Educational Foundation
Lexington County School District One

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2026

The Lexington County School District One Educational Foundation Board of Directors convened Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 5:00 pm in Lexington District One's Operations Center.

Present: Chair Bridget Winston, Secretary/ Treasurer Randy Cooper, Immediate Past Chair Lisa Phillips, Laura Amick, Michael Boone, Angie Douda, Jacqueline Kaminer, Brandi Keefer, Lindsey Miles, Will Salley, Chris Shealy, Executive Director Pam Altman, Foundation Staff Heather Johnson, and Foundation Staff Melissa Kneece.

Absent: Vice Chair Katrina Bryant, LCSD1 CCO Libby Roof, Trustee Nicholas Pizzuti, Elizabeth Ancone, Julie Bartels, Brent Clark, Harriett Coker, LaMyron Jenkins, Missy Moore, Jennifer White, Michelle White, and Scarlet Taylor.

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

Executive Committee Report
Mrs. Winston presented the Executive Committee report:

- MOU Updates: The Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Foundation is reviewed annually. The district would like to adjust the reimbursement percentages of the two executive secretary salaries and benefits so they are equal, but does not plan to increase the overall reimbursement cost for next year. The Foundation will incrementally increase its contribution, with the long-term objective of assuming 100% of the salaries and benefits for all Foundation positions.
- Board Meeting Time: The Board discussed if moving the current meeting start time might help increase participation. The Foundation staff will survey Board members, and the Board will discuss again at the June meeting.
- Board Resignation: The Board formally acknowledged the resignation of Rebecca West due to her election as a family court judge.

Finance Committee Report

Committee Chair Randy Cooper presented the financial report for the second quarter of fiscal year 2026. As of December 31, 2025:

- Cash and investments totaled $1,983,960 million
- Unrestricted funds totaled $834,19
- Restricted funds totaled $1,149,499, with scholarships and LEAP Emergency making up the largest restricted funds
- Revenues totaled $277,359
- Expenses totaled $248,984, with LEAP Emergency and general operating expenditures making up the largest expense amounts
- Investments at First Community Bank totaled $1,668,308 (net increase of $197,420 since January 1, 2025)

Mr. Cooper will coordinate a presentation by the investment consultant for the Board.

A question about how much of the expenses come from unrestricted versus restricted funds was raised. General operating expenditures are the primary expenses that use unrestricted funds, and they totaled $86,000 for the first half of the year.

Minutes

A motion carried to approve the November 13, 2025, Board meeting minutes as written.

Motion	Second	Action
Douda	Shealy	Approved unanimously

Allocations Committee Report

Executive Director Pam Altman presented the Allocations Committee report on behalf of Committee Chair Katrina Bryant.

- Innovation Grants: The Allocations Committee reviewed six Innovation Grant proposals for the 2026-2027 grant cycle. A motion carried to approve funding totaling $19,041 for the six proposals, which are anticipated to impact 2,022 students across six different schools. The proposed funding amount is lower than the amount that was approved in the budget, as some requests did not seek the full grant amount.

Motion	Action
Allocations Committee	Approved unanimously

- Scholarships: The Foundation received 166 scholarship applications from students across all five Lexington One high schools. Melissa Kneece reviewed all applications to determine if they met the scholarship criteria. The Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing the 119 eligible applications, and their decisions will be made by April 10. Recipients will be announced during their respective high school award programs.
- Higher Education Support Grants: The application deadline is March 20, 2026. The Foundation staff will review applications and award grants to eligible students.
- LEAP Emergency Assistance: This school year to date, the LEAP Emergency Fund has received 49 inquiries and 15 submitted applications, with 14 families approved for assistance totaling $34,441. The $25,282 gap between requested and approved funding is primarily due to limits on maximum allowable funding, especially the $1,000 cap on rent and mortgage.

Philanthropic Partnerships Committee Report

Committee Chair Angela Douda presented the Philanthropic Partnerships Committee report.

