

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202 Anderson, South Carolina 29621
December 15, 2014

Call to Order

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

Due to the absence of Board Secretary Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Mike Brock was appointed Acting Board Secretary for the meeting.

Board Members Present:

The following board members were present for the December 2014 meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. Shawn McGee, Ms. Dana Grant, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Dr. Gary Burgess, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, and Mr. Mike Upton were not present.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Dana Grant seconded the motion and with a unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes –November 17, 2014 Board Meeting

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that at the request of Dr. Gary Burgess one sentence had been deleted from the minutes that had been mailed to the board members. Mr. Nimmer stated that the corrected version was in their board packets for review for the meeting.

Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Shawn McGee. With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes with the correction as noted.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period

No one was present to address the Board.

Consideration of Bond Refunding for Anderson School District Three

Mr. Nimmer called the Board Member's attention to a copy of the letter and an attached spreadsheet showing the anticipated amount of savings that would be recognized from refunding of the bond. Mr. Nimmer told the Board there was also a copy of the same information for Anderson School District

Four's request and he had highlighted the portion that indicated the savings. Mr. Nimmer stated that the bond was a no cost to the district bond issue and will be handled quickly once Board approved. Mr. Nimmer added it would save the tax payers in District Three approximately \$900,000 over the remaining term on the bonds and was his understanding from reading the resolution that the term on the bonds would remain the same for District Three and Four.

Mr. Shawn McGee made the motion to approve the consideration of bond refunding for Anderson School District Three, seconded by Ms. Brenda Bradberry and was followed by a unanimous vote.

Consideration of Bond Refunding for Anderson School District Four

Mr. Nimmer stated that the same information that was provided for District Three was provided for District Four's request to consider the bond refunding and would result in an approximate net savings of \$2,019,000 for the tax payers in District Four. Mr. Nimmer directed the Board to address Mr. Larry Young, School District Four Finance Manager, with any questions they may have regarding the refunding. Ms. Bradberry asked if the terms stayed the same and Mr. Young replied yes, there was 17 years remaining on the bond and it was not extended. Mr. Draisen asked if it was because interest rates are down and Mr. Young replied yes and felt that the savings was a fairly conservative estimate and should sell sometime in late January.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the Consideration of Bond Refunding for Anderson School District Four, seconded by Ms. Dana Grant and was followed by a unanimous vote.

Anderson County Alternative School Report

Mr. Nimmer told the Board that he had checked the fax just prior to the meeting and had not yet received the report. Ms. Bradberry asked if the attendance was at its highest enrollment now and Mr. Nimmer answered no, that it had not capped out yet, but was 20 to 21 students higher than at the same time period last year. Mr. Nimmer stated the good news is there were fewer special education students which required the hiring of a long term substitute during the spring semester to finish out the last school year to keep it within the student ratio guidelines. Mr. Brock commented that it would not be the case this school year. Mr. Nimmer agreed and remarked that it was being managed more closely this year.

Mr. Brock stated that there have been discussions about keeping students in their home school and not expelling them. Mr. Brock stated that he had heard that a student that had been expelled for having two ounces of marijuana and was told that if you showed it to law enforcement, that they would probably not be arrested. Ms. Bradberry stated she was concerned that such an offense would keep the student from qualifying into military service and if this is the case she would rather see the student remain in their home schools. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was his understanding that in cases like these the students have the opportunity to be placed at the Alternative School in lieu of expulsion and if they successfully complete the school year and return to their home school the expulsion would be waived and would not go on their record. Mr. Nimmer added that in the case the student did not comply with the Alternative School program, then they would be expelled and it would be placed on their record. After further discussion, Mr. Nimmer stated that this would be a topic of conversation in the near future and that they would keep the Board apprised of the discussions.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer began with the announcement that Powdersville High School had won the 2A State Marching Band title in early November and was their second state championship in the past four years for the school. Mr. Nimmer informed the Board the signs had been ordered for recognition as it does for all state championships in the districts.

Mr. Nimmer reminded the Board of the upcoming School Carolina School Board Association's 2015 Annual Conference to be held at the Embassy Suites in Myrtle Beach February 19 through February 22, 2015 and that reservations had been made for all board members. Mr. Nimmer requested that the board members let him know if they would or would not be attending as soon as possible so that the rooms could be released at the Embassy Suites.

Mr. Nimmer stated that School Districts Three, Four and Five have their boards of trustees currently working on bond resolutions for the one cent sales tax proceeds and the bonds that would be issued to be paid back by those proceeds that were discussed at the last board meeting. Mr. Nimmer stated that we should be receiving those resolutions within the next few months.

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that District One had made a request to make a presentation at the January 2015 Board Meeting which would include several students speaking to the County Board about what they are doing with the technologies that they are utilizing within their district. Mr. Nimmer recalled that in February of last year, the County Board had approved an eight percent bond issue for District One to purchase iPads for the students and Superintendent Havird would like to have the students explain how the new technologies have impacted their student learning.

Mr. Brock asked if anything had been mentioned regarding the control of the new career and Mr. Nimmer stated that it had not yet been determined as to how they would be structured. Mr. Draisen stated that this would be addressed under Old Business when discussing the letter that would be sent out to those districts.

Financial

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget

Mr. Nimmer reported that tax collections remain remarkably consistent among all of the entities and are averaging about .75% more collections through November over last year. District Three continues to be slightly ahead because they have received the bulk of their fee in lieu of taxes. Mr. Nimmer stated that District Four remains low because most of their tax collections are received beginning this time of year and will continue through January 15, 2015.

B. Assessment Totals – November 30, 2014

Mr. Nimmer stated that everything was remaining remarkable consistent and basically unchanged from last month when the growth had been applied and the value of a mill county wide had grown approximately \$1,600 over the past 12 months. Mr. Nimmer stated that there had not been that type of growth in real property in several years. He stated that these totals will change in the coming months as appeals are handled by the Anderson County Assessor's Office.

Old Business

Mr. David Draisen called the Board's attention to the letter drafted for districts three, four and five regarding the new career center and asked board members to review prior to it being sent out. Mr. Brock asked if the Anderson County Delegation had any discussions regarding this prior to the tax being passed. Mr. Nimmer stated that according to the law, there is a lot of flexibility as to how the three districts could structure and jointly operate the career center. Mr. Draisen stated that he would assume that would structure it very similar to the Alternative School. Mr. Nimmer stated that the Alternative School and the career center for districts one and two operate through local legislation. Mr. Nimmer stated that the three districts are currently exploring their options at this point and Mr. Draisen stated that the letter is simply asking that Mr. Nimmer be involved in the discussions so that he can report back to the County Board as to their progress.

New Business

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

C. Meeting Date for January 2015

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills and was seconded by Mr. Shawn McGee. The Board unanimously voted to pay the bills as provided.

The Board agreed to change the January Meeting to Tuesday, January 20, 2015, due to the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday falling on the third Monday, which is the normal board meeting schedule.

Adjourn

With no further business to be conducted, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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