

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

Call to Order

Mr. David Draisen, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order in the Community Meeting Room at the Foothills Community Foundation. Rev. Dr. Rufus 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 for the September 2014 Board Meeting: Chairman David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Ms. Dana Grant, Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. Shawn McGee, and Mr. Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Mr. Mike Upton was not in attendance for the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Brenda Bradberry seconded the motion and with a unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2014 Board Meeting

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2014 Board Meeting and was seconded by Rev. Rufus Mitchell. With a unanimous vote, the Board approved the minutes. Chairman David Draisen stated that he did not vote because he was not in attendance at the meeting.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period

No one was present to address the Board.

Consideration of Bond Issue - Anderson School District Four

Anderson School District Four Superintendent Lee D'Andrea and Mr. Larry Young, Director of Finance, were in attendance to address the Board regarding the issuing of the District's Special Obligation Bonds. Superintendent D'Andrea stated that at the August 2014 Board Meeting, she shared with the Board some considerable needs at Pendleton High School pertaining to the HVAC system. Superintendent D'Andrea stated at Dr. Gary Burgess' request they were able to obtain a statement from the Office of School Facilities as to why the upgrades which includes the electrical and the fire suppression system are required. Superintendent D'Andrea stated the letter explained that the upgrades are considered a level three project and required bringing all of the systems up to code.

Dr. Burgess stated that he is aware that the HVAC system needs replacing but wanted to be sure that the other upgrades were required by law such as the items for accessibility or were they just a recommendation. Superintendent D'Andrea stated that it was her understanding from the Office of School Facilities that when the project is considered a level three project it is required that you bring

everything up to code in those systems which included ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance.

Mr. Larry Young explained that when you pull the ceilings down and start replacing the ducting, fans and pulleys, then the second largest part of your project becomes replacing the sprinkler system and with this component, these accessibility components are required by code. Mr. Young stated that a project dealing with these types of upgrades were installed 30 years ago, these components were not required. Dr. Burgess just wanted to be assured if asked, that he could state that these upgrades were all required by law.

Ms. Bradberry asked if the sales tax passes, would it affect any of this bond. Superintendent D'Andrea stated that they were advised by their financial advisor that December was not the best time to sell bonds and upon the Board's approval they will proceed in selling the bonds. She also stated that if the sales tax passes that District Four may not be required to sell a bond every year to make the payment because it may be possible that the district can make the payment using the sales tax revenue. Mr. Young stated if passed they could make the payment with the sales tax revenue or a combination of sales tax and property tax. Superintendent D'Andrea continued that after paying for the Career Center, they anticipate having approximately \$400,000 per year left, totaling approximately \$7 to \$8 million dollars, over the life of the 15 year bond issuance if the sales tax passes. Mr. Young told the Board that the District Four Board asked the same question, but regardless the upgrades at Pendleton High School must be done.

Mr. Young stated that they would proceed and would be back before the Board each year asking for the Board's approval to make the annual payment on the 10 year commitment. Mr. Young concluded that this would be built into the district's debt structure and hopefully would not increase tax rates. Ms. Bradberry asked about the type of debt this was considered and Mr. Young answered that it was considered a special obligation bond and not a general obligation bond. Mr. Nimmer stated that this was the same type of bond issue as the Board has approved for District Three.

Mr. Mike Brock asked if the new District Four bus garage construction was complete and Mr. Young replied that they were accepting bids this month. Superintendent D'Andrea stated that District Four was able to save approximately \$150,000 by purchasing the house that was located on the property recently acquired as opposed to building a new office.

Dr. Gary Burgess made the motion to authorize the issuance of the Special Obligation Bonds for Anderson School District 4. Ms. Bradberry provided a second followed by a unanimous vote for approval.

