

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
January 21, 2014

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, Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. Mike Brock, Ms. Dana Grant, Mr. Mike Upton, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

The following Board Members were not in attendance: Dr. Craig Drennon and Dr. Gary Burgess

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda. Reverend Rufus Mitchell seconded motion and the agenda was approved with a unanimous vote.

Election of Board Officers for Calendar Year 2014

Ms. Brenda Bradberry nominated Mr. David Draisen to continue to serve as Chairman of the Board for the year 2014, seconded by Mr. Mike Upton and Mr. Mike Brock moved to close the nomination. The Board members approved the nomination unanimously.

Reverend Mitchell made the motion to nominate Ms. Brenda Bradberry to continue to serve as Vice Chairman for the calendar year 2014 and Mr. Mike Upton moved that the nomination be closed. The Board members approved the nomination unanimously.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion for Dr. Gary L. Burgess to continue to serve as Secretary, seconded by Dr. Mike Upton. Mrs. Dana Grant moved to close the nomination and was approved unanimously by the Board.

Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2013 Meeting

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Mike Brock seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes of the December 2013 meeting.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period

No representatives from media or public were in attendance to address the Board.

Presentation of 2012-2013 Audit – Ken Martin, CPA

Mr. Ken Martin was present to provide explanation and answer questions regarding the FY 2012-2013 County Board Audit. Mr. Martin began by stating that the board was audited according to generally

accepted auditing standards also governmental auditing standards. Mr. Martin told the Board the audit was performed as in the past by first looking at the internal controls that were put in place by management, understanding those controls and then testing those controls. Mr. Martin reported that they feel that the Board has a good system set up and functioning properly and in all of the cases did not find where those control were not being followed. Mr. Martin continued that in terms of balance sheets they confirm and test those balances and that the tests are fairly straight forward and nothing complex. Mr. Martin remarked that there are many transactions that occur during the year and that personnel in place are performing them correctly.

Mr. Martin stated that there were some routine adjustments but were nothing outside of ordinary and as a result of all testing they were able to give an unqualified opinion which is the best that can be given. Mr. Martin stated that he wanted to congratulate the personnel on staff at the job they were performing on a day to day basis which enabled them to give an overall positive and favorable report.

Mr. Martin then called the Board's attention to a portion of the report which contained revenue and expenditures. Mr. Martin explained that total revenue was up to \$782,000 which was about 7.5% over last year. He outlined that the changes in expenditures totaling approximately \$715,000 which was up approximately \$80,000 and the majority of that was due to an increase in overall salary and retirement with the rest due to capital expenditures. Mr. Martin stated with the changes in revenue and expenditures the overall fund balance was up about \$5,000 over last year. Mr. Martin concluded that after a review of the past five years, due to good management, there had been an increase each year in the fund balances, putting the Board in a good strong financial position.

After Mr. Martin's presentation the Board thanked him for the report and Mr. Nimmer stated that their organization was very professional and a pleasure to work with.

Anderson County Alternative School Report

Mr. Mike Brock distributed the Alternative School Report to all of the board members for review. Ms. Bradberry asked if the report could be revamped to include the prior month's totals for comparison to the current reported totals. Mr. Nimmer stated that last year in the same time frame that the total enrollment was 87 students and currently the total enrollment is 101 students. Mr. Brock stated there was an expected increase in the total number of students enrolled at the Alternative School. Mrs. Dana Grant remarked that currently the total of special education students was 16.

Mr. Nimmer stated that he had attended a meeting just before the Christmas break and there were 24 students on a waiting list for special education and that they were hiring a long time sub to double the number of special education students. Mrs. Bradberry expressed her concern that so many resource students were being expelled. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was due to districts having more IEP students being expelled. Mr. Upton asked was there any information available for each school district to show the ratio of special education students. Mr. Nimmer stated that he did not have it on hand but could get the information for the Board. Mrs. Bradberry asked what if the students on the waiting list couldn't get enrolled at the Alternative School. Mr. Nimmer stated that some were receiving home bound instruction. Mr. Upton mentioned the increase in Anderson County's total student population and how it affects the total enrollment of the Alternative School. Mr. Nimmer stated that the total population was mostly stagnant with increases in some of the districts and decreases in others, and currently totaled approximately 30,800 students.

After the Board discussed the logistics of accommodating more special education students, Mrs. Bradberry commented on some of the reasons listed for students leaving the academy which included being transferred to the White Horse Academy in Greenville, being sent to the Department of Juvenile Justice or enrolling in the Adult Education Program.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer provided all members with information regarding their filing a Statement of Economic Interest which has to be filed with the South Carolina Ethics Commission. He stated that the only changes this year was the deadline was moved to noon on March 30, 2014 as opposed to April 15th and is mandatory that it be filed online. Mr. Nimmer offered assistance in any way possible.

Mr. Nimmer reminded the board members of the upcoming SCSBA 2014 Annual Conference to be held in Myrtle Beach February 20-23, 2014, and informed the board members that were not attending that their rooms had been released back into the room block.

Mr. Nimmer mentioned the report included in the board packets from Governor Haley on the Education Reform Initiative and was for information purposes only.

Mr. Nimmer stated that he was forwarded an email from the Robert Anderson Middle School inviting the Board to the Anne Frank Exhibit on April 24, 2014.

Financial

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget

Mr. Nimmer called the Board's attention to the Year to Date taxes collected through December 31, 2013. He noted that the tax collections had significantly increased during the month of December 2013 and also increased significantly during the first half of January 2014 and that the first penalty date was January 16, 2014.

Mr. Nimmer added that collections continue to be remarkably consistent but District 4 does pull ahead as more of their income is derived locally and seems to be very good. Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that he will be meeting with school districts one through five's Finance Officers along with the County's Treasurer, Assessor and Auditor on Thursday. Mr. Nimmer stated that the meeting was purposely scheduled after the current board meeting to let them have an opportunity to access their collections so they can determine which taxes have moved into a penalty collection date. He stated that some of the collections received in January will not be penalized because they were post marked prior to the deadline of January 15, 2014.

Mr. Mike Brock mentioned some of the school districts wanted to add a 1% sales tax. Mr. Nimmer stated that a portion of that 1% sales tax would be used to roll back the current debt service millage and the balance will be used for capital investments.

B. Assessment Totals – December 31, 2013

Mr. Nimmer stated because the Assessment Totals were not available at the December 2013 meeting, he had compared the totals from October 31, 2013. Mr. Nimmer stated during that period of time, the value of a mill county wide has grown approximately \$2,100.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to pay the bills submitted for review and Ms. Brenda Bradberry seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the Board approved the expenditures as listed.

C. Schedule of County Board Meetings for 2014

Mr. Nimmer stated that the only time that the students will not be in school on the day that the Board meets will be the February 17, 2014 board meeting for a Staff Development workday. Mr. Nimmer stated that the last meeting of 2014 will be adjusted to accommodate the Christmas Break.

Mrs. Bradbery moved to invite District Five's Superintendent to come to the next board meeting to present his new packet that he has been presenting to the State Superintendent. Mrs. Bradbery was upset that it is being presented to others when the Anderson County Board has to approve the district's budget for next year. Mr. Upton questioned was it the district five's budget for next school year. Mr. Nimmer replied that it is a concept and not a budget. Mr. Nimmer added that he was sure that Superintendent Wilson would be glad to come speak with the Board regarding the district's concept and would be glad to extend an invitation for him to attend. Mrs. Bradbery she especially was interested in an outline of their athletic budget.

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.