

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
March 18, 2013

Call to Order

Mr. David Draisen called the meeting to order and gave the invocation after which everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present:

Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Craig Drennon, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mr. Mike Upton, and Mr. Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio were present.

Board Members Absent:

Ms. Dana Grant was not present.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion and the Board members approved the agenda unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – February 18, 2013 Meeting

Dr. Craig Drennon made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2013 meeting, seconded by Rev. Mitchell. With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period

Mr. Randolph H. Dillingham, Director of the Anderson County Alternative School was in attendance.

Anderson County Alternative School Report

Mr. Mike Brock provided copies of the report to each member present and stated if there were any questions, Mr. Dillingham, Director of the Alternative School was in attendance. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was customary for him to report the Alternative School attendance for the prior year at the same period, but due to a family death of the compiler of the report, the information was not available at the meeting last year.

Ms. Bradberry remarked that the enrollment was considerably higher than last month's enrollment. The report last month indicated a total of 88 students with the total enrollment reported as of March 18, 2013 at 102. Mr. Dillingham stated that this is typical enrollment trend just prior to Spring Break. Also discussed was the available enrollment capacity and classroom size for different grade levels.

Dr. Gary Burgess questioned what offenses were committed and caused a higher enrollment ratio of white males versus other ethnicities. He further stated this question may be more appropriate for the originating schools. Mr. Dillingham stated that the type of offenses ranged from minor to major offenses. He gave an example of an enrollee that was accepted earlier that day had received a warrant

for his arrest by 2:30 pm that same afternoon.

Ms. Bradberry also questioned the reason for the higher ratio of white students versus other ethnicities. Mr. Dillingham stated that 59 out of 102 students were white, but was not sure of the reasons why. It was suggested that this ratio was in line with total enrollments in most of the district schools, causing a similar enrollment trend at the Alternative school. Dr. Drennan and Dr. Burgess indicated the biggest demographic that is linked to enrollment at the Alternative School was most likely due to the poverty levels.

Ms. Bradberry stated that she would like to see the information previously captured on the back of the report from the Alternative School return to the report. Mr. Dillingham stated that without the new online student data base system "Power School" that was not possible but the school should be online and have access to the new system prior to the beginning of next school year. Ms. Bradberry stated that she was interested in being able to view the number of students going back to their home schools.

Dr. Drennan questioned the ability of students to stay at the Alternative School if they desired. Mr. Dillingham stated that it is a possibility in some circumstances and that an increasing number of students wished to do so due to their success in that type of school structure and environment.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer reported on the Annual Convention of the South Carolina School Board Association. He informed the Board that he, Dale Martin, Mike Upton, and David Draisen were in attendance. Mr. Nimmer stated that he felt that it was a good meeting with informative breakout sessions. Mr. Nimmer continued to report that the sessions included some very timely subjects such as school security.

Mr. Nimmer reported that he had also attended the South Carolina Association of School Business Officials annual meeting, focusing primarily on financial issues. He stated that just prior to the conclusion of the meeting, the House passed the budget for 2013-14 with a base student cost of \$2,101 100% of the funding will be recurring and is the first time that it has been funded with recurring dollars in four or five years.

Mr. Nimmer stated the funding for 2012-13 was \$2,012, and \$2,101 is proposed for 2013-14, representing an increase of \$89 and is primarily due to the budget requirement that all eligible teachers receive a step increase in salary. Mr. Nimmer informed the board that the budget still has to work itself through the Senate.

Mr. Nimmer reminded the board of the deadline of April 15, 2013 for the online completion of their statement of economic interest.

Mr. Nimmer reported that State revenues continue to increase over last year, continuing a three year trend. Currently as reported for July 2012 – January 2013, the latest report available, revenues at the state level are up 8.2 % over the same period last year. He stated this is a significant increase and the bulk of that comes from corporate income tax and is a good indicator the economy is turning a little bit. Mr. Nimmer told the board he will continue to monitor and keep the board updated.

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that the Two Days at the Capitol meeting for the Upstate Region will be

on May 8, 2013. Mr. Nimmer offered to coordinate if any board members were interested in attending. Mr. David Draisen stated that he would be in attendance.

Mr. Nimmer reported that things were smooth on the education side with one issue still pending. The tax credit/tax deduction/school choice bill, which is actually a tax break for home school and private school parents, is currently big in the Senate. He stated there is still a committee working on this area and he will continue to monitor and report back to the Board.

Mr. Nimmer reported that he spoke with previous Board Member Steve Garrison who is doing very well. Mr. Garrison asked Mr. Nimmer to pass along his regards to the Board and hopes to visit at a board meeting soon.

Financial

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget

Mr. Nimmer reported there was very little change since last month, as January was the big month for tax collections. He stated he compared the current period, February 2012, to the same period in 2013 and every district is 1 to 2% ahead of last year. He continued to report that District One will lag for the remainder of fiscal year as it works through the reclassification of the commercial site, but all other districts are fairly consistent and receipts will continue to come in throughout the balance of the fiscal year.

B. Assessment Totals - February 28, 2013

Mr. Nimmer reported growth of \$300 per mil, which is currently at \$644, 121. He stated appeals continue to be posted and there was enough growth to offset the change in classifications on some of the property.

Old Business

Mr. Draisen asked if there was anyone who attended the annual conference wanting to share what they had experienced at the meeting. Mr. Upton reported he attended one of the breakout sessions on financial statements led by Lexington County that was very beneficial. Mr. Draisen stated he attended the session on school security. He said the main thing he carried from the session was in line with what Mr. Nimmer has been reporting regarding school security and the need for specially trained resource officers in the schools. Mr. Draisen continued that you cannot place regular police officers in the school setting and they be as effective as a specially trained officer.

The Board also discussed issues of funding the financial burden of the increase in security at schools. Mr. Nimmer stated the human resource cost per resource officer salary, including benefits, is approximately \$50,000 per officer per year with the additional cost of equipping the officers with ammunition, communications, etc. Mr. Nimmer stated that a major factor in most of these cases all point to towards the need for increased mental health in the districts.

New Business

- A. ADM Accounts Payable
- B. SFS Accounts Payable

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills as proposed. Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board approved the payment unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Draisen made a motion that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gary Burgess, Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.