

Anderson County Board of Education  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
March 17, 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, Ms. Dana Grant Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Mike Upton, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

**Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dale Martin seconded motion and the agenda was approved with a unanimous vote.

**Approval of Minutes – February 17, 2014 Meeting**

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Mike Brock seconded the motion. Chairman Draisen called the Board's attention to three errors needing correction in the February Meeting Minutes. Below are the amended excerpts located on page 3 of the February 17, 2014 Minutes:

***Presentation of Tiered Diploma Proposal***

*District Five's Superintendent Thomas Wilson was in attendance to present to the Board a tiered diploma program and give the Board a quick update of some discussions at the state level regarding diploma options available to students. Superintendent Wilson cited that currently over a million students in this country drop out of high school because they feel that a lot of the classes were boring and irrelevant. Superintendent Wilson stated that in 1970 if you dropped out there was somewhere to go to gain employment but in light of all of the local mills closing that no longer was the case. He stated that the schools were doing an excellent job of graduating students to go to college but not skilled workers to fill the current needs of private business and industry. Superintendent Wilson explained the current ratio of retirees to workers was steadily decreasing year by year and that with 40% of workers are close to the age of retirement and there is a need to produce students that were workforce ready. Superintendent Wilson said that in 1970 there were 3.7 workers for every person on Social Security benefits and Medicare and currently there were only 2.9. He further cited that by the year 2030 there will be only an estimated 2 workers for every retiree and there will be more people "riding the train than pulling the train" which accentuates the importance of graduating students who are workforce ready. Superintendent Wilson stated that it was very important that we graduate skilled students to recruit business and industry to our area and to the State of South Carolina. Superintendent Wilson stated that in the state there are 26 percent of the workforce that have a two year degree or higher and only 20 percent of the jobs require a degree.*

*Superintendent Wilson outlined the tiered program which includes options for students to obtain*

*a college prep diploma, a career specific diploma or a general career diploma. He also stated he wasn't sure how much horse power this program has with legislators or where it would go, but stated that if we continue on the current path we will continue to have a high dropout rate. Superintendent Wilson said that he was surprised when Dr. Zais asked the district to present the program and was in favor of it and also hopeful that the next state superintendent will be in favor of it as well. Mr. Nimmer stated that Dr. Zais was recently at a Tri County Technical College Education Summit and was very supportive.*

With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes of the February 2014 meeting with the above noted corrections.

### **Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period**

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

### **Consideration of Anderson School District Five Recommendation**

Mr. Nimmer called the Board's attention to a letter included in their packets from District Five's Board of Trustees Chairman Rick Bradshaw with the recommendation for an individual to be appointed to complete the unexpired term formerly held by Coach Dick Smith. Superintendent Wilson as well as other representatives from Anderson School District Five were in attendance for any questions the Board might have regarding the recommendation. Mr. Nimmer stated the he knows Dr. Sandy Addis and that he is highly qualified. Mr. Mike Upton stated that he knew Dr. Addis when he was a school teacher in District One and he was a fine man and he thinks he will do a good job. Chairman Draisen stated that he had read his bio information online and it was quite impressive.

At this time, Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to accept the recommendation from District Five to appoint Dr. Sandy Addis to the vacated seat for the Board of Trustees. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion.

At Ms. Brenda Bradberry's request, District Five Chairman Bradshaw provided background information about Dr. Addis. Chairman Bradshaw stated Dr. Addis currently serves as Associate Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University and has a long history in education. Chairman Bradshaw added that Dr. Addis also works with a firm that finds school superintendents for school districts in the state of Georgia. Chairman Bradshaw concluded that their board looked at his resume and believes he is well qualified and would make a wonderful choice for the County Board to appoint.

District Five Superintendent Wilson stated that Dr. Addis retired from Anderson School District One where he served many roles. Superintendent Wilson stated Dr. Addis also served as the Director of the Regional Educational Service Agency in Georgia. He continued that Georgia is divided into 16 regions and that all of the school districts within each region are members in which they pooled together resources such as staff development. Superintendent Wilson stated once he retired from that agency he became the Associate Director of the National Dropout Prevention Center at Clemson University and also serves as a consultant with King and Cooper Associates.

Ms. Bradberry asked where Dr. Addis currently resides and was told that he has lived in District Five for

approximately 35 years. Superintendent Wilson stated that it was Dr. Addis' intention to run in the next election to continue serving in this position on the Board of Trustees.