- Michelin Golden Apple Teacher Grants: Twenty-two grant applications were received and 16 grants were awarded, totaling $7,481. This used $2,481 in carryover funds from prior years in addition to this year's $5,000 gift from Michelin. Projects included special education student-run drink and snack carts at Beechwood Middle and Pleasant Hill Middle and STEM projects at Forts Pond Elementary, Gilbert Elementary, Lake Murray Elementary, and Meadow Glen Middle. Last year, the Board changed the grants to distribute $500 maximum once a year; previously it was $250 maximum twice a year. Final reports from recipients are due May 1.
- Celebration of Excellence in Education: The event was held March 4 at the LOPAC with Gilbert High School as the host. One hundred ninety-six students were honored, and about 170 attended - the best attendance this event has seen. Nineteen sponsors donated $30,452, including $2,752 in-kind; this is slightly higher revenue than last year with fewer sponsors. Expenses totaled $7,271, and net revenue was $23,181. Mrs. Douda expressed her appreciation for the sponsors and volunteers who made the event possible and personally thanked Heather Johnson and Melissa Kneece for all the work they did to make the event happen. Mrs. Winston added her thanks to Julie Bartels and Hood Construction for providing the food.

- LTC Mechatronics Grant: The Foundation received a $14,750 grant from Carolina Gas Transmission in fiscal year 2024-25 to support the mechatronics program at LTC. According to an October 2025 report from the instructor, the LTC drone technology program has 14 students enrolled, and they will earn pilots' licenses for small unmanned aircraft.
- Cats Kick Cancer Fund: To date this school year, $5,500 has been donated to the Cats Kick Cancer Fund, which supports employees, students, and families who are battling cancer. There have been six inquiries and one award of $1,615; five applications are still being processed. There is a $5,000 per person cap on medical expenses that can be funded through the Cats Kick Cancer Fund.
- Teacher Appreciation Appeal: Last year, the teacher appreciation appeal raised $665 from 18 donors. This year Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-8, 2026.
- Joseph M. Bedenbaugh Administrator of the Year Award: The nomination deadline was extended to April 10, and two applications have been received to date. The Foundation staff will coordinate with the review committee, and the award presentation is tentatively scheduled for the August 2026 Board of Trustees meeting.
- The fourth annual Fore the Foundation Grand Golf Tournament was held on October 23, 2025, and its results were reported at the November 2025 Board meeting. The next tournament is scheduled for October 22, 2026.
- The Back to School Administrators' Breakfast is scheduled for July 16, 2026.
- New Scholarships: The Robert Arlin Bollier Memorial Scholarship and the Joseph Miller & Eric Dooley Memorial Scholarship were added this year.
- Foundation events do not use district funds, so fundraising for them is critical.

Governance Committee Report

Mrs. Altman presented the Governance Committee report on behalf of Committee Chair Missy Moore.

- Process & Timeline: Five Board members are ending their second terms and are thus ineligible to serve another term. Another five Board members are ending their first terms, and the Governance Committee will begin talking with them about returning for a second term. The Committee will identify and meet with prospective new Board members over the next month and begin a review of the bylaws. By the end of May, the Committee will have a slate of new members and officers to present to the board, as well as any bylaws changes, and the Board will vote on them at the June 18 meeting.
- Board of Directors Size: The Board discussed reducing the number of members by not replacing the five members who are finishing their second terms. A smaller Board may help reduce quorum issues. Considerations include ensuring

there are sufficient volunteers for events and fundraising contacts. The Board empowered the Governance Committee to reduce the size of the Board.

Executive Director Report

Mrs. Altman introduced the Foundation team and presented a plan to streamline and modernize operations:

- Implementing a donor database
- Moving to online scholarship and grant applications
- Clarifying LEAP funding and communications

Upcoming projects for the Foundation team include:

- Coordinating scholarship award presentations with donor families
- Reviewing Higher Ed Grant applications
- Fundraising for the Administrators' Breakfast

Mrs. Altman asked the Board about their priorities for the upcoming quarter:

- Positive press highlighting the impact of the grants the Foundation has provided
- Teacher Appreciation Week social media highlights of teachers the Foundation has funded, maybe with a "sponsor a teacher" link
- Telling the stories of LEAP Emergency and Cats Kick Cancer recipients
- Giving days (Midlands Gives, Giving Tuesday) and matching gifts
- Removing application barriers
- Approving a budget for 2026-27 before the new fiscal year starts

Adjournment

A motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 pm.

Motion	Second	Action
Cooper	Douda	Approved unanimously

Respectfully Submitted:

Randall Cooper

Mr. Randy Cooper
Board Secretary/ Treasurer

Prepared By:

Heather H. Johnson

Mrs. Heather Johnson
Executive Secretary