policy Section E - *Business Management*.

A **MOTION** to approve the second reading of Board Policy Section E - *Business Management* and memo was made by Ms. Gamble and seconded by Mr. Boykin.

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

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

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Quinn who explained to the board the revisions in Board Policy Section F - *Facility Expansion Program*.

A **MOTION** to approve the second reading of Board Policy Section F - *Facility Expansion Program* and memo was made by Ms. Cato and seconded by Mr. Stroble.

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

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

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. Ms. Quinn informed the board of legal counsel's recommendation for the policy to be more general in terms of the number of required meetings. The board, Dr. Phipps, and Mr. Sherard discussed parts of the policy that need more clarification.

A **MOTION** to postpone the second reading of Board Policy BBDA - *Board/Community Relations* and memo until June was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Mr. Faulkner.

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

Hope on the Hill -

Chairman Small asked the board if there was any discussion regarding Hope on the Hill. Hearing none, Chairman Small stated that it would be discussed in executive session.

Receipt of consent information items -

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

- National Nurses Day **memo**
- Early Head Start/Head Start **Director's monthly report**
- Early Head Start/Head Start Policy Council **minutes**
- Early Head Start/Head Start federal progress **summary**
- Early Head Start/Head Start enrollment & **attendance**

Presentation of proposed FY 2023-2024 general fund -

Chairman Small recognized Ms. Norris who gave a presentation on the proposed FY 2023-2024 general fund budget. Mr. Stroble requested that Ms. Norris compare the district's salaries and pay rates with nearby surrounding counties to make sure LCSD is competitive. Ms. Norris stated that the previous interim CFO had done that research and she would provide that data to the board for review. Ms. Norris informed the board that the focus of the general fund budget presentation was recruitment and retention for employees. Ms. Norris explained to the board that the 2023-2024 budget proposal includes an increase in all salary schedules to add five steps and a 5% cost of living increase. The board, Ms. Quinn, and Ms. Norris discussed a possible increase in the cafeteria workers salary schedule to be more competitive with surrounding businesses. Ms. Stroble requested for

a report showing the amount of revenue coming in for special needs students. Ms. Norris stated she would reach out to the State and see if they could provide that specific breakdown to the board. Mr. Stroble requested a projection of the amount of the upcoming school year's impact fees to be collected by the county for the school district. Ms. Norris stated that she would reach out to the county and request the projection.

Facilities **update** -

Chairman Small recognized Mr. Small who spoke to the board about the progress of the projects discussed at last month's board meeting. Mr. Small also informed the board that the rooftop units at Indian Land Intermediate and A.R. Rucker Middle are being replaced. He also explained to the board that the purchase order for the new audio/video system for the boardroom has been created and the lead time on some of the equipment is lengthy but that it should be installed before the August board meeting. Mr. Small updated the board on the progress of the Buford High athletic bathrooms project and the school's new weight room project.

Superintendent Search subcommittee update -

Chairman Small recognized Mr. Faulkner who provided an update on the Superintendent search process. Mr. Faulkner stated that the subcommittee has been working closely with SCSBA and the vacancy notice was posted publicly on May 1st. The notice was shared in over 40 states. The community and parent survey has been posted on the district's website and sent out via email. There have been approximately 1377 responses so far. Mr. Faulkner also updated the board on the scheduled focus group meetings to help gather information and input from the community and staff. Ms. Green suggested that Zoom meetings be set up to provide staff with an opportunity to provide feedback since it is close to summer and teachers and staff will not be in the schools. Chairman Small informed the public that the board has received only one completed application.

Bond subcommittee update -

Chairman Small recognized Mr. Stroble who provided an update from the bond subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee met virtually on May 2nd. The Lancaster County Director of Voter Registration and Elections presented information to the subcommittee about the cost, approximately \$70,000, of a special election for the bond referendum. The committee also discussed two potential special election dates, March 26th or April 2nd, which would provide enough time for scheduling polling locations and solidifying the logistics of the election. The subcommittee plans on discussing the bond attorney options as well as options for an architect to help identify costs for facility needs across the district. Mr. Stroble informed the board that Ms. Hudson stated that by Mid-December the board needed to provide the notice to the county and the bond counsel language submitted 60 days in advance of the election day.

Day at the Capitol update -

Chairman Small recognized Mr. Stroble who gave an update on the SCSBA Day at the Capitol event. Mr. Stroble and Mr.

Faulkner were in attendance and spent the day meeting with the legislation delegation, Representative Brandon Newton, Representative Mike Neese, and Senator Michael Johnson. Mr. Stroble stated that in these meetings he learned about the proposed legislation regarding prohibiting local entities like school districts from having special elections. Mr. Stroble stated that they also discussed the state budget for the upcoming year and did not anticipate a decrease. It was also announced that S.C. Department of Administration Executive Budget Director Brian Gaines would be the state's next Comptroller General.

Executive session-

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

The Chair called for a motion to enter into executive session. The **MOTION** to enter executive session was made by Mr. Boykin and seconded by Mr. Stroble.

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

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 (7-0).

Executive session action-

BCBK

- A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Cato to accept the superintendent's 2023-2024 administrative employment recommendation for employee A.

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

- A **MOTION** to approve the lease to Hope on the Hill as presented in executive session, in compliance with S.C. Code Section 59-40-170, and direct the board chair to sign the lease on the board's behalf was made by Mr. Boykin and seconded by Ms. Gamble.

A **MOTION** was made by Mr. Stroble and seconded by Ms. Green to postpone the vote on the lease agreement until the draft lease agreement is made public.

The board discussed whether to postpone the vote until the draft lease has been made public or to move forward with a vote immediately.

The motion **FAILED** (2-5).

Mr. Faulkner, Ms. Cato, Chairman Small, Mr. Boykin, and Ms. Gamble voted against.

Chairman Small asked for discussion on the original motion. Mr. Stroble voiced his concerns regarding the original lease agreement, the new lease agreement, the renovations to the facility, and the usage and subleasing of the facility. Chairman Small stated that he checked with the General Counsel of the South Carolina Ethics Commission about a possible conflict of interest on this vote and he was told he was not required to recuse himself from the vote. The other board members stated that they have checked as well and there were no conflicts of interest regarding the vote on the Hope on the Hill lease agreement.

An amendment was made by Mr. Stroble to amend the lease agreement on page 5 Article 8 Section 2, Immediate Use, to

strike 10 days of the effective date and replace it with 30 days.
The amendment received no second and died.
The board voted on the original motion.
The motion **PASSED** (5-2).
Mr. Stroble and Ms. Green voted against.

Adjournment-

With no other business before the board, the chair adjourned the meeting at 12:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyrom Faulkner, Secretary

Approved: _____

Brad Small, Chair