

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
June 15, 2020

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 June 2020 meeting: Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Jim Haning, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Mr. John Martin and Mr. Mike Upton participated virtually through Zoom.

Board Members Absent: Ms. Brenda Bradberry was unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Jim Haning made a motion to amend the agenda removing item number VII which would appoint/fill the vacancy on the Anderson School District Two Board of Trustees. He felt this would allow more time for consideration on this very important decision. Mr. Nakia Davis seconded the motion. Mr. Mike Brock felt that the agenda item should be acted on as planned. However, after a brief discussion, a vote was taken with a five to three split with the majority in favor of tabling the District Two vacancy appointment to another time.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to approve the May 18, 2020 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 signed up for public comment.

Consideration of Bond Request from Anderson School District Four: The Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Cristy Jablonski, came before the board with two items from the local District 4 School Board that met last Monday night. She explained that the first is the annual GEO Bond which is not to exceed \$3.15 million to keep the debt service millage the same as it has been. The use of this money is for two annual payments which we do every year and both are on our Equipment Acquisition loans due in the fall of 2020. \$1.6 million will be payment for the \$9.7 million project at Pendleton High School we did a couple of years ago, \$6.5 million will be for the Equipment Acquisition Agreement that was passed in 2018, and that will leave \$652,000 that will be used locally for projects such as maintenance, safety, and instructional supplies. Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the GEO Bond request. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the board members.

Ms. Jablonski stated the second bond request relates to the 2018 Equipment Acquisition loan. We have the opportunity to refinance this loan to get a better interest rate but we are also requesting to increase the amount by \$1.4 million. This is due to the delay in heating and air projects slated to happen a couple years ago, but we were unable to get these done due to different specifications with the manufacturer. In the meantime, the cost of these projects has increased significantly so we are asking for the increase so that \$800,000 will supplement the increase in the HVAC projects and \$600,000 of that will go to refresh technology. Basically, we would like to refinance the 2018 Equipment Acquisition loan at a better rate but will not exceed the maturity which is for ten years. Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the request on the Equipment Acquisition loan. Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer let everyone know that four seats on the Anderson County Board of Education will be up for reelection in November this year. These are Seat 2 held by Mr. Mike Upton, Seat 7 held by Mr. David Draisen, Seat 8 held by Ms. Brenda Bradberry, and Seat 9 held by Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell. Filing will open for these seats on August 3rd at noon and filing will close on August 17th at noon. Mr. Nimmer will mention this again at the July meeting.

Dr. Gary Burgess then asked about the memo from Attorney Richard Thompson and what he was actually saying. Mr. Nimmer explained he was trying to determine how to handle concerns that Mr. Mike Upton and Mr. Jim Haning had and whether it would be appropriate to move to executive session for a discussion tonight. Mr. Thompson said that would not be the way to handle this, that it would be better to have a called meeting of the personnel committee for additional discussion. This memo was distributed to the board members to share his thoughts. Dr. Burgess asked why the attorney became involved after the last meeting. Mr. Jim Haning explained that he had contacted Mr. Mike Upton about reservations and concerns he had and felt the need to discuss the situation further before making a decision. Once Mr. Nimmer was made aware, he contacted the attorney for his professional opinion and recommendation for transparency. Several board members felt they were blindsided as they came prepared to vote on a candidate to fill the vacancy. It was made clear this was certainly not their intention, they simply need to give this decision the thought and deliberation it deserves.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer reported that all five school districts are closing in on 100% collection for the year. The collections have remained 1.5 to 2 percent ahead of where they were last year. The County Board and Alternative School receive their money in the form of reimbursements at the end of June and that is why their collection is a little behind the school districts at this point. The main reason District 1 is ahead of the others is the fee in lieu of tax collections was significantly increased by the Lee Steam Plant (Duke Power's generating plant) coming online which boosted their collections.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer stated the value of a mil county wide sits right at \$800,000.00 or exactly \$799,935.00. That is strong considering the last few months. Some of the delays built into this shut down, put in place by the Highway Department as far as booking automobiles go, you do not have to register a vehicle and pay the taxes on it until July 1st. We may see some catch up, however, according to the people in the auditor's and the treasurer's office, it has been pretty steady with people taking care of this so that is a good sign.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mr. Nimmer said the sales tax collections through the end of May have been \$119,842,820.00 county wide. As a reminder 20% of this comes off the top and is posted to the sinking funds for debt service. This helps in maintaining and rolling back debt service millage for each district. We will probably see a significant decrease in next month's collections because there is a two-month gap in the report. Monies received in June actually reflect April's collections and April was the first month of the complete shutdown.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

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

After a brief discussion, the Board Members decided the Personnel Committee would meet at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, June 23, to discuss the candidates applying to fill the vacancy on the District Two School Board. The called Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, at 6:00 pm for a final decision and vote should the Personnel Committee agree on a candidate to recommend.

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.