

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
August 17, 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 August 2020 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. John Martin, and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Jim Haning, Mr. Mike Upton participated virtually through Zoom.

Board Members Absent: N/A

Approval of Virtual Meeting and Approval of Agenda: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the virtual meeting and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously. Mr. Mike Upton made the motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the agenda and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes - July 20, 2020 meeting: Mr. Mike Upton made a motion to approve the July minutes and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion. Dr. Gary Burgess requested a discussion regarding the wording in Mr. Jim Haning's statement from the June 15, 2020 meeting. He said that the typed statement in the minutes directly from the handwritten note did not match exactly to what was officially read by Mr. Haning during the meeting. Dr. Burgess requested the word "wrong" be changed to the word "false" to describe exactly what was read during the meeting. There was no further discussion and, with an eight member vote and one abstention, the minutes were approