LEXINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES **DRAFT**

November 14, 2024 from 5:00-6:30 PM

The Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation Board of Directors convened Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 5:00 PM at Central Services.

Board members: Chair Bridget Winston, Angie Douda, Cheryl Bartolotti, David Chao, Harriet Coker, Jackie Kaminer, Jennifer White, Julie Bartels, Katrina Bryant, Michael Boone, Michelle White, Randy Cooper, Rod Dooley, Scarlet Taylor, and Will Salley.
Absent: Brandi Keefer, LaMyron Jenkins, Lisa Phillips, Missy Moore, Rebecca West, Libby Roof and LCSD1 Board Liaison Kathryn Henson.

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

2.0 Minutes – September 12, 2024 Board meeting minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously by all in attendance.

Motion	Second	Action
M. White	Taylor	Approved

3.0 Committee Reports

3.1 Finance – Randy Cooper, Finance Committee Member

3.1.1 Financial Report – 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2024-2025 – Mr. Cooper reviewed the Balance Sheet and Revenue and Expenditure Report for the 1st quarter. Revenues included revenue from Golf Tournament fundraiser and LEAP donations in particular. Expenses included fall grants, summer expenses and scholarships and Higher Education Support Grant payments. Assets totaled $1,810,768.61. Note this year's Bucks for Books Grant will be reflected in 2nd Quarter.

3.1.2 Investments Report - 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2024-2025 – The LPL statement of investments shows an increase of $70, 246.

3.2 Allocations – Katrina Bryant, Allocations Committee Chair

3.2.1 Spring Grant Applications – RFPs are out now for Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants and Innovation Grants for K-8 Schools. Applications are available on the foundation's website.

3.2.1.1 Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants – Nov. 20, 2024 deadline with the five applications received thus far.

3.2.1.2 Innovation Grants for K-8 Schools – Jan. 30, 2025 deadline

3.2.2 Bucks for Books Grants - Mrs. Bryant shared that the schools have received Bucks for Books Grant funds and will be purchasing books for 3rd -5th grade students. Report will be presented at March board meeting.

3.2.3 Higher Education Support Grants – This past year was a success as we funded 13 grants to our Lexington One graduates. Foundation staff just shared 2025 details with high school administrators and counseling teams. Seniors who apply do not have to have a college acceptance letter yet to be considered. FAFSA delays may again affect seniors and the processing of financial aid award letters, which is needed to determine eligibility.

3.2.4 International Teacher Grants - Mrs. Bryant shared these 16 need-based grants awarded to the district's new international teachers are in progress. Four are complete, while several others are close to completion. These 3-part grants require a good bit of work from foundation staff to process them each year.

3.2.5 Lexington One Grant Request from the WKHS Band –District leadership via Libby Roof approached the Executive Committee regarding a proposal from the WKHS Band. The Executive Committee thought it was important for the whole board to also review the request. Chair Bridget Winston presented details and explained that the need arose when the WKHS band's major fundraiser was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene. The executive committee did not recommend it due to lack of designated funding for unsolicited requests.

3.3 Philanthropic Partnerships – Angie Douda, Committee Chair

3.3.1 **Fore the Foundation Grand Golf Tournament 2024** - This year's tournament results will be emailed by Executive Director, as staff are awaiting two sponsorship checks before reconciling revenue and expenses for the event. A report will be in the next board meeting packet.

3.3.2 **LEAP Campaign Results (Lexington Emergency/Education Assistance Plan)** – This year's campaign was a big success in celebrating 20 Years of LEAP supporting Lexington District One! Donations totaled $123,545. There was $77,000 directed to Emergency Fund and almost $46,000 to the Educational Fund. We had a slight decrease of only 2% in giving, but increased the total number of donors this year in comparison to the previous year.

3.3.3 **Scholarships 2024-2025** - A master chart and applications were emailed to principals, school counseling directors, and district leaders. The chart summarizes qualifications for each scholarship. The website includes this year's 16 scholarships. All applications are due February 10, 2025. Please encourage any graduating seniors who are pursuing a college education next year to review our scholarships. It was noted that the scholarship restrictions were determined by the donors upon creation of the fund, such as in-state or out-of-state college attendance.

