

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
May 19, 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:

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 were all present for the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes – April 21, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Nimmer directed the Board's attention to a correction that should be made to the minutes located on Page Two, Paragraph 2. The minutes should reflect:

Ms. Bradberry stated that the current enrollment from Westside High School was only 15 and that she had heard some very upsetting information from a student regarding Westside's student discipline conditions.

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes of the April 2014 meeting with the above noted correction.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period

There was several representatives in attendance from Leadership Anderson.

Consideration of Anderson School District Three Bond Issue

Mr. Keith Martin, Business Manager for District Three was in attendance to answer any questions from the County Board regarding the resolution. Mr. Martin stated that in the District Three April 2014 board meeting the Board of Trustees approved the bond issue not to exceed \$600,000 to fund \$257,125 of District Three's equipment acquisition payment that is due in December 2014 and is a reoccurring amount previously approved by the County Board and \$342,875 for technology infrastructure to improve wireless internet in all of the District Three schools and District Three offices. Mr. Martin added that part of the cost will be made possible to purchase technology equipment with funding from the state and will help fund part of the project. Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Mike Brock.

At the request of Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Chairman Draisen read aloud the bond resolution to the County Board. After a brief discussion regarding tax exemption status and interest types and percentages on those bonds, the County Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Anderson County Alternative School Report (ACAS)

Mr. Mike Brock provided a copy of the Anderson County Alternative School (ACAS) May 2014 report to each board member. Ms. Bradberry remarked that the total number of students served at the ACAS for the 2013-2014 school year totaled 190 students. Mr. Brock stated that some of the students have returned to their schools. Mr. Nimmer stated that on the back of the report, reasons for students leaving the ACAS during the school year were listed by district. Ms. Dana Grant questioned one of the reasons listed for leaving the ACAS, 10 consecutive unexcused absences, and asked if it was listed for absences from their home school or from the ACAS and Mr. Nimmer answered that it was absences from the Alternative School. Mr. Nimmer explained that when a student is placed at the ACAS for an expulsion, compulsory attendance laws are not in effect for the remainder of that school year but upon returning the next year to the Alternative School then the attendance laws would apply at which point our Attendance and Dropout Prevention Coordinators would then work with those students in violation of the attendance laws. Mr. Mike Brock asked if there was an age limit on the attendance laws and Mr. Nimmer answered yes that the age limit was 17 years of age.

Ms. Bradberry noted that according to reasons listed for leaving the Alternative School, a total of 13 students had returned to their school district.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that he and Chairman Draisen attended the 2 Days at the Capital meeting with the South Carolina School Board Association and that their meetings with the general assembly had been the most productive and worthwhile since he has been going and was a good opportunity to meet with most of the Board's legislative delegation.

Mr. Nimmer stated that two of the issues he wanted to work on was to get the referendum question on the ballot this fall to give the voters an opportunity to voice their wishes to establish the 1% sales tax for capital investments in the schools and was successful in doing so. He stated that there was an amendment to a senate bill that would qualify the school districts in Anderson County to participate in state law for the sales tax. Mr. Nimmer explained the process the referendum would have to travel to be placed on the ballot during a general election. Mr. Nimmer stated that the other issue he wished to have addressed was to have the appointment of Shawn McGee to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Craig Drennon and hopefully the appointment would be coming very soon.

Chairman Draisen informed the Board that one of Anderson County's delegation members was unavailable to meet with them, but they were able to meet with one of their staffers. Chairman Draisen stated that the meeting was very productive and that he had corresponded with the staffer since their meeting. Mr. Nimmer stated that he had actually corresponded with the staffer in the past but it was a good opportunity to put a name with a face.

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board of the budget workshops schedule with the school districts. Mr. Nimmer stated that the meetings were scheduled for June 10, 2014 and June 12, 2014. He stated that on June 10th, the meetings would be held at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for school districts 4, 2

and 3 respectively and on June 12th at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. with districts 1 and 5 and is structured as has been in the past. Ms. Dana Grant asked when the board members would be receiving their budget books. Mr. Nimmer stated that the budgets were due to him on June 1, 2014 and normally takes approximately one week to prepare them.

