

Council Members

District 1: Stuart Graham
District 2: Charlene McGriff
District 3: Billy Mosteller, Vice Chair
District 4: Jose Luis
District 5: Steve Harper
District 6: Bryant Neal, Secretary
District 7: Brian Carnes, Chair

**School Board of Trustees Members**

District 1: Eddie Boykin
District 2: Tyrom Faulkner, Secretary
District 3: Courtney Green
District 4: Revery Johnson
District 5: Casey Cato, Vice Chair
District 6: Olivia Hann
District 7: Melvin Stroble, Sr., Chair

**March 20, 2025
6:00 PM**

**LANCASTER COUNTY COUNCIL
JOINT MEETING WITH THE LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING, 101 NORTH MAIN STREET, LANCASTER, SC 29720**

MINUTES

Council Members Present: Steve Harper, Bryant Neal, Brian Carnes, Billy Mosteller, Charlene McGriff, Jose Luis, Stuart Graham.

School Board of Trustees Members Present: Melvin Stroble, Casey Cato, Tyrom Faulkner, Revery Johnson, Olivia Hahn.

School Board of Trustees Members Absent: Eddie Boykin, Courtney Green.

Staff Members/Others Present: Dennis Marstall, County Administrator; Stephany Snowden, Deputy County Administrator; Lauren Hill, Deputy Clerk to Council; Sabrena Harris, Chief Financial Officer; Chris Clouden, Parks and Recreation Director; Jason McCray, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director; Gary Baker, Communications and Marketing Manager; Dr. Rashaad Fitzpatrick, Lancaster County School District Superintendent; various School District employees; the press; various elected officials; various Department Heads; various employees; and citizens.

A quorum of Lancaster County Council and Lancaster County School Board of Trustees were present for the meeting. The following press were notified of the meeting by e-mail in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: *The Lancaster News*, *Kershaw News Era*, *The Rock Hill Herald*, Cable News 2, Channel 9 and the local government channel. The agenda was posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building and also on the County website the required length of time. The power point presentation utilized during the meeting is attached to the written minutes in the Clerk to Council's office.

Call to Order Joint Meeting of County Council and School Board of Trustees - County Council Chairman Brian Carnes and Board of Trustees Chairman Melvin Stroble

County Council Chairman Brian Carnes and Lancaster County School Board of Trustees Chairman Melvin Stroble called the joint meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Welcome and Recognition - County Council Chairman Brian Carnes

Council Chairman Brian Carnes welcomed everyone to the join meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation - School Board of Trustees Chairman Melvin Stroble

Lancaster County School Board of Trustees Chairman Melvin Stroble led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and delivered the Invocation.

Approval of the Agenda

Charlene McGriff moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Revery Johnson. There was no discussion. The motion Passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion and Action Items

a. Communication Sharing

Dr. Rashaad Fitzpatrick reviewed the County's PowerPoint presentation and highlighted different ways the County and School District communicate information with the residents of Lancaster County, which included a local government email group, social media platforms, websites, LearnTV broadcast programs, etc. Dennis Marstall explained that the goal was for the two organizations to work together to engage the entire community. Mr. Marstall noted that April was National County Government month, and that the County would host a mock County Council meeting with high school students from across the school district.

b. Collaboration Opportunities

Dr. Rashaad Fitzpatrick reviewed the County's PowerPoint presentation and highlighted ways the County and School District collaborate with the Lancaster County community, which included faith-based community partnerships, e-sports with the University of South Carolina-Lancaster (USC-L), Special Olympics, youth and teen engagement, seasonal jobs and internship resources, volunteer cleanups, joint meetings, shared use of facilities, and the use of the Lancaster County School District multipurpose building. Brian Carnes stated that sharing facilities and working together to address the wait lists for sports would benefit the entire community. Council and the Board members discussed sharing facilities for recreation programs. Charlene McGriff stated that staff from the County and School District should work together to come up with a plan to share facilities and bring it back to County Council and the School Board of Trustees. She noted that they needed to find a way to accommodate the kids in the County. Dennis Marstall highlighted the County's regional park and the amenities that would be offered. Mr. Marstall and Dr. Fitzpatrick introduced the County's and School District's respective staff members present for the workshop meeting.