Also, Mrs. Winston mentioned that the Executive Committee is requiring a change in the composition of the Scholarship Review Committee. Accordingly, we will need suggestions for new volunteers to serve. Retirees are ideal due to the enormous amount of time needed to review close to 100 applications. Send recommendations to Mrs. Washburn or Mrs. Winston.

3.3.4 **Michelin VEX Robotics Grants 2024 Awards** – Ten schools were awarded Michelin VEX Robotics Grants. Gilbert Middle School is the newest addition to the list, so each team received $1,000 in support from the foundation. Our thanks to Michelin's Lexington leadership team for the continued generosity in funding these grants.

3.3.5 **Cats Kick Cancer Fund** – Foundation staff recently received three applications for grant support and two have been approved. This fund assists students, employees and, most recently, parents who are actively battling cancer and need temporary financial help to make ends meet. Applicant must first complete a LEAP Emergency Application and will typically first be considered for funding via LEAP and then additional needs are sent to the CKC Review Committee. Our thanks to the LHS Boys Soccer team and Coach Will Gettys for making these grants possible!

3.3.6 **Giving Tuesday / Giving Schools Day** is Tues., December 3, 2024. This day gives individuals a chance to donate online. Staff will promote on our social media pages. Mrs. Douda encouraged all to consider donating to the foundation.

3.3.7 **Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award** – The call for nominations will be sent via emails in January and the award will be presented in May 2025. New judges are needed for the upcoming review, so please send suggestions to Mrs. Washburn. Individuals should not have ties to Lexington One, as we cannot redact personal information from these packets as we do with scholarship applications.

3.3.8 **Celebration of Excellence in Education 2025** – The 2025 Celebration will be held Tuesday, March 4th at White Knoll High School. Pelion High is the host school, however, their LOPAC is too small for the event guests. We need event sponsors, so please contact Julie Washburn if you can assist in soliciting individuals or businesses for donations. We will also need board members and other volunteers to assist with the event. The format is again an awards night program with a dessert reception to follow. Each student will receive a foundation gift, certificate and recognition for the high academic achievement.

4.0 Executive Director Report – Julie Anderson Washburn

4.1 Hurricane Helene Assistance – The assistance report details what the foundation has done to support Lexington One families in need who were struggling as a result of Hurricane Helene. Our Caring Heart Fund paid for more than $2,700 in hotel bills, food and replenishment of food in the Lexington One pantry that was depleted due to high need. Our district social workers worked with the families and administered the assistance, so we are grateful to them and for the donors who give to this fund. A few families may also apply for a LEAP Emergency grant.

4.2 Annual Registration with SC Secretary of State – Mrs. Washburn completed the required first part of the annual registration, which is due on November 15th. each year, and she requested an extension for the second part or financials, which was approved. The extension is normal since the foundation's 990 form and audit are not yet completed. The new auditor has required a new tracking report that details in-kind donations.

4.3 Annual Audit – The new auditor sent a 20-page data sheet that Mrs. Washburn has been working to complete with assistance from Mr. Cooper. Staff created a report for the total of in-kind donations for this data sheet, which is included, and discovered that more than $20,000 in in-kind gifts were donated last fiscal year! Mrs. Washburn asked board members to support the local businesses that are included in this report since they so kindly supported our mission.

4.4 Board Meeting schedule change - Mrs. Washburn discussed the upcoming March meeting date and the need to shift it to March 20, 2025, due the Celebration of Excellence in Education being held on March 4th and the Bedenbaugh nominations being due March 6th. All in attendance checked their calendar and agreed to the shift to March 20, 2025 for the next board meeting.

5.0 Adjourn – Mrs. Coker made a motion to adjourn with Mrs. Douda providing a second to adjourned the meeting at 5:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mr. Randy Cooper
Board Secretary/ Treasurer

Prepared By:

Mrs. Heather Johnson
Executive Secretary