

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
October 21, 2013

Call to Order

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

Board Members Present:

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

Ms. Dana Grant was not in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the agenda. Reverend Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board members approved the agenda unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2013 Meeting

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2013 meeting. A second for approval was made by Mr. Mike Brock and was followed by a unanimous vote from the Board.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period

No one from the media or public was in attendance.

Presentation of Proposed Updated Representation Area Map for County Board

Mr. Nimmer called attention to the information provided to the board members in their board packets regarding the district representation and district population statistics. Mr. Nimmer stated that the key numbers to focus on was in the column which represented the percentage of deviation, which is the deviation from the mean. He explained that each district should represent approximately the same number of constituents and based on the current 2010 census there were deviations of 2.73%, 18.44%, 1.36%, 1.85%, -8.43%, -7.59%, 18.67%, -7.98% and -19.06% in districts 1-9 respectively and by law, the deviation cannot exceed 10%. Mr. Nimmer referred to the second sheet of statistics which brought all of the district populations into compliance well under the 10% threshold. The new deviation percentages are: 2.73%, -0.15%, -1.01%, 1.32%, -0.99%, -0.41%, 0.88%, -1.24%, -1.14% for seats 1-9 respectively under the proposed boundaries.

Mr. Nimmer then called the Boards attention to two Anderson County maps which represented the current district boundaries and the proposed district boundaries which achieved the new numbers. Mr. Nimmer stated that the statistics analysis and proposed redistricting had been provided by the SC Budget and Control Board's Office of Research and Statistics using the 2010 Census results. Mr. Nimmer requested that each board member review the statistics and the maps depicting their proposed areas

and if they had no issue with the information provided to pass a resolution stating so. Mr. Nimmer stated that after the resolution was passed by the board, it will be passed along to the Anderson County Legislative Delegation and in December 2013, the delegation will pre-file legislation. This will be covered in one piece of legislation and at the next election these will be the areas that will be served. After the Board's consideration of the information provided, Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve and read aloud the resolution. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved the resolution.

Anderson County Alternative School Report

The board members reviewed the report containing the enrollment at the Alternative School as of October 21, 2013. Ms. Bradberry asked if any of the students had gone back to their schools. Mr. Nimmer stated that no students would be returning until the end of the current semester. Mr. Draisen stated that the total enrollment had been as high as 70, but 10 students had left the school setting the total number of students currently enrolled at 60.

Ms. Bradberry asked if the students were expelled from the Alternative School for missing 10 consecutive unexcused absences. Mr. Nimmer explained that expulsion for that reason was dependent upon the student attending the school on a compulsory basis. Mr. Nimmer stated that if the student was attending because he or she was expelled, the compulsory attendance laws did not apply, but if the student was still in enrolled at the Alternative School after the original school expulsion period had ended then the attendance policy was followed.

Ms. Bradberry asked if elementary students could be expelled. Mr. Nimmer stated that yes they could be expelled, although a rarity, but were not eligible for enrollment at the Alternative School.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer updated the Board on the annual school visits. He stated that 38 of the 48 school visits had been completed and the remainder of the visits will take place in the following week. Mr. Nimmer said the visits were all positive and the attendance program has been well received in District 5 and the schools are very appreciative of the service that we are providing. Mr. Nimmer added that in some of the other school districts, referral numbers have dropped and the service that we have been providing are beginning to "bear fruit". Mr. Nimmer stated that he felt it profitable to continue the school visits as it continues to build a rapport with them. He also mentioned that working with JDPP (Juvenile Deferred Prosecution Program) is also proving profitable as we are sending approximately 40% of our referrals through the program and seeing the truancy numbers drop.

Mr. Nimmer stated that he will be attending the South Carolina Association of School Business Officials Conference the first week of November 2013. He reminded that the Board that he had attended last year and it will be beneficial in learning what is happening with latest update on anticipated funding levels for the 2014-2015 school year as that budget is being developed. Mr. Nimmer stated that he will be reporting back to the Board in November regarding the conference.

Mr. Nimmer stated that the Budget and Control Board's Board of Economic Advisors has seen in their YTD revenue report released a 2% increase from this time period last year so we are continuing to see an upward trend but not as the same levels as we have seen in the past couple of years. Mr. Nimmer stated that we will have a better idea of expectations after the beginning of next calendar year.