c. Community Referendum Planning

Melvin Stroble explained that the School Board was looking into proposing a new school bond referendum, with a tentative date to occur in March or April 2026. Mr. Stroble explained that the proposal would be reviewed by a Citizen Review Committee. Mr. Stroble reviewed the membership makeup and timeline of the committee via the County's PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Stroble highlighted the required report recommendation components that would be presented to the school board, which included a prioritized list of capital improvement needs, cost estimates for recommended projects, tax impact analysis for property owners, implementation timeline recommendations, the consideration of alternative funding mechanisms, educational justification for each major expenditure, long-term maintenance implications, and noted the final recommendations must include both majority and minority viewpoints. Council and the School Board members discussed the proposed referendum and Steve Harper recommended that the School Board immediately start looking for other funding

mechanisms to address the needs, rather than waiting. Charlene McGriff stated that the School District needed to review the school bond referendum that failed in November 2024 and review what went wrong. Ms. McGriff also suggested the bond proposal not be so large, and that the Citizen Review Committee not be made up of so many people.

Dennis Marstall explained that the County was looking to propose a new transportation sales tax referendum, since the last referendum failed in November 2024. Mr. Marstall stated that the County was looking into a smaller bond package in the range of \$250 million, with the ballot question on the November 2025 General Election ballot. Steve Harper was concerned that there was not enough time to research and compile projects with such a quick turnaround time. Revery Johnson explained that there was not enough educational information provided for both the 2024 transportation sales tax referendum and the school bond referendum. Jose Luis encouraged Council and the board members to listen to what the community wanted and needed, and to make the bond packages smaller to build trust within the community. Charlene McGriff explained that Lancaster County had a county-wide school district, making it unique when compared to other counties that had different school districts within their counties. Ms. McGriff further explained that the regions of Lancaster County had very different demographic and socioeconomic statuses.

d. County-wide Impact Fees for the Lancaster County School District Discussion

Melvin Stroble explained that County Council approved an impact fee for new residential construction for the Panhandle area of Lancaster County (north of Highway 5) in 2021, and approximately \$900,000 had been collected so far. Mr. Stroble explained that the School Board of Trustees voted to conduct a new impact fee study to verify that the maximum fee amount approved in 2021 still aligned with the current housing market, and also see if there was a need to expand the impact fee south of Highway 5. The study would cost approximately \$70-\$75k, which would be paid for by the School District. Dennis Marstall explained that after the impact fee study was conducted, the School District would present the findings to County Council, and Council would have the ultimate decision on a new or amended impact fee, if they see fit. Several Council members were not in favor of impact fees south of Highway 5, or county-wide, and Revery Johnson stated that the impact fee study would prove what the needs were south of Highway 5. Stuart Graham questioned how the impact fees would be used, and Melvin Stroble explained that it could only be used for capital projects such as the construction of new school buildings, the expansion of schools, or purchasing land for schools, but the capital projects would be limited to elementary or middle schools (Kindergarten through eighth grade). Stuart Graham stated that County Council should be receptive of an impact study to see what the results were.

Adjournment of Joint Meeting

Brian Carnes stated County Council and the School Board of Trustees would be scheduling another joint meeting in six months to follow up on the impact fee study results.

Jose Luis moved to adjourn the joint workshop. The motion to adjourn Passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, the joint Lancaster County Council and Lancaster County School Board of Trustees workshop adjourned at approximately 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved by Council on April 14, 2025.

Lauren Hill

Lauren Hill
Deputy Clerk to Council

Bryant Neal

Bryant Neal, Secretary