

Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2023 5:00 P.M.

The Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation Board of Directors convened Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Lexington District One Central Services Auditorium.

Board members: Chair Lisa Phillips, Michael Boone, David Chao, Harriet Coker, Randy Cooper, Rod Dooley, Angela Douda, Chris Goumas, Katy Handell, Brandi Keefer, Brandon Mogan, Dr. Scarlet Taylor, Michelle White, Bridget Winston, and Vandan Shah

Absent: Katrina Bryant, LaMyron Jenkins, Bryan Jones, Rebecca West, Rosemary Wilson

1.0 Call to Order – Board Chair Lisa Phillips called the meeting to order and welcomed new board members.

2.0 Minutes – June 15, 2023 Board meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Keefer	Mogan	Approved Unanimously

3.0 Committee Reports

3.1 Finance Committee – Randy Cooper, Committee Chair

3.1.1 Financial Report – 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022-2023 –Mr. Cooper reviewed final, year-end numbers that reflected \$1,580,990 in assets, which is \$200,000 more than the prior year. In comparison to the prior fiscal year, the Foundation’s checking account increased by more than \$48,000, in large part due to a bequest made in late spring. Such unrestricted donations are extremely important to the foundation’s operations, since the majority of gifts received are typically restricted (e.g., \$80,062 in scholarship revenue).

Operational expenditures did not reflect the foundation being fully staffed due to a short gap from staff turnover in the spring and another staff member’s position being reduced in hours due to budget cuts. Accordingly, revenue from special events and unrestricted support are even more important to maintaining foundation operations and impact in Lexington One via grants moving forward.

3.1.2 Investments Update LPL Financial Report 4th Quarter (June 30, 2023) – Mr. Cooper shared our investments report for the fourth quarter, which reflected a \$78,000 increase.

3.1.3 2023-2024 Proposed Budget – Mr. Cooper reviewed this year’s proposed budget, which was based on estimations made by Executive Director Julie Washburn and reviewed by Lexington One Accounting Supervisor Kim Little and our Finance Committee. The budget takes in to account our fundraisers, projected grant projects and expenditures, and estimated operational expenses for this fiscal year, which includes a support staff position shifting back to fulltime hours.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Committee Chair Randy Cooper moved to approve the recommended 2023-2024 Budget for the Educational Foundation.

Motion	Action
Cooper	Approved Unanimously

3.2 Governance – David Chao, Committee Chair

3.2.1 Board Committees & Roster 2023-2024 – Mr. Chao asked all members to review the roster to be sure their personal information is still accurate.

3.2.2 Foundation Meetings Schedule 2023-2024 – He also asked everyone to note our foundation meeting dates on personal and professional calendars.

3.3 Allocations —Chris Goumas, Committee Chair

3.3.1 Bucks for Books Grants 2023-2024 – During a recent Allocations Committee meeting, Lexington District One’s ELA Coordinator Dr. Candace Lett requested grant funding to assist with elementary literacy efforts to enhance the SC state-mandated LTRS program with a focus on all elementary kindergarten classes this year. In subsequent years, the foundation could shift the focus to first and then second grade books in classrooms of these teachers.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mr. Goumas moved to fund \$25,000 in Bucks for Books Grants to be divided as requested among each of the 17 Lexington One elementary schools in order to support literacy efforts.

Motion	Action
Goumas	Approved Unanimously

3.3.2 Innovation Grants to K-8 Schools – On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mr. Goumas moved to fund \$25,000 in Innovation Grants for K-8 Schools, or \$5,000 per school award for the 2023-2024 year. Schools are again required to match 10% of the foundation’s grant award.

Motion	Action
Goumas	Approved Unanimously

3.3.3 International Teacher Grants 2023-2024 – Mr. Goumas shared that these grants support Lexington One’s newest teachers who arrive from other countries to teach here. They provide breakfast and lunch for the first 60 days of school and grant assistance with rent and food. This school year, due to increased school meal prices, the committee recommended increasing the total grant award per teacher to reflect these changes. The requested funding allocation should also enable the foundation staff to make grant awards during this fiscal year and in the fall of 2024-25.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mr. Goumas moved to allocate \$20,000 for International Teacher Grants, which includes a grant of \$471 for school meals for 60 days, \$150 in grant support for groceries, and a \$200 grant for rent or utilities per teacher for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic years.

Motion	Action
Goumas	Approved Unanimously

3.3.4 Health Fund Grants Update – Currently the amount the board approved for last year to assist families in need with treatments for Cimex lectularius is adequate. Accordingly, no additional funds are needed at this time. Mr. Goumas was given the floor to explain the need-based program briefly to newly installed board members.

3.3.5 Higher Education Support Grants – These grants have assisted Lexington One seniors with significant financial need by helping to furnish their dorm rooms and/or provide academic grants for a total of \$1,000 grant per award. A total of 12 grants of \$1,000 each were approved for qualifying seniors who were from four of the high schools. Two seniors requested the total of the award go to college tuition.

