

Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2024 5:00 P.M.

The Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation Board of Directors convened Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 5:00 PM at the Lexington District One Central Services Auditorium.

Board members: Chair Bridget Winston, Julie Bartels, Chery Bartolotti, Randy Cooper, Dr. Scarlet Taylor, Michelle White, Angie Douda, Missy Moore, Brandi Keefer, Katrina Bryant, Will Salley, Jackie Kaminer, Michael Boone, Kathy Henson, Libby Roof

Absent: Rebecca West, Rod Dooley, Lisa Phillips, LaMyron Jenkins, David Chao, Harriet Coker, Jennifer White

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

2.0 Presentation- Lexington One Educational Foundation Accomplishments 2023-2024- Bridget Winston

3.0 Minutes – June 13, 2024 Board meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion	Second	Action
Douda	Cooper	Approved Unanimously

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Finance Committee – Randy Cooper, Committee Chair

4.1.1 Financial Report – 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2023-2024 –Mr. Cooper reviewed final, year-end numbers that reflected \$1,806, 294.73 in assets, which is \$225,304.39 more than the prior year. There is \$46,017 less in checking but more in other accounts. The foundation has no liabilities. At year’s end, revenue was shifted from a number of fundraising-focused funds into the general fund. The staff will continue to do this at the end of the fiscal year.

Accordingly, at the end of June we had unrestricted funds of \$472,673 and restricted funds were \$1,1,102,064. Revenue from special events and unrestricted support totaled \$341,885.

Expenditures totaled \$312,210 for operational costs, grants and scholarships.

4.1.2 Investments & LPL Financial Report 4th Quarter (June 30, 2024) – Mr. Cooper shared our investments report for the fourth quarter, which reflected a \$262,679 increase.

4.1.3 2024-2025 Proposed Budget – Mr. Cooper reviewed this year’s proposed budget, which was based on estimations made by the Finance Committee, which met on September 3, 2024 to discuss financial needs and the budget. This budget does include proposed areas that will be covered during the Allocations Committee report.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Committee Chair Randy Cooper moved to approve the recommended 2024-2025 Budget for the Educational Foundation that totals \$377,000 in Revenues and Expenses.

Motion	Action
Cooper	Approved Unanimously

4.2 Governance – Michael Boone in the absence of David Chao, Committee Chair

4.2.1 Board Committees & Roster 2024-2025 – Mr. Boone asked all members to review the roster to be sure their personal information is still accurate.

4.2.2 Foundation Meetings Schedule 2024-2025 – He also asked everyone to note our foundation meeting dates on personal and professional calendars.

4.3 Allocations —Katrina Bryant, Committee Chair

4.3.1 Bucks for Books Grants 2024-2025 – The foundation will continue to support and strengthen literacy efforts in Lexington District One. This year the proposal is to fund social studies and science books in the 3rd-5th grade classrooms in all 18 elementary schools.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to fund \$25,800 in Bucks for Books Grants this school year to support literacy efforts, which will be divided as requested among each of the 18 Lexington One elementary schools to provide social studies and science books for every 3rd-5th grade teachers’ classroom.

Motion	Action
Bryant	Approved Unanimously

4.3.2 Innovation Grants to K-8 Schools – These grants enhance learning in elementary and middle schools. Michael Boone inquired on the required 10% school match and Ms. Washburn explained this match has not been a problem in the past for school leaders.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to fund \$25,000 in Innovation Grants for K-8 Schools, or \$5,000 per school award, for the 2024-2025 year.

Motion	Action
Bryant	Approved Unanimously

4.3.3 International Teacher Grants 2024-2025 – Mrs. Bryant 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 and cost of living, the committee recommended increasing the total grant award per international teacher. The Lexington One HR Team utilized a newly approved rubric to better vet need, which thus far has resulted in 16 teacher grant requests. These grants are important in recruitment and retention.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to allocate \$20,000 for International Teacher Grants, which includes a total grant of \$1,102.20 per approved international teacher- or \$502.20 for school meals for 60 days, \$200 in grant support for groceries, and a \$400 grant for rent or utilities.

Motion	Action
Bryant	Approved Unanimously

4.3.4 Health Fund Grants FY 2023-2024 Report & Update – Last school year six families needed this grant assistance last year due to serious financial constraints and health battles with Cimex lectularius. Expenses paid totaled \$3,505 for treatments. Mrs. Bryant was given the floor to explain the need-based program briefly to newly installed board members. The foundation only assists the families; the district must financially handle any classroom issues.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to allocate \$5,000 in Health Fund Grants for the 2024-2025 school year to support low-income Lexington One students and their families who are identified by school staff and vetted and assisted via district social workers.

