

**Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
July 20, 2020**

Call to Order: Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order and Dr. Gary Burgess 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 July 2020 meeting: Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Jim Haning, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Ms. Brenda Bradberry and Mr. John Martin participated virtually through Zoom.

Board Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell and Mr. Mike Upton were unable to attend.

Approval of Virtual Meeting and Approval of Agenda: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the virtual meeting and Mr. Nakia Davis seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Ms. Brenda Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mike Brock seconded the meeting and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - June 15, 2020 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the June 15, 2020 minutes and Mr. Jim Haning seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the minutes were approved.

Approval of Minutes - June 25, 2020 Called Meeting: Prior to the meeting, Mr. Mike Upton had requested a correction be made to the minutes. Mr. Nimmer said Mr. Upton asked that his statement concerning the fact that there was no secret/closed-door meeting held on the night of the Called Meeting be included in the minutes along with the letter from Dr. Burgess. Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 25, 2020 meeting and Ms. Brenda Bradberry seconded the motion. Dr. Burgess was opposed to the change while the other board members voted to approve the change.

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

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer reminded the board members there are four seats on the Anderson County Board of Education that 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.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer reported that this is the June 30th report which is the year-end report in terms of revenues for the districts. Everyone is very close to or at 100% of meeting the revenues as budgeted. He continued to state that District One is about 5% above the budgeted amount due to a tremendous increase in fee in lieu of taxes due to the Lee Steam Plant (Duke Power's generating plant) coming online which increased their fee significantly. Also you will notice there is still zero dollars posted for manufacturer's depreciation reimbursement. That was delayed in getting to us and it wasn't posted as of the close of business on June 30th. There was a change in the reporting requirements for that reimbursement that most of the counties were unaware of or did not properly report. All reports had to be amended and then resubmitted. Anderson County was one of the first to resubmit, but because they released all the funds at one time, we did not get them until July. That will be posted retroactively to the prior year.

On the Alternative School, they are 99.13% collected. They too have not received the manufacturer's depreciation reimbursement of approximately \$30,000 which would close the gap that is there. District Five did not share any of the sales tax money during the 2019-2020 fiscal year which caused a deficit since the funds were budgeted for last year. So, the combination of these two things did cause the Alternative School to lag behind a bit. Hopefully, they will be at 100% once the manufacturer's depreciation reimbursement is received and posted.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer stated the value of a mil during the month of June grew by just over \$1,000. It was \$799,935.00 on May 31st and on June 30th it is \$801,134.00. That is a good sign because the delays in paying property taxes and posting new vehicle sales was through July 1st. Mr. Nimmer expects there to be a fair amount posted in July since the state allowed people to buy new cars, not register them, and not show up on this report until July. Therefore, we should see some additional growth during the month of July.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mr. Nimmer said the sales tax collections through the end of June have been \$2,175,359.78 countywide. He reminded the board members there is a two month lag in collecting these funds so this two million was on sales in April when the closings and the shutdowns were in full force. This was a strong collection. As another reminder, 20% of these funds come off the top and is posted to the sinking fund accounts for the districts to pay for debt service. .

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business: Mr. Jim Haning read a rebuttal statement he prepared and also asked that it be included as part of this month's board meeting minutes. It reads as follows:

I would like to respond to Gary Burgess letter dated June 25th, 2020.

At the June 15th meeting, we were meeting to vote on the candidate for ASD2 Board. Late that afternoon, I called Mike Upton to tell him of my concern that we were rushing this vote. I told him that I didn't have peace about it and could we possibly table the vote and discuss it more. Mike said he would have to talk to David and Joey. I was told the best thing to do would be to ask that the line item for the vote be removed.

As stated, I called Mike late that afternoon of the 15th. It was after 3:00 and I didn't even think to mention it to other committee members as I was only concerned with rushing this vote.

On June 25th, I arrived a little early and Joey was in his office so I walked in and he said, come on in. We sat and talked a few minutes and Mike Upton walked to his doorway. Joey said come on in. We talked about Mike's back and how the injection was helping the pain. I talked about my wife's upcoming spine surgery. We then talked about sweet tea and who has the best sweet tea.

We then walked into the conference room for the meeting.

There was NEVER a closed door meeting as Gary Burgess stated. If Gary Burgess or Rev. Mitchell had walked into Joey's office, the conversation would have been the same. Gary Burgess' insinuation that "another closed door meeting was in progress" was totally and completely false. Gary said that "I stand by my statement" when I said that there was no closed door meeting.

I submit this letter to be included in the minutes of our meeting to set the record straight as to what transpired in this open conversation.

*Thank you,
Jim Haning*

In other new business, Chairman David Draisen let the board members know he received an email from Charlene Ferguson and he addressed the questions posed by her.

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 Mr. Nakia Davis 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.