Financial

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget

Mr. Nimmer stated that the school districts seem to be right on target, but the County Board is a little behind at this time compared to years past as we are awaiting reimbursements from the school districts for the mental health counselors which are due the end of June 2014.

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that Superintendent Havird from District One called to report on the bond refunding issue that the County Board authorized several months ago would set to happen in early June and District One will receive an additional savings of approximately \$700,000 on that issue. Mr. Nimmer stated that this is phase two of the refunding and in phase one the anticipated savings of approximately \$800,000 actually came in at \$1.1 million when the bonds were issued. Mr. Nimmer stated that District One should realize a total saving of approximately \$2 million dollars.

Chairman Draisen mentioned that School District Three did not budget any delinquent taxes but actually had \$117,000. Mr. Nimmer explained that they budget for it in their total tax collections and that each school district budgets differently. Mr. Nimmer explained that the information listed on the Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget reports are based on the information received from Treasurer's Office and when the audits are completed, those lines are converted in the report. Mr. Nimmer gave a few examples of the different budgeting methods in the school districts. Ms. Bradberry asked for clarification on student equalization, and Mr. Nimmer explained that 14.7 mills are collected county wide every time there is a tax collection and is then reallocated back to the school districts based on total enrollment. Ms. Bradberry remarked that it would be helpful if all the school districts budgeted in the same manner as it would be easier to compare. Ms. Bradberry asked Mr. Nimmer what taxes remain to be received and Mr. Nimmer explained that taxes would continue to be received through August 2014.

B. Assessment Totals – April 30, 2014

Mr. Nimmer reported there was approximately a \$1,300 dollar growth in the assessment total county wide from the total last month which was \$670,000. Chairman Draisen asked for clarification and Mr. Nimmer stated that he was referring to the \$1,300 as the value of a mill, at \$1.3 million in actual assessed value and was due primarily to vehicle sales.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Dr. Gary Burgess asked had there been any discussions regarding revenue shortfalls in light of teacher

increases across the state and Mr. Nimmer stated that they were waiting to see a final state budget. Mr. Nimmer added that there was a hold harmless provision in the law but no way the agreement will fund the step increase that are required as part of the budget for those districts that are involved. Some school districts have gained with that and some have seen virtually no increase, with District 4 being one of them. Ms. Bradberry asked what the base student cost would be and Mr. Nimmer stated it would be \$2,120 which was \$19 higher than the previous school year.

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills as presented and was seconded by Dr. Rev. Rufus Mitchell. Mr. Nimmer called the Board's attention to a few extraordinary items listed for the month.

Mr. Nimmer stated that the payment to HP was the first lease payment for the new computers approved by the board back in October 2013 and a \$7,000 payment to network the new equipment. Mr. Nimmer mentioned that seven generations of technology had passed since the previous equipment had been put in place and this area is where a big portion of time and effort had gone to bring it up to date. Ms. Bradberry asked about an item listed for payment to Nutrition Basics, LLC. Mr. Nimmer answered that this payment was for the contract agreement with new Food Service Manager, Julie Peles, who serves school districts two and three. Mr. Nimmer stated that the food service director's salary was contractual and no benefits were included in the salary and that it seems to be working very well. Mr. Nimmer added that school districts two and three pay a portion of her salary, just as school districts one through five contribute a portion of the salaries of the eight school based mental health counselors on staff.

After the discussion, a vote was held and all board members were in favor of paying the bills as presented.

Executive Session

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to go into Executive Session for a contractual matter. Dr. Burgess seconded the motion and was followed with a unanimous vote.

After the executive session, Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion that the Board Chairman, Mr. David Draisen, form a committee to investigate the possible relocation of the County Board offices and to sell the building to the City of Anderson. Dr. Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion and was followed by a unanimous vote.

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.