With no further questions, the Anderson County Board of Education voted unanimously to accept the recommendation and appoint Dr. Sandy Addis to fill the unexpired term.

### **Consideration of Anderson School District One Bond Issue**

Prior to the presentation regarding the bond issue, District One Superintendent David Havird took the opportunity to inform the County Board that Finance Director Steve Uldrich was retiring and that Mr. Travis Thomas who has served under Mr. Uldrich for the previous 17 years was being appointed as Director of Finance effective July 1, 2014.

Mr. Nimmer directed board members to a copy of the memorandum that was included in their packets regarding the Board's consideration of District One's Refunding Opportunity for their Build America Bonds at the February 2014 board meeting. Superintendent Havird stated that the initial savings were estimated to be approximately \$800,000 but the actual net savings were much higher at approximately \$1.1 million dollars.

Superintendent Havird gave a presentation which outlined the A1 Digital Innovation Initiative. Superintendent Havird stated that School District One is trying to improve instructional development to aid teachers in preparing students for the new global economy. Superintendent Havird stated that research has been conducted for the past seven months which included participation and input from the instruction staff. He informed the Board that teachers were all issued iPads seven months prior and have already been utilizing some of the online instructional resources such as Twitter, Blackboard, Edmodo, Dropbox, etc.

Superintendent Havird continued by stating that the district must enhance content areas by incorporating the four "C"s: Critical thinking; Communication, Collaboration and Creativity. The presentation also outlines the benefits of a successful implementation of the initiative which will enhance: technology that will play a crucial role in instruction; professional development support and training; flexibility, customization and personalization improving motivation, morale and performance; and will provide for anytime, anywhere learning. The presentation also lists some of the benefits of implementing this initiative such as high reasoning and critical analysis skills, more project based learning activities, student engaging in learning, student being better prepared for college and career readiness needed to be successful, reduction in disciplinary actions, better attendance and a decrease in dropout rates.

Superintendent Havird covered the fiscal impact regarding the A1 Digital Initiative. He explained that the assessed value of taxable property in Anderson School District One for the purposes of the constitutional debt limit as of June 30, 2013 was \$172,515,432 and 8% of that amount is \$13.9 million dollars. Currently District One has no bonded debt subject to the 8% limit. Mr. Havird outlined the costs that will be associated with the implementation of the mobile device initiative, which included \$215,000 for contingency. He also included other needs that would be spent under the 8% monies for items such as additional safety and security features, maintenance for buildings and athletics.

Also in the presentation Superintendent Havird included information regarding the impact of the Debt Service Millage. Currently the debt service millage for 2014 is 43 mills and the current value of a mill is \$173,600. The following represents the yearly progression of the debt service as follows:

- 2015 a mill will be 49.7 resulting in an increase of 6.7
- 2016 a mill will be 49.7 with an increase of 6.7
- 2017 a mill will be 47.9 with an increase of 4.9
- 2018 a mill will be 48.0 with an increase of 5.0
- 2019 a mill will be 47.9 with an increase of 4.9

Superintendent Havird relayed what this would mean to the tax payers in School District One. Owner-occupied homes in value of \$100,000 would see an increase of \$26.80 (4% ratio) and non-owner occupied homes or commercial property with assessed value of \$50,000 (6% ratio) will pay an extra \$20.10 and vehicles with an assessed value of \$20,000 (6% ration) will pay an extra \$8.04.

Superintendent Havird provided future funding sources for the sustainability for technology which includes funding sources that are predictable:

Re-accessing the 8% bond money if needed, State K-12 Technology Initiative of \$29.2 Million Dollars that is up for legislation and appears it will be passed, Federal funds (Title I, II, III and IDEA), a possible local option sales tax for education if needed and the large savings on copying and printing costs currently generated in the district. Superintendent Havird stated that in this new technology integration that new personnel with the expertise to implement the upgrade in technology in the district is needed, but was anticipating that could be covered by the district's regular budget. The presentation concluded that this initiative is an investment in our students' future, not an expense.

After questions by county board members were answered by Superintendent Havird and no further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Mike Upton to approve and was seconded by Mr. Dale Martin. Dr. Gary Burgess abstained from voting until he sees what will happen with the 1% Local Option Sales Tax. Dr. Burgess stated it had nothing to do with opposition of the initiative and commended District One for being such good stewards of the tax payer's money. With a unanimous vote with the exception of Dr. Gary Burgess, the Anderson County Board of Education approved the Anderson School District One Bond Issue.

