

**MINUTES**  
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
July 21, 2008

**Board Members Present:** Randy Price, John Sherard, Brenda Bradberry, David Draisen, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mike Brock, Mike Gray, Jeff Kubu, Steve Garrison and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

**Board Members Absent:** All members were present.

**Call to Order:** Mr. Draisen called the meeting to order. Rev. Dr. Mitchell presented the invocation. Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Nimmer stated there was one correction made after the packages were prepared for distribution. The correction dealt with the District Four bond issue, clarifying that the company from Seneca was awarded the bid. Mr. Price made the motion to approve the minutes, Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

**Recognition of Media and Patrons/Public Comment Period:** Mr. Draisen welcomed the visitors; Bill Baker and David Brooks.

**Consideration of District One Budget:** Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve the District One budget of \$55,134,026, a change of 6.71% change for the 2008-09 year. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion. All members of the Board agreed with the exception of Mr. Price who opposed.

Mr. Gray suggested the Board skip to the presentation of the District Five budget, making it possible for the District Five representatives to leave. All members of the Board agreed.

**Consideration of District Five Budget:** Ms. Bradberry made the motion to accept the proposed District Five Budget of \$87,355,862, an increase of 4.20%. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion. All members of the Board voted to approve the proposed budget with the exception of Mr. Price who opposed.

**Consideration of District Two Budget:** Mr. Brock made a recommendation to accept the proposed budget for District Two for 2008-09 of \$23,611,173 at a 4.42% change from the previous year. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion. All members of the Board approved with the exception of Mr. Price who opposed.

**Consideration of District Three Budget:** Mr. Gray commented the percent of increase was higher than any of the other districts. Mr. Nimmer informed the Board the increase was due largely to the costs of the opening of the new Flat Rock Elementary school. Mr. Gray then recommended the approval of District Three's 2008-09 budget of \$17,279,459, an increase of 7.23%. Mr. Price commented he was voting against all of the budgets because he did not agree with administration receiving a 3.85% increase. He said the 3.85% increase was

designed by the delegation for teachers, not administrators. All members of the Board voted to approve District Three's proposed budget with the exception of Mr. Price who opposed.

**Consideration of District Four Budget:** Mr. Price made the motion to approve District Four's proposed budget of \$22,916,578, an increase of 4.20%. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion. In discussion Mr. Price noted District Three and District Four had basically the same student population. District Four spends approximately 11% of the total budget requested versus District Three's 8%. District 4 spends \$8348 revenue per pupil. The closest to that amount being spent per pupil in the County is District 5 with \$7208. District Four spends \$1000 more per pupil than any other district. Of the money spent per pupil, the amount spent on classroom instruction is the lowest in the County. Mr. Price reminded the Board they had asked the districts for three things concerning the breakdown of how money is spent: (1) Administrative costs, (2) Support costs, (3) Pupil instruction. District Four puts technology in support and not classroom instruction. Mr. Nimmer explained the earlier numbers were dealing with personnel dollars. The graphs distributed to the Board members during the meeting represent non personnel dollars: hardware, software and licenses. Part will be classroom instruction, and part will be administration. Part of the ambiguity this year with classification will be corrected next year with the decision to adapt the PCS codes for breaking out the personnel and payroll related dollars. Mr. Nimmer explained District Four is spending \$828,000 for all technology of which \$302 is classified for classroom instruction per pupil. The remainder would be service to support emails for all faculty and staff, virus protection software used for everything, licenses that would be district wide and not directly attributed to a classroom. After further discussion, Mr. Nimmer explained he asked the Districts to provide listing of expenditures for technology, exclusive of payroll. Of the \$782,000, a large percentage of it is being allocated to the classroom. Mr. Nimmer, in his research, discovered District Four had spent more per pupil for the last five years. Ms. Bradberry's concern is that the majority of the money goes to the classroom. Mr. Kubu said District One has \$575 going to classroom instruction. Mr. Garrison agreed with Ms. Bradberry's recommendation that money in classroom should be increased and confirmed the Board could only make recommendations. Mr. Gray believed the Board should ask the districts about accountability of why more money is being spent in the classroom, yet fewer results are being seen. Mr. Kubu made the motion to table the vote for District Four's proposed budget until further discussion with the district. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. Mr. Sherard, Mr. Gray, Mr. Price, and Mr. Kubu voted to table District Four's budget until further discussion with the district. Ms. Bradberry, Mr. Garrison, Rev. Dr. Mitchell, Mr. Brock and Mr. Draisen voted against the motion to table of the budget. Mr. Draisen asked for the vote to approve District Four's proposed budget. Ms. Bradberry, Mr. Garrison, Rev. Dr. Mitchell, Mr. Brock and Mr. Draisen voted to approve. Mr. Sherard, Mr. Gray, Mr. Price and Mr. Kubu voted not to approve the proposed budget. Mr. Draisen announced the vote to approve five to four.