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board of one of our employees, Ms. Nancy Allen, School Based Mental Health Counselor, had recently lost her father as well as Mr. Jacky Hunter, who had recently lost his mother several weeks ago. A memorial in lieu of flowers has been sent to a church Mr. Hunter's mother attended in Georgia and a memorial will also be sent in honor of Ms. Allen's father.

Mr. Nimmer reported that the audits for the County Board and the Alternative school would begin November 11, 2013.

Mr. Nimmer suggested that the December meeting and Christmas/Holiday dinner at Tuckers be scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2013. He stated that we would follow the same format as last year and would be providing menu choices and requested that the board members make their choices so the meals can be ordered in advance.

Mr. Nimmer provided the board members with a proposal to update equipment. Mr. Nimmer stated that over the past few months we have encountered issues with current equipment and that he has been soliciting quotes and bidding on the most cost effective upgrades. Mr. Nimmer stated that there had not been a system wide upgrade since 2004. Mr. Nimmer requested the Board consider and approve the upgrade which consisted of three components.

The first upgrade would consist of a computer/server system with 12 new desktops and one new server. Mr. Nimmer cited several issues that require this upgrade, such as the ability to communicate with and operate upcoming required software upgrades.

Mr. Nimmer stated the second component to the proposed upgrades was telephone and internet service. Mr. Upton questioned the speed of the new internet service and Mr. Nimmer answered it would be a T1 connection which would provide a speed of 100 mbps (megabytes per second). Mr. Nimmer also stated that we would also have a Charter connection in case the T1 connection was down for any reason which would allow us to maintain some type of connectivity. Mr. Nimmer stated that the phone system had not been upgraded since 2002 and that the system in place was no longer supported.

Mr. Nimmer concluded his proposal with the third component which was a networked combination copier, scanner and fax. Mr. Nimmer stated that with the current setup each individual employee was printing to individual desktop printers which required individual toners for each printer. The proposal outlined the amount of funds currently used to replace toners for those individual desktop printers versus the amount of the cost of the lease of the new machine.

Mr. Nimmer added that he had also negotiated in the price of the new purchase/lease agreement that all the new systems and components would be relocated at no cost should a new office be acquired. After further conversation regarding cost savings over purchase price, Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the proposed purchases, seconded by Mr. Mike Brock followed by a unanimous vote by the board.

Financial

Mr. Nimmer called the Board's attention to the 2013 Tax Levy for Anderson County sheet included in their packets. Mr. Nimmer reported that the millage was slightly up county wide and that the tax bills

would be going out next week. Ms. Bradberry asked Mr. Nimmer what the increase was for each school district. Mr. Nimmer stated that he did not have that information with him at the present time, but would supply that information to her.

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget

Mr. Nimmer stated that the tax collections for school districts were fairly consistent with the exception of District 3, who had collected 5.8 %, due to a FILOT collection, of the amount budgeted for 2013-2014. Mr. Nimmer noted that District 4 and 5 was lower than the other districts at approximately 3.9%.

B. Assessment Totals – September 30, 2013

Mr. Nimmer stated that the report indicated county-wide growth, but the current report did not include any appeals that had been received regarding reassessments.

Old Business

The Board reiterated its request to be supplied with each school district's plans for budget overages from the previous fiscal year 2012-2013.

Ms. Bradberry voiced her concerns that Southwood Academy would not be expanded as District Five had originally reported. She also requested to know the cost to bus the students to and from the schools that were filtering students to the school. Ms. Bradberry added that it was not right for them to tell the board one thing and then do another and they should appear before the Board to answer questions. Mr. Draisen reminded Ms. Bradberry that this was proposed by the previous administration and was not sure if anything could be done. Dr. Burgess stated that he understood the new priority for the District Five was buses. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was his understanding that they were not currently being bussed but could request Mr. Tom Wilson attend the November 2013 meeting to address concerns.

New Business

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to approve the expenditures as listed, seconded by Ms. Brenda Bradberry and followed by a unanimous vote by the Board.

Mr. Nimmer reminded board members of the upcoming South Carolina School Board Association (SCSBA) Legislative Advocacy Conference in Myrtle Beach December 6-8, 2014 and the SCSBA Annual Conference in February 2014. He also asked if anyone was interested in attending the National School Board Association Leadership Conference and Advocacy Institute in Washington, DC, February 1-4, 2014 and stated he would also attend if someone was interested in going.

Adjourn

Mr. Draisen adjourned the meeting.

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.