

December 16, 2022 - Board Brief

Gerrita Postlewait and Senior Leadership Team

“December is the toughest month of the year. Others are July, January, September, April, November, May, March, June, October, August, and February.” -Mark Twain

FINANCE

We received another legal invoice related to the piano protest for services by one of the attorneys for the month of November, for approximately \$2,100. We do anticipate the other attorney's invoice for November's services as well and will update the board with the final cost to the district.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

Academic Recovery Plan

For the 2022–2023 school year, all districts are required to submit an Academic Recovery Plan to the South Carolina Department of Education detailing goals and strategies for providing annual growth in English language arts and math. Districts also have the opportunity to add other relevant goals to their recovery plans. Lexington District One's [Academic Recovery Plan](#) was submitted this week. The plan is aligned with our near-term priorities 2 and 3 and the associated deliverables.

SCALE Up Afterschool

We are excited to share that teaching and learning director, Dr. Erica Bissell, and early childhood and Title I coordinator, Jessica Buzhardt, have both been accepted as SCALE Fellows. SCALE, which stands for South Carolina Afterschool Leaders Empowered, is an opportunity through The Riley Institute at Furman University for educators to come together throughout the spring, summer, and fall to engage in learning around high-quality and impactful extended day and extended year programs. Erica and Jessica were chosen from a pool of applicants based on their enthusiasm, ability to impact change in the Lexington One community, and readiness to grow as leaders in the field of afterschool and summer learning.

School Resumes Jan. 3

Staff and students will return from winter break on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

OPERATIONS

Elementary School #19

We wanted to respond to a question received regarding the budget increase with ES19 and how it compares to other districts.

This is hard to quantify because school districts take a variety of approaches when it comes to developing budgets and capturing costs. Examples:

- 1) IT costs. Some districts do not include IT costs in their construction budgets (cabling, PA systems, classroom technology, radio repeater systems, cameras, theatrical equipment, secured access controls, etc.) while Lexington One does.
- 2) Other budget items that other districts may pay for outside of the construction budget include playground equipment, digital signage, and landscaping. If a district tells you their project came in at \$300 a square foot but none of the costs are captured in that number, then their total cost would be higher.
- 3) Another reason comparable numbers are difficult to ascertain is that site work costs are unique to the project.
- 4) Finally, districts take different approaches to the amount of money included in the project for contingency. The funds in the project allotted for unforeseen items can range from 3% to 6%.

We typically base comparisons on square footage.

Gilbert PAC Great news in Gilbert, America! We had our final inspection at the Gilbert PAC yesterday and received occupancy for when we come back for the holiday break. We are waiting for the wheelchair lift to be installed for access to the orchestra pit but everything else passed the inspection!

Prepping for Cold Weather

Schools have been notified to prepare buildings for the cold temperatures predicted in late December.



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SUPERINTENDENT

CONGRATULATIONS! We were excited to learn that Board Chair Anne Marie Green will be recognized for accomplishing the highest level of recognition in the SCSBA Boardsmanship Institute Program. Established in 1982, SCSBA’s Boardsmanship Institute offers a year-round training curriculum focused on leadership skills for board members on state and national educational issues. Board members are recognized for reaching each of six levels. Level 6, the highest level of recognition, is awarded during SCSBA’s Annual Convention and recognized at the district level during a board meeting. Another congratulations to Kathy Henson for reaching level 2. More about the Institute will be provided at the annual convention.

FOIA REQUESTS RECEIVED

NO NEW REQUESTS



Lexington County School District One

Empowering each child to design the future