LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2025 from 5:00-6:30 PM

The Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation Board of Directors convened Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 5:00 PM in Lexington District One's Central Services staff development room.

Board members: Chair Bridget Winston, Secretary/ Treasurer Randy Cooper, Angie Douda, Cheryl Bartolotti, Harriet Coker, Jackie Kaminer, Jennifer White, Julie Bartels, Will Salley, LCSDO CCO Libby Roof, and Executive Director Julie Washburn.
Absent: Vice Chair Katrina Bryant, Immediate Past-Chair Lisa Phillips, Brandi Keefer, David Chao, LaMyron Jenkins, Missy Moore, Michael Boone, Michelle White, Rebecca West, Rod Dooley, and Scarlet Taylor.

1.0 Call to Order – Chair Bridget Winston called the meeting to order.

2.0 Minutes – November 14, 2024 Board meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously by all in attendance.

Motion	Second	Action
Douda	Bartels	Approved by those present, others via email

3.0 Robotics Learning in Lexington District One- Ryan Panter, Asst. Director Lexington Technology Center – Ryan Panter gave an overview of robotics learning and teaching in Lexington District One.

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Executive- Bridget Winston, Committee & Board Chair

4.1.1 Memorandum of Understanding - Ms. Winston deferred to Libby Roof who stated that it was time for the annual review of MOU agreement between LCSD1 & LCSD1 Educational Foundation. Proposed changes were presented including salary percentages that the foundation will be responsible for versus the district. Mrs. Roof stressed the benefits of the positive foundation endeavors and the value of this relationship with the district. Foundation Chair Mrs. Winston will present an overview of the foundation's accomplishments (prepared by staff) at the June 10th School Board Meeting, which is when the revised MOU will be presented to the school board.

4.2 Finance – Randy Cooper, Secretary/ Treasurer, Committee Chair

4.2.1 Financial Report- 2nd Quarter - Mr. Cooper reviewed the Financial Report for the 2nd Quarter Balance Sheet and Revenue vs. Expenditure Statement and briefly reviewed classification of funds, grant fund expenses, revenue details, and scholarship accounts. Balance sheet has current assets are $1.83 million with the majority of the funds being invested due to donor restrictions. Revenue does not accurately reflect Celebration sponsorships, since the majority of those gifts were given in 3rd quarter. Expenditures reflect operational costs; educational grants made through December; need-based grants from LEAP, Cats Kick Cancer and the Caring Heart Fund, and scholarship payments made in July and November. LPL Investment account does reflect positive return. The audit is in the process of being completed with Mauldin & Jenkins.

4.2.2 Investment Update - The CD invested with Synovus Bank matured January 20th and was reinvested. The CD with Founders Federal Credit Union matured March 20th. The executive committee will determine the best next steps for investment of the funds.

4.2.3 Endowment Spending Policy – Mr. Cooper shared that the recommended policy is based on national nonprofit norms for managing endowed scholarship funds. It requires a determined percentage of the earnings be allocated to next year's scholarships with recommendations to give no more than five percent. The administrative fee could be set no higher than two percent. Some scholarships are still considered non-endowed due to the lower amount in the funds. The board will annually review the percentage and fees that will be administered for the following school-year.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Cooper moved to adopt the Endowment Spending Policy as it was presented to the board. Motion was approved. *Refer to Meeting Minute Addendum.*

Motion	Second	Action
Cooper	n/a	Approved by those present, others via email

4.3 Allocations – Katrina Bryant, Committee Chair – Will Salley presented in her absence

4.3.1 Innovation Grants – Foundation received five Innovation Grant proposals for the 2025-2026 grant cycle. Applicants presented their projects to the Allocations Committee at the February 24, 2025 meeting. Mr. Salley shared the $15,672.74 budget allocation and gave a synopsis of all five of the grant projects that the committee voted to consider for funding.

On behalf of the Allocations Committee, Mr. Salley moved to approve the five Innovation Grant projects proposals from Gilbert Elementary School, Oak Grove Elementary School, Pleasant Hill Elementary School, and Saxe Gotha Elementary School. Motion was approved. *Refer to Meeting Minute Addendum.*

Motion	Second	Action
Salley	Committee	Approved by those present, others via email

4.3.2 Scholarships Update – February 10, 2025 was the deadline for all 16 foundation scholarships. The foundation received 128 applications from students attending all five Lexington One high schools. The Scholarship Committees will determine winners by reviewing redacted copies prior to the week of April 11, 2025. Winners will be notified at the high school award programs.

4.3.3 Higher Education Support Grants – High School Administrators and Counseling teams have encouraged Lexington One seniors pursuing college to submit grant applications no later than our March 21, 2025, deadline. However, staff anticipate a significant delay with fully completed applications due to the continued revisions of the FAFSA application.