Anderson County Alternative School Report

Mr. Mike Brock reported that the Alternative School opened up full force with 80 students for the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Brock asked Mr. Nimmer if he had the figures for enrollment for the same time period last year and Mr. Nimmer stated that on September 16, 2013 that the total student enrollment was 51 students. Mr. Nimmer stated that the difference primarily is in the Anderson School District 5's placements with 16 total students last year and this year there are 44 students. Mr. Nimmer also stated that as indicated for the cumulative totals of students served since August 18, 2014, 83 students for School Districts 1 through 5 that 3 students have already left. Mr. Brock said he knew as fact that District Two had 23 students scheduled to start but only 11 students actually showed up. Chairman Draisen asked if they dropped out of school and Mr. Brock either that or transferred to another district or county. Dr. Gary Burgess asked was the number of free and reduced lunch qualified students was

accurate. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was low because students are still qualifying for free and reduced lunches for this school year.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer addressed Ms. Brenda Bradberry regarding the student she had mentioned at a previous board meeting for winning the Food Network television program Chopped and stated that he proposed that the County Board to have a plaque of congratulations made and presented at the October Board meeting. Mr. Nimmer stated according to an article in the Anderson Independent, Ms. Tommi Rae Fowler, a Wren High School student who also attends the Anderson County District One and Two Career and Technology Center, competed in New York along with 16 teens and won the teen cooking competition that aired in July and August of 2014. Ms. Bradberry reported that Ms. Fowler won \$25,000 in cash and a \$40,000 scholarship. Ms. Bradberry asked if any of the board members had seen the Jeff Foxworthy cooking show in which a contestant from Pickens County competed. Ms. Bradberry stated that the two will be taking Ms. Fowler under their wing and Ms. Fowler may getting her own cooking show. Chairman Draisen stated that this was another reason to have a career center in Districts Three, Four and Five. Mr. Nimmer stated that the Business and Education Alliance met at the Career and Technology Center the previous week and the culinary class cooked a meal for the members. Mr. Nimmer stated the meal was fantastic and definitely considered gourmet.

Mr. Nimmer reported that the sales tax referendum will be on the ballot in November and that the issue will be ramping up with community meetings to explain the referendum. Mr. Nimmer continued that in School Districts One and Two there will only be one question on the ballot and in School Districts Three, Four and Five, two questions will appear. Mr. Nimmer stated that this may be a little confusing but that the difference in the division of the districts and the number of questions are due to the new Career and Technology Center that is proposed to be built with the tax revenue in School Districts three, four and five. Mr. Nimmer stated that the first question will pertain to a fifteen year 1% sales tax being imposed that mirrors the existing sales tax and that current exemptions apply to it and the proceeds from the tax will strictly be used for capital projects in all five school districts. Mr. Nimmer stated that School Districts Three, Four and Five will have a second referendum questions on the ballot that will deal with the issuance of bonds that will be used to build construct and equip the new career center. Mr. Nimmer stated that the caveat in that is 100% of those bonds will be repaid by the proceeds of the sales tax and is not a traditional bond issue to be funded by property tax. Mr. Nimmer stated that if the sales tax does not pass, then the second question is moot.

Mr. Nimmer stated that the two ballot questions is a fairly new development and when the various bills were reconciled legally. Mr. Nimmer stated that now that we are "piggy backing" on another bill that was passed later in the session, that the reconciliation was prepared by the lawyers and was deemed to be the appropriate way to proceed. Ms. Bradberry asked Mr. Nimmer how much would the bond be in each school district and Mr. Nimmer answered in School District Five, the bond would be \$60 million dollars, \$16 million dollars in School District Four and \$14 million dollars in School District Three for a total of \$90 million dollars and will be used for the career center and other capital projects such as technology, building maintenance as well as some athletics. Mr. Nimmer stated that the three school districts are currently working on a list of where the money will be used. Dr. Burgess asked how much it would cost to construct the career center and Mr. Nimmer answered that it was estimated to cost between \$40 and \$45 million to construct and will accommodate approximately 3,000 students. Mr. Mike Brock asked if the new career center would be built close to Tri County Technical College and Mr. Nimmer answered that this was the desire to adjoin the career center to the Tri County Tech Anderson Campus.

