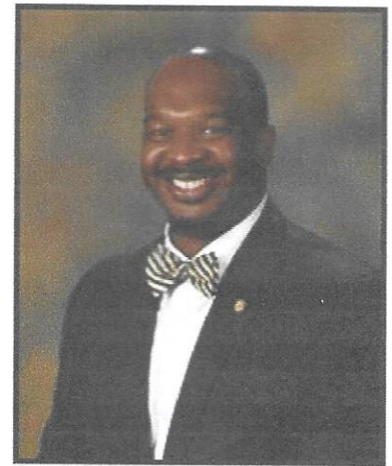




Interim Superintendent - Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.

aross@lexrich5.org

Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr. is a veteran educator who serves as Interim Superintendent for Lexington-Richland School District Five. Dr. Ross began his 20-year education career as a teacher and coach at Eau Claire High School in Columbia, S.C. He came to School District Five from Richland School District One in 2005, where he first served as assistant principal and then principal at Chapin High School. In 2018, he left Chapin High School to serve as the Director of Secondary Education for the district. Dr. Ross is also an author and Affiliate Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of South Carolina (UofSC). He left School District Five in 2018 to start HeartED, LLC, an educational consulting firm, to share lessons and strategies to further his vision of a future where every community empowers every child. He was named interim superintendent in School District Five in July of 2021.



Dr. Ross earned his undergraduate degree from Duke University in 2002. In 2005, he obtained his master's in education (M.Ed.) in Secondary Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina. In 2009, he earned his educational specialist degree (Ed.S) from South Carolina State University. In July of 2012, he earned his doctorate in Curriculum Studies from the University of South Carolina.

He has received numerous professional recognitions and accomplishments during his career including: the 2017 South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) Secondary Principal of the Year and the 2018 National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASPP) Principal of the Year. He was featured in *The State Newspaper*, 20 under 40, Class of 2017, *Principal Leadership Magazine*, *The Rotarian Magazine* and *Columbia Business Monthly*, 50 Most Influential, 2018. Dr. Ross was named the 2020 UofSC College of Education Adjunct Professor of the Year.

Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.

Interim Superintendent

803-476-8169

aross@lexrich5.org

Amee White



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JAN HAMMOND, BOARD CHAIR



Jan Hammond
Board Chair
Email: jhammond@lexrich5.org
Term Ends: November 2022

Jan Hammond has been an active member of the District Five community for over 40 years. She is a graduate of Winthrop University and has a Masters in Teaching from the University of South Carolina. Jan has been married to Ed Hammond for 42 years and they have three children: Clint, John and Jenny who all went through District Five schools and graduated from Irmo High.

Mrs. Hammond has been involved in District Five one way or another since 1973. She began her teaching career as a social studies teacher, Irmo Varsity Cheerleading coach, and served as a board member on the original Education Foundation. Mrs. Hammond was elected to the school board in 2002, and served as Vice-Chair, and was elected again in 2008.

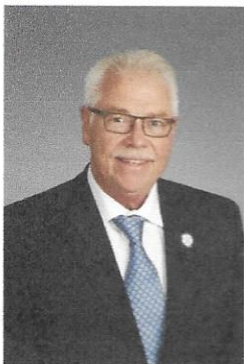
After she decided to stay home as a full-time mother, she continued to serve the district as a volunteer at many levels: PTSO member at Irmo High, Irmo Middle, and Nursery Road Elementary, President of SIC at Irmo High, President of PTSO at Irmo High, School District Five Volunteer of the Year, 1998, Irmo High Parent-Volunteer Coordinator, Honored by the Class of 1976 at their 20th reunion as their Teacher of the Year, and a founding member of the Mom Squad for the Irmo High football team.

Mrs. Hammond has also served in volunteer positions at the state level: Appointed by Governor Sanford to his Education Task Force, served on Governor Haley's Education Accountability Task Force, appointed by State Superintendent Rex to his Education Task Force, served on a legislative committee to report to the Education



PAGES

KEN LOVELESS, VICE CHAIRMAN



Ken Loveless
Vice Chairman
Email: kloveless@lexrich5.org
Term Ends: 2022

Ken Loveless is a Chapin resident and a longtime supporter of School District Five schools. He's president of Loveless Commercial Contracting, the commercial/industrial general contracting company he founded 33 years ago.

Mr. Loveless has contributed much time and volunteer effort in support of schools in School District Five, including serving on the citizen-advisory board of the Center for Advanced Technical Studies and helping establish the District 5 Foundation. He has personally helped fund programs related to math and engineering, including the project-based Math Matters program and the Leaphart LEAP engineering magnet program.