The attached chart illustrated the many ways the grants were expended to support our students' needs with desk/school supplies being the top need, followed by bedding and hygiene products.

There was some discussion regarding the challenges that foundation and high school counseling staff incurred due to the changes implemented by the board. Nonetheless, these grants continue to be very worthwhile to our Lexington One graduates who pursue a college degree and have financial need. Accordingly, Mr. Goumas agreed to have further review of these grants with the Allocations Committee.

Mr. Goumas moved to fund up to 25 Higher Education Support Grants in the amount of \$1,000 each for this school year, which would provide need-based grants to Lexington District One seniors who apply and meet the predetermined, need-based criteria that is listed in the grant application.

Motion	Action
Goumas	Approved Unanimously

3.3.6 LEAP- Lexington Emergency Assistance Plan FY22-23 Report – Mr. Goumas presented final numbers for the families who applied for and received LEAP Emergency Grant Assistance. Medical bills were the greatest area funded with rent/ mortgage and utility bills following in the list of highest funded needs.

Foundation staff continue to work hard to connect with families in need with the help of our 100+ LEAP volunteer representatives, school counselors, social workers, teachers, and administrators who refer families to the foundation for help. Mrs. Washburn briefly explained the program, referral process, and implementation to newly installed board members.

Employee Assistance Program request by Lex One School District - Mr. Goumas informed board members of the request that was presented to Allocations Committee to fund the Employee Assistance Program in the amount of \$50,000 for the 2024-25 school year. Allocations agreed to table the discussion at the time until questions were answered by district leadership.

Brief discussed followed that explained what the EAP benefit was, employee utilization to date, marketing of the program, low district participation rate, and questions regarding why the district would not continue funding it. The foundation board was solicited for this support and approved it three years prior, however, the district found money to cover it at the time; this source of funds will no longer be available after the 2023-24 school year. In light of concerns discussed, consensus was that the EAP request from the district may not be a good fit for the Foundation to consider funding.

3.4 Philanthropic Partnerships —Angie Douda, Committee Chair

- 3.4.1 Fore the Foundation Grand Golf Tournament** – Mrs. Douda shared that the committee met on Sept. 5, 2023, and focused the meeting the upcoming golf tournament that is October 19, 2023. The event's purpose is to raise funds via sponsorships and golf team registrations. Accordingly, she stressed the importance of having all board members involved in our fundraising efforts. Anyone with suggestions or connections should contact Mrs. Washburn. Please note that \$27,000 has been raised to date.
- 3.4.2 Leading as One Breakfast Report** – This year's breakfast was a success in kicking off the new school year. We had 9 generous sponsors and many attended. Eggs Up Grill catered the breakfast and was a sponsor. Executive Director, Mrs. Washburn gave a presentation detailing some of the foundation's many investments in Lexington One this past year.
- 3.4.3 LEAP Annual Campaign 2023-2024 Update** – LEAP training was held on July 31st and there was a great turnout. The LEAP volunteers promote the LEAP Annual Campaign for the first 3 weeks of school and then shift their focus to serve as emergency grant assistance volunteers. The staff created posters, flyers, social media images, and a video to promote the LEAP campaign. Ms. Washburn does anticipate a potential 30% reduction in total LEAP Campaign gifts this year due to employees no longer being able to

donate their unused leave to the campaign per district leadership's authority. Chief Communications Officer Mrs. Roof shared the reason for the change. Discussion ensued regarding leave from district employees who are retiring and/or being paid out for their leave over the maximum amount to carry over to the next fiscal year. Accordingly, Ms. Washburn will follow up with finance to find out how the foundation could communicate directly to these employees the option of making a gift to the foundation.

The official LEAP Campaign numbers for this school year will be shared as soon as they are confirmed. Awards will also be given to the top schools in the coming month.

3.4.4 Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants – Fall 2023 Awards – Six teachers received grants for the fall semester totaling \$1,490 with 471 students at 6 schools being impacted. The applications for the next cycle of grants are due November 15th. Since the foundation did not receive 10 grants, the excess funds will be used potentially for winter/spring grant awards.

4.0 Executive Director Report — Mrs. Julie Washburn

Mrs. Washburn shared information about upcoming dates for meetings noted on the agenda; requested all interested in purchasing apparel to respond to the survey/order for the golf tournament; and asked for everyone who is able to volunteer for the golf tournament to please do so. She finished by emphasizing the importance of sharing our social media posts with others to increase visibility (examples of our media coverage and posts were included in the board meeting packet).

5.0 Adjournment

Chair Mrs. Phillips commended everyone for their continued commitment to the Educational Foundation and our efforts to improve the lives of students, teachers and staff in Lexington School District One. She then asked for any additional questions or discussion. Upon receiving no comments, Ms. Phillips made the executive decision to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Prepared By:

Mr. Randy Cooper
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Heather Johnson
Executive Secretary