

# Lexington County School District One 11-06-2018 Board Candidate Information

## Richard Kyle Guyton

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**Q1** What is your full legal name?

Richard Kyle Guyton



**Q2** Where do you live? Please provide full home address (no post office box).

Address	<b>150 West Drake Road</b>
City/Town	<b>Gilbert</b>
State/Province	<b>SC</b>
ZIP/Postal Code	<b>29054</b>

**Q3** What is your telephone number?

803-780-4882

**Q4** What is your email address?

guytonforlex1@outlook.com

**Q5** What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

**Graduate degree**

**Q6** What is your job title and place of employment?

Pediatrician and Co-owner at SouthernMED Pediatrics

**Q7** Do you have children currently attending and/or children who will attend Lexington District One schools in the future? If so, how many?

Yes - 3

**Q8** Have any of your children graduated from Lexington District One schools? If so, how many?

Not yet - currently 7th grade, 6th grade and 3rd grade

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**Q9** Why are you running for a seat on the Board of Trustees?

After having grown up and graduated through the Lexington One school district I have a strong understanding of the pride and history of our wonderful school district. This foundation more than prepared me for the upcoming years of education eventually leading to my MD and opening of our practices within the Lexington community. In essence I have a unique KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE WE HAVE BEEN as a school district.

As a parent of 3 children in the Lexington One school district, Sara and I have had the most incredible experiences with their teachers and administrators. We have been continually impressed by the laser focus on education and enrichment that has been given to each of our children at different stages of their education. However, we also feel the same anxiousness and uncertainty of every next stage of their education but are confident they are in the best educational place. In essence I have a shared KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE WE ARE as a school district.

With being a local pediatrician, I am keenly aware and have particular insight into the overlap that exists between my office and the classroom. I know all too well the struggles that some students face on a daily basis and I see the withered parent or grandparent trying to figure out what to do next. The school is doing all they can, the caretaker is doing all they can, yet the struggle continues.

Furthermore, as a local business owner I am uniquely positioned to see the growth that surrounds us. We have the benefit that the pain we feel as a community is a growing pain and not a shrinking pain. However, much planning and decision-making is needed and I have been a part of that process for 10 years as we have grown our businesses. In essence I have a clear KNOWLEDGE OF WHERE WE ARE GOING as a school district.

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**Q10** Why do you think you would be a good Lexington District One board member?

In one word....Collaboration. One very important lesson I have learned through team building - be it an employee team, a baseball team or a team of volunteers at church is that we must be collaborative as leaders. We must never fall into the trap of the fear of asking questions. By asking questions of all stakeholders we begin to develop a more well-rounded view of the problem or even the opportunity at hand.

On our Lexington 1 School Board any member is 1 of 7 members. Yes all members come into the position with certain passions, concerns and ideas and it is the willingness of each individual member to collaborate with the member team, administrators and teachers and the community-at-large to provide the best educational environment for all of our students.

As hopefully your candidate for Lexington 1 School Board, I can take with me the years of experience in multiple areas of life with problem-solving, team-building and community enrichment.

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**Q11** Please list previous community involvement.

With regard to School-related activities I have served on the School Improvement Council at Rocky Creek Elementary for 2 years, the Superintendent's Council for 1 year, and Community Focus group for Lexington District 1 in Winter 2017. As for Church-related activities I served as AWANA Director at Lake Murray Baptist Church for 2 years, Deacon for 3 years, By-laws committee for 1 year and Adult Sunday School teacher for 7 years. And finally regarding Community-related activities, I have been a Youth baseball coach for 4 years, a non-profit board member of CrossTraining Sports, as well as provided sideline physician coverage for the Wildcat football team for over 8 years.

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**Q12** What is the single most important issue facing public education today?

Creating life-long learners. While this does not sound like a hot button topic this is or should be the single focus of any educational system. The day in which we as a person, a community or even a nation stop learning or striving to learn is the same day in which our society fails. At all times we must create an environment for students that fosters the sole vision of creating life-long learners. We need plumbers, professors, industrial workers, musicians, etc, who always strive to learn something new each and every day and push the limits and challenge the way things have always been done.

What about school safety? Absolutely this is of vital importance, particularly when viewed that learning cannot take place when a child or educator lives in fear. What about teacher salaries? Having high quality educators and retaining them is critical but must be viewed in the context of the single vision of creating a life-long learner. What about property tax? Of course, an engaged community that understands and is supportive of the dollars used by our school district will only help to foster a developing life-long learner.

Innovation and problem-solving are the direct result of parents, caretakers, educators and communities that have invested in each and every student that they continue to ask the question of "why." If we recognize the single focus of creating a life-long learner and mold every aspect of a child's education around this idea then we have succeeded and the next generation will be better off than the previous.

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