After a question from Ms. Bradberry for clarification on the ballot, Dr. Burgess stated that it was his understanding that if you are proposing a regular bond referendum that you cannot politic within the school system and/or during the school day but was unsure since this is a different type of bond does this still apply. Dr. Burgess also stated that he had received complaints that this was happening in some of the school districts by some employees. Chairman Draisen he was aware of some meetings held by District Five's employees but were held after hours. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was his understanding that the same rules would apply regardless of the type of bond referendum.

Mr. Nimmer stated that the calendar was set for generating property tax notices and he would be meeting with the county auditor, treasurer and the assessor to work on millage the first week of October and he would report back to the board at the October 2014 board meeting.

Financial

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget

Mr. Nimmer referred the board to the report in their packets and stated that the districts were remarkably consistent with the exception of School District Three who collected some fee in lieu of taxes that came from Santee Cooper. Ms. Bradberry asked if all of the school districts receive those fees and Mr. Nimmer answered no, only School District Three would receive the fees because it has to do with power generation that Santee Cooper produces in that particular district. Mr. Nimmer stated there will be a new fee for the Duke Lee Steam Facility that is being converted over to natural gas and will be collected in District One. Mr. Brock asked if Santee Cooper paid the fees in one lump sum. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was their annual fee. Ms. Bradberry asked about the county equalization and why had District Five received all of theirs and some of the other districts had not. Mr. Nimmer answered that District Five had not received all of theirs. The 14.7 mill equalization revenue is included in the budget under ad valorem taxes.

B. Assessment Totals – August 31, 2014

Mr. Nimmer called the Board's attention to the Assessment Totals report in their packets and reported that the districts had been consistent throughout most of 2014. Growth for 2014 will be added, which has been minimal this year for real property, during October. Mr. Nimmer stated that due to continual steady automobile sales the value of a mill grew approximately \$600 between the end of July and the end of August and now the value of a mill was approximately \$671,732. Mr. Nimmer stated that steady consistent growth has maintained most of 2014 and it is the first year that has happened since 2006 and 2007 and is an indicator that the economy is continuing to improve at a modest rate.

Old Business

Ms. Bradberry asked Ms. Grant if she knew what the difference was in the cheerleading teams. Ms. Grant stated that it was her understanding there is a spirit team that cheers at football and basketball games but the competition teams cheer at competitions. Ms. Grant stated that she understood that the cost of the spirit team uniforms was absorbed by District Five, but that there was a charge for the competition cheerleader uniforms. Ms. Bradberry stated that she was approached by a parent and

grandparent regarding the payment for the uniforms and that she understood from them that they were allowed to rent the uniforms but that it would be very expensive to do so over a four year period. Ms. Bradberry informed them that if they were unable to pay for the uniforms that the school district would absorb the fees for the uniforms. Ms. Grant stated she was not able to confirm that because she is only familiar with her daughter's cheer team and that their spirit and competition teams were combined. After a brief conversation regarding the payment of uniforms in District Five which included cheer and band uniforms, Chairman Draisen stated that it was his understanding that Superintendent Wilson intended to pay for the uniforms this school year.

New Business

Ms. Bradberry made a motion that the County Board recognize Ms. Tommi Rae Fowler with a plaque for winning the National Food Competition at the October 2014 Board Meeting. Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion and was followed with a unanimous vote.

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess and followed by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Bradberry questioned the payment to Sanders Moving and Mr. Nimmer stated that the County Board would be reimbursed for that upon the sale of the old building which was progressing nicely.

Mr. Mike Brock asked Mr. Nimmer about candidates who would be running in the November election for the new term and the deadline to file with the State Ethics Commission. Mr. Nimmer told Mr. Brock that that was handled through the Voter Registration and Elections Office and they handle the schedule for that. Mr. Nimmer reminded the Board that he did not have a role in policing the filing the Statement of Economic Interest with the State Ethics Commission but he would continue to remind board members of the deadline to file the statement which is now due March 30th and not April 15th.

Adjourn

Chairman David 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.