4.3.4 Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grant Application Changes – The Allocations Committee met and discussed options for an increase to $500 per award to allow greater impact on classroom learning for the teachers who receive the grants. This would decrease the total number of awards from 20 to 10 per year. Will Salley presented the request to Michelin leaders who approved this change in administration of the grant for the 2025-2026 school year.

4.3.5 LEAP Emergency Assistance Report - To date, the LEAP Emergency Fund has received 20 submitted applications. The approved applications have supported 14 families for a total $28,941 in grant emergency funds awarded. Of the approved grant applications, five were from employees and nine were students' families. Foundation Staff have received 55 inquiries to date with 12 being assisted in some other ways.

4.4 Governance - David Chao, Committee Chair – Julie Washburn presented in his absence

4.4.1 Board List Update - The School Board liaison recently changed from Kathy Henson to Nicholas Pizzuti, who will join the foundation at the June Board meeting.

4.4.2 Board of Directors Expiration of Terms - Board members serve 3-year terms and can only serve up to two consecutive terms. There will be 2-4 open spots next school year, so the board members must brainstorm to fill vacancies. Focus should be on fundraising, since that is the foundation's mission. Please send all recommendations to Mr. Chao and/ or Mrs. Washburn.

4.5 Philanthropic Partnerships – Angela Douda, Committee Chair

4.5.1 Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grant - Spring 2025 Awards
Six grant applications were received. The grant awards approved four of the six totaling $1,000 that will impact 153 students. Projects ranged from teaching materials in special needs classrooms, STEM learning in ROTC classes; mathematical and job skill enhancements in one high school; and enhancement of literacy and critical thinking skills in another high school course focused on AP Literature. These awards will be positively impact classrooms in Deerfield Elementary, Lexington High, Pelion High and River Bluff High Schools.

4.5.2 Celebration of Excellence - Our March 4, 2025 Celebration event was a success in honoring the 192 top 10 % ranked seniors and their families. It raised $30,100 gross thanks to 28 sponsors. Mrs. Washburn spoke highly of the success of this year's event. Thanks were extended to all board members, staff, and volunteers who supported it. The event supports event expenses, including gifts for the seniors, as well as foundation operational costs. An event expenses report will be finalized for the June meeting.

4.5.3 Lexington Technology Grant – The foundation had a formal proposal written and submitted between LTC and Carolina Gas Transmission. This resulted in a donation of almost $15,000 to the foundation to support the start of a new Mechatronics Program at LTC. We are really excited about this newly formed financial partnership coming to fruition.

4.5.4 Cats Kick Cancer Fund Update – On February 27, 2025, the LHS Boys Soccer Team presented a donation check $5,000 to the foundation at their Cats Kick Cancer Tournament to assist the families of Lexington One students and employees with cancer struggles. This school year we have assisted four families with these grants with a total of $6,433 in grant aid to date. Foundation staff received the CKC blankets and stuffed wildcats that Ms. Washburn created per direction from Coach Gettys. The LHS Soccer players will present these as a gift to Lexington One students and employees who are actively battling cancer and need support.

4.5.5 Teacher Appreciation Appeal – Since May 5-9, 2025 is Teacher Appreciation Week, the foundation's appeal will begin mid-April and last through the end of the school year. Marketing will encourage parents to donate an honorarium gift as a special way to acknowledge their child's teacher(s). Two levels of giving will offer a personal note and/or a social media shout out as appreciation for honored teachers.

4.5.6 Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award – Judges are reviewing the six impressive applications received. The formal announcement will made at the May 20, 2025 School Board meeting as a surprise to the selected winner.

5.0 Executive Director Report – Mrs. Washburn updated the board on the need for changes to the LEAP Campaign pledge forms and gift directions will be forthcoming as the auditor makes recommendations. She will keep board members informed once these changes are finalized.

In addition to the Carolina Gas Transmission donation, Mrs. Washburn accepted a donation from Bald Cypress Builders for $1,500 to support the Building Construction Program. This is the third gift from the Pocta family business. This local business donation is a terrific example of someone who noticed a local article and reached out because they wanted to support Lexington One students.

2025 Foundation Events As we wrap up this school year, the foundation staff will shift focus to upcoming events: Back to School Breakfast and Fore the Foundation Grand Golf Tournament. These are both very important in helping provide needed operational support, as well as educational grants. Thanks for helping to brainstorm and recruit event sponsors for both of these events.

Mrs. Washburn noted upcoming Lexington District One dates when foundation offices will be closed.

6.0 Adjourn – Mrs. Winston made a motion with Mr. Cooper providing a second to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Randall Cooper

Mr. Randy Cooper
Board Secretary/ Treasurer

Prepared By:

Heather H. Johnson

Mrs. Heather Johnson
Executive Secretary