

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
November 18, 2019

Call to Order: Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order and 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 November meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Jim Haning, Mr. John Martin, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Nakia Davis, and Mr. Mike Upton were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion and with a unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the October 21, 2019 minutes and Mr. Jim Haning seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the minutes were approved.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: No one from the media or public was present for public comment.

Consideration of Anderson School District One Bond Refunding: Mr. Nimmer referenced the information in the packets outlining the reasons for the bond refunding request. He then introduced the Superintendent of District One, Mr. Robbie Binnicker, to explain it in more detail. Mr. Binnicker explained that there is about 27.5 million dollars still out in the 2010 Build American Bond and, as they usually do, looked at the current interest rate vs. the interest rate when we issued the bonds. Right now, there is about a 1.61% decrease in the interest rate from the time of issue. Mr. Binnicker explained that what his district would like to do is refund those bonds, which is much like refinancing a home, and this will save the taxpayers approximately \$3,296,000.00 over the life of the bonds. The school district doesn't get any extra money from this, but we feel it very appropriate to do this, so the taxpayers pay a lower interest rate over the life of the bonds. Our District One Board unanimously approved this resolution at the last meeting held on October 29th not to exceed \$27,500,000 General Obligation Refunding Bond and that is the Series 220.

Mr. Binnicker stated that he and District One are requesting the Anderson County Board of Education's approval to proceed with the bond refunding. Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the request. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the board approved the request unanimously.

Consideration of Anderson School District Three Bond Issue: Mr. Nimmer said he distributed a letter at the October meeting from Mr. Matthew Moore, Chief Financial Officer from Anderson District Three, requesting a bond issue for improvements at Crescent High School. Between the last meeting and tonight, District Three has also been made aware of an opportunity to refund some existing bond debt and have united the two together. They will be having one new bond issue with a portion used for projects at Crescent High School and the other portion to reduce debt. Mr. Moore is here and Mr. Nimmer gave him the floor to provide more details.

Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Nimmer for explaining the District Three bond request to the board members. He added that his district is requesting a 4.1-million-dollar bond resolution and 2.1 million dollars to refinance a 2009 bond they have, and that actually refunded a 2000 bond that was passed by a referendum. It is worth noting that District Three's debt limit is 8% and we are only at about 3.6%. There will be no tax increase passed on to taxpayers. This refunding is expected to save District Three significant interest payments and we expect to have it paid over a 5-year term.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the request and Mr. Jim Haning seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Alternative School Report: The current enrollment, during the first week in November, was 103 students compared to 95 last year at this time and 98 students last month, Mr. Nimmer reported. The enrollment continues to grow and, as usual, the summary of students that have left the school is on the back page.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer began by stating there has been a ruling by the judge in charge of the Anderson School District Two case and a copy of that ruling is in your packets. This information has been provided to our council, Mr. Richard Thompson, and he is in the process of reviewing it. I discussed the possibility of an appeal of this with him and he said there were two levels of appeal. Basically, they would ask the judge to reconsider his ruling based on points of law. The judge would either uphold his decision or possibly change it based on arguments held at that point. The next level of appeal would be through the State Appellate Court with a three judge panel that deals with cases like this state-wide. There are time limits on when these appeals can be filed, Mr. Nimmer believes the motion to reconsider is 10 days from when the ruling is issued and the appeal to the appellate court is 30 days. Mr. Richard Thompson, our attorney, has offered to meet with our board members to discuss this further, however, there are so many questions right now we may have to wait and see.

The South Carolina School Board's Association Annual Convention will be held at the Marriott at Hilton Head Island from February 20 -23, 2020. Mr. Nimmer plans to make a reservation for those that will be going and asked to the Board Members to let him know their plans as soon as possible.

Also in your packets is an order form for our traditional Holiday Dinner that will accompany our meeting on December 16th at Tucker's. We will meet at 6:00 pm, have a brief meeting, and the dinner will begin at 6:30 pm. Please get your response in to Mr. Nimmer by December 10th.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer reported the year-to-date revenue collections, budget vs. actual, show that everyone is between 11 and 12 percent in their collections through October 31st. Collections really ratchet up during the month of November once the ad valorem property bills go out for real property. We are still approximately one percent higher in collection rate than where we were last year and that is a good sign. This is due to the continued growth in automobiles on the tax rolls and some is additional growth in the real property.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer mentioned at last month's meeting that the growth would be posted, however, it did not get posted prior to the end of closing in September. It did get posted in October and this is what is being reflected in the real property bills now. At the close of business in September, the value of a mil county wide was \$783,909.00. After the growth was posted during the month of October for the growth accumulated in 2019, the current value of a mil is \$809,465.00 which represents growth of \$25,556.00 per mil or a total of \$25,556,000.00 in total assessed value. This is actually a little ahead of what we anticipate growth to be. Mr. Nimmer reminded everyone that this is the total value of a mil county wide and we must net out 4% or owner occupied property due to Act 388 for the actual collections for the County Board, Alternative School, and the five school districts.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mr. Nimmer referenced the sales tax report in the packets and said through the month of October total collections county wide are just under \$105 million dollars since the inception of the tax in March 2015. The gross amount collected to date is \$104,832,718.11. As a reminder, 20% comes off the top to roll back property tax millage and 80% is used for capital projects.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brenda Bradberry and was followed by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Draisen.

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.