Mr. Garrison made the motion for the Board to send the analysis of money spent on classroom instruction per student to District Four, noting their lower expenditures compared with the other districts, request an explanation and recommend it be corrected for next year's budget. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion. Mr. Kubu stated he would like to send the analysis to all districts. Ms. Bradberry suggested the letter be copied to districts. Mr. Garrison stated he did not believe the districts should be recalled for discussion since the opportunity for discussion was at the last meeting. Mr. Nimmer explained the State

budget was not settled at the time of the meetings with individual districts. Mr. Price informed the Board of some of the good things happening in District Four such as Riverside Middle School being named the best middle school in the State. Ms. Bradberry commended District Four for being the lowest in expenditure for administration per student. Mr. Draisen asked all in favor of sending a letter to District Four asking for explanation of expenditures per student for all classroom instruction. The Board voted all in favor of the motion.

Mr. Kubu made the motion to send letters to all districts asking for expenditures for classroom instruction in future budgets. Mr. Price seconded the motion, and the Board agreed unanimously.

Mr. Price made the motion for the Budget Committee to decide upon rules and format for the districts to follow when submitting information to the Board next year. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously.

**Anderson County Alternative School Report:** Mr. Brock had no report at this time.

**Administrator's Report-Stephen J. Nimmer:**

- (1) Amie Crolley, the Attendance Director, has moved back to her home state of Tennessee. A new Attendance Director will need to be hired. Applications will be accepted through August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- (2) Mr. Draisen, Mr. Garrison, Ms. Bradberry and Rev. Dr. Mitchell were reminded to file for November elections opening August 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon and closing on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.
- (3) Mr. Nimmer distributed new portfolios to the Board and staff.
- (4) A tentative meeting is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm with the Strom Thurmond Institute.

**Financial:**

- A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer informed the Board the 10<sup>th</sup> installment of the Tier III money has not been received but is expected around July 31<sup>st</sup> for prior year. Ms. Bradberry asked why the Alternative School figures are down. Mr. Nimmer replied the Alt School Board opted not to bill the individual districts for EFA reimbursement. The final installment of Tier III money referred to above should yield approximately \$30,000. The Education Accountability Act grant that partially funds the Alternative School every year has not been posted to that account since it came through in mid-July as a result of the State being tardy in dispersing the funds.
- B. Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer reported there was a drop in the assessment totals from the prior month, May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, due to sluggish automobile sales. This will be offset by the 2006 reassessment currently underway.

**Old Business:**

- A. County Board Projects Update:** Mr. Nimmer is continuing work on the employee manual. Bids have been requested for billboards around Anderson County. In order to receive bids, specific locations of the billboards have to be determined. Billboards are to be compared in price to other means of advertisement, such as newspaper ads. Mr. Price asked about the signs for Riverside Middle School commemorating their being named

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the State's best middle school. Wren is scheduled to receive four signs. Mr. Price suggested signs should be removed after being displayed a specific length of time.

**New Business:** Mr. Price made the motion to display a sign acknowledging Riverside Middle School being named the State's best middle school. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously. Mr. Kubu asked to set specific parameters in deciding the recipients of signs. Ms. Bradberry made the motion to send all valedictorians and salutatorians in Anderson County a congratulatory letter from the County Board of Education. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion. All members of the Board voted unanimously to approve.

**ADM and SFS Accounts Payable:** Ms. Bradberry made the motion to pay the bills. Mr. Garrison seconded and the Board approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Bradberry, Acting Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education  
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.