His extensive community involvement also includes ten years as chairman of the Town of Chapin Architectural Review Board and six years as a board member of the Greater Chapin Community Endowment. He served as a Cub Scout leader and Boy Scout Master for 11 years, as well as a Christian baseball league coach for multiple seasons. He's also a member of the Clemson Architectural Foundation and the Anna Calhoun Clemson Society.

Mr. Loveless has a bachelor of science degree from Clemson University and a masters of business administration degree from the University of South Carolina. Mr. Loveless' wife, Jondy, served on the School District Five Board of Trustees from 2012 to 2016.



PAGES

NIKKI GARDNER, SECRETARY



Nikki Gardner

Secretary

Email: ngardner@lexrich5.org

Term Ends: November 2022

Nikki Gardner has been involved in School District Five since the oldest of her 4 children started kindergarten, 15 years ago. She has served in a myriad of positions from homeroom mom to leadership capacity in PTO's, SIC's, and various booster clubs at Chapin Elementary, Intermediate, Middle, and High School, Harbison West Elementary School, and Spring Hill High School.

Ms. Gardner's experience with her own children in School District Five has made her a devotee to each and every student, a teacher advocate, a believer in intervention and early childhood education, a supporter of the arts and athletics, and a proponent of magnet schools and career centers. All of her experiences have made her a huge fan of School District Five.

Ms. Gardner has a Bachelors of Science in zoology from Brigham Young University graduating in 1998 and has spent the last 20 years raising and advocating for her 4 children as a stay-at-home mom. Her oldest is currently enrolled at BYU studying human genetics and is taking a break to serve an 18 month proselyting mission in Chihuahua, Mexico starting in February 2020 for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Ms. Gardner's oldest son is a Freshman at Clemson majoring in Physics and she has an 8th grade son and 7th grade daughter at Chapin Middle School.



PAGES

CATHERINE HUDDLE



Catherine Huddle

Email: chuddle@lexrich5.org

Term Ends: November 2024

Ms. Huddle grew up in South Carolina, attended SC public schools, and is the daughter of two educators.

She and her husband, Ed, have lived in District Five for over 30 years. Their daughters, Lauren and Kelcy, graduated from Chapin High School, and both went on to graduate from Clemson University. Lauren attends dental school at MUSC, and Kelcy is a dentist in Irmo. Ed is retired from the SC Department of Corrections.

After graduating from Clemson University with a BS degree in Financial Management, Ms. Huddle held financial and operational leadership positions at Blue Cross Blue Shield, Colonial Life, and Companion Technologies. She also successfully completed the Certified Management Accountant program and certification. Ms. Huddle is now the Chief Marketing Officer for Sevocity, a health technology company. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Niagara Life Insurance Company and also serves as the Chair of the Audit Committee. Her education and executive management experience allow her to serve the district and board extremely well, especially in the areas of finance and strategic planning.

Ms. Huddle has served on the United Way of the Midland's Health Committee, is a member of Women in Philanthropy, and is a 20+ year Meals on Wheels volunteer. She served in PTSO and other school organizations and participated in the organization of the mentoring program for a Richland 1 elementary school and served as its mentor coordinator for several years. She believes adamantly in the value of a strong education and its power to ensure that children live up to their potential and enjoy a successful and rewarding life. Nothing creates a stronger community and economy than a robust, well-managed school district.



PAGES

MATT HOGAN



Matt Hogan
Email: mhogan@lexrich5.org
Term Ends: November 2024

Matt Hogan is deeply rooted in the School District Five community with a passion to keep our public schools the very best in the state. As a 2001 graduate of Irmo High School, he finished his degree from Clemson University in 2006. Hogan and his wife, Lora, have three children that are or will be attending school in the district: Easton (10), Rivers (8) and Ellison Pearl (4). Their family attends Riverland Hills United Methodist Church.

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Sitemap



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REBECCA BLACKBURN HINES



Rebecca Blackburn Hines

Email: rhines@lexrich5.org

Term Ends: November 2024

A graduate of the College of Charleston and the Charleston School of Law, Rebecca Blackburn Hines followed her career to the Midlands, and like many others, Rebecca and her husband chose to relocate within District 5 as they began their family. As a former business owner, Rebecca has a passion for small businesses, especially within our local community. Rebecca is the immediate past President & CEO of the Greater Chapin Chamber of Commerce and is currently employed with the South Carolina Small Business Development Centers. Rebecca has served on several community organizations and committees, including the Chapin Community Engagement Council, the Midlands Business Leadership Group's Coordinating Council – Board Diversity Task Force, the Partnership for Small Business Recovery and the District 5's Superintendent's Business Advisory Committee, to name a few. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Chapin Sunrise and attends Lake Murray Presbyterian Church. Rebecca's husband, Derrick, is a veteran educator, and they are the parents to two little girls, Harper and Molly.

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