Motion	Action
Bryant	Approved Unanimously

A grant proposal was presented by Lexington One’s Director of Nursing and Health Services Amy Wood to purchase albuterol and disposal chambers for every Lexington One school nursing team. Additionally, she requested a grant to purchase digital thermometers for school nursing teams and school social workers in an effort to provide low-income families with the tools needed to monitor a students’ health and temperature.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to allocate \$7,000 in Health Fund Grant support to Lexington District One Health Services for the purchase of albuterol, chambers, and digital thermometers to support students’ health needs.

Motion	Action
Bryant	Approved Unanimously

4.3.5 Higher Education Support Grants Report – These grants assist 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 13 grants of \$1,000 each were approved for qualifying seniors who were from four of the five district high schools. Two seniors of these 13 did not receive the grant due to not returning the required documentation. The report illustrated the many ways the grants were expended to support our students’ needs with tuition assistance and desk/school supplies being the top need, followed by bedding, storage containers, and hygiene products. Five students used all of the grant and five others used the second half of the grant award to help with college costs, while two used it to purchase a laptop for college.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mrs. Bryant moved to fund \$25,000 for 25 Higher Education Support Grants for the 2024-2025 school year, which would provide \$1,000 per Lexington One Senior who applies and qualifies based on the predetermined, need-based criteria that is listed in the grant application.

Motion	Action
Bryant	Approved Unanimously

4.3.6 Homegrown Institute 2024 Grant Report- This past summer 202 teachers and 14 literacy coaches attended this summer training. The focus was the new ELA standards and curriculum and the feedback was positive regarding the learning.

At the Allocations Committee meeting, Dr. Candace Lett presented a proposal for support of the 2025 Homegrown Institute that would focus on a virtually-led book study. However, the committee assessed the proposal and did not choose to support it for the upcoming summer 2025 session due to concerns with the effectiveness and participation rate.

4.3.7 LEAP- Lexington Emergency Assistance Plan FY2023-2024 Report – Mrs. Bryant presented final numbers for the Lexington One families who applied for and received LEAP Emergency Grant Assistance. Application numbers were down, as the fund’s traditional route for grant assistance only resulted in the foundation helping 3 student families and 6 employee families for a total of reach of 35 individuals and \$18,805 in grant funds awarded. Staff did have 7 cancelled LEAP Emergency applications plus 65 inquiries regarding LEAP Emergency Grant Assistance, yet some inquiries were helped in other ways, like Helping Hands Grant assistance. Mrs. Washburn briefly explained the program, referral process, and implementation to newly installed board members.

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 this need-based grant assistance.

4.4 Philanthropic Partnerships —Angie Douda, Committee Chair

- 4.4.1 Fore the Foundation Grand Golf Tournament** – Mrs. Douda encouraged and challenged each board member to work hard on securing at least one sponsor and one team for the upcoming golf tournament that is October 24, 2024. 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. Kudos were given for select board members who had already stepped up to help. Suggestions or connections should be directed to Mrs. Washburn. It was noted that \$15,000 has been raised to date.
- 4.4.2 Leading as One Breakfast Report** – This year’s breakfast was a success in kicking off the new school year. We had 7 generous sponsors and many attended. Eggs Up Grill catered the breakfast and was a sponsor. Board Chair, Mrs. Winston gave a presentation detailing some of the foundation’s many investments in Lexington One this past year.
- 4.4.3 LEAP Annual Campaign 2024-2025 Update** – LEAP (Lexington Emergency/Education Assistance Plan) training was held on July 29th 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. This year’s campaign theme was “Cheers to 20 Years! Let’s Celebrate the foundation’s LEAP Funds supporting Lexington District One for the past 20 years!” Employees are able to donate to the foundation via cash, check, or payroll deduction.

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 months.

- 4.4.4 Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants – Fall 2024 Awards** – Sixteen awards were made to include teachers from eight different schools. The teachers received grants for the fall semester totaling \$3,401.49 with 2,700 students being impacted. The applications for the next cycle of grants are due November 15th. We are so thankful to Michelin for continuing to provide such important grant funding to support our teachers and their students!

5.0 Executive Director Report — Mrs. Julie Washburn

Mrs. Washburn shared information about Higher Education Support Grants and challenges with returning the receipts. Therefore, this coming school year the checks will be written directly to the college with the student’s name and college ID number on the memo. This will ease some of the stress in awarding the grants, since multiple students lost their award checks.

LEAP campaign numbers look positive for an increase in giving. Afterwards campaign awards will be presented to schools that demonstrate the top percent of increase in donating.

Golf tournament sponsors, teams, and volunteers are needed for the upcoming event. She finished by emphasizing the importance of sharing our social media posts with others to increase visibility and noted that examples of our media coverage and posts were included in the board meeting packet.

6.0 Adjournment

Chair Mrs. Winston commended everyone for their continued commitment to the Educational Foundation and the 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, Mrs. Winston made the executive decision to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mr. Randy Cooper
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Prepared By:

Heather Johnson
Executive Secretary