### **Anderson County Alternative School Report**

Mr. Mike Brock provided board members with the March 2014 Alternative School Report. Alternative School Principal Dillingham was in attendance to answer any questions the board members might have. Chairman Draisen commented that the current enrollment was 120 and asked Mr. Dillingham what was the total capacity and he answered approximately 130.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry commented that Southwood and Honea Path Middle School had no students on the roster. Mr. Mike Brock asked was there still a waiting list for special education students and Mr. Dillingham stated there was no longer a waiting list for special education students due to an additional teacher being hired for the remainder of the school year to accommodate those students.

Dr. Gary Burgess questioned if a lot of the students in attendance were there as a result of poor social skills and Mr. Dillingham stated that most all of the students there were strictly because of behavioral problems and not academic issues. He continued that the biggest problem was students are disrespectful and disruptive and have no filters for their behavior. Mr. Dillingham noted these students

did not have the potential to learn until they were reined in and that was their primary focus. Mr. Nimmer noted that the total enrollment number for the same time frame last year was 98 as opposed to the 120 students in the current reporting period.

Chairman Draisen thanked Mr. Dillingham for the job he was doing because it was very necessary and that Anderson County was lucky to have such a successful Alternative School. Ms. Bradberry asked how many students were on the waiting list and Mr. Dillingham answered there were six high school students on that list.

### **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Nimmer reminded board members that their Statements of Economic Interest were due no later than March 30, 2014.

Mr. Nimmer updated board members that all of the technology upgrades requested in the Fall of last year have been put in place and were operational and things seemed to be running smoothly and an increase in performance is definitely evident.

Chairman Draisen asked how the additional mental health counselors had been received by the districts. Mr. Nimmer stated that they have been very well received. Dr. Gary Burgess gave a personal testimony regarding the mental health counseling provided by Ms. Nancy Allen, who served District Four, for his nephew and that she had done an excellent job.

### **Financial**

#### **A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget**

Mr. Nimmer stated that all of the districts are remaining consistent with District Four being a little ahead because more of their money is derived locally. Mr. Nimmer stated that he met with the five school districts finance officers and the Anderson County Treasurer and Auditor and all districts collections are ahead of what they were last year and all were confident School Districts One through Five will be at 100% by the end of the year.

#### **B. Assessment Totals – February 28, 2014**

Mr. Nimmer stated that the format of this report will soon be changing. He reported that assessment totals were very consistent but with the delayed date to file personal income taxes, the sale of automobiles reflected on the report are lagging behind sales in prior years.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

Chairman Draisen noted that the 2014 South Carolina School Board Association Conference was very informative and well run. He and Mr. Nimmer were in agreement that the slate of speakers and break-out sessions were very informative. Chairman Draisen remarked on a very young speaker who was a student from Kennesaw State University and that his presentation on global learning was very impressive.

Chairman Draisen informed board members that Dr. Craig Drennon has submitted his resignation to the County Board because he has moved outside the area he was elected to represent and was no longer qualified to serve on the County Board. Dr. Gary Burgess moved to accept Dr. Drennon's resignation, seconded by Mr. Mike Brock with all board members in favor. Chairman Draisen stated that Dr. Drennon had been an asset to the board and questioned who would be his replacement. Mr. Nimmer provided board members with a recommendation from Anderson School District Three to fill the vacant seat on the County Board with Shawn McGee and that this replacement has to be presented for appointment by the Anderson County Delegation. Mr. McGee previously served on the County Board and will be a great asset to the County Board. Mr. Nimmer stated that if appointed to the County Board that he will not seek reelection. Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to accept District Three's recommendation to appoint Shawn McGee to serve District Three Area Six, seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess and was followed by a unanimous vote.

**A. ADM Accounts Payable**

**B. SFS Accounts Payable**

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess and followed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry asked Mr. Nimmer if he felt the House Budget will be passed. Mr. Nimmer stated that if so, there was additional money that would be unallocated money of approximately \$100 million dollars but where the money will go is unknown. He stated there is a possibility that the base student cost will go up from \$2,101 to \$2,120. Dr. Gary Burgess remarked that in the past when base student cost decreased there was an increase on student performance. Mr. Mike Upton replied that this cannot be used to measure student success because the student performance was measured over a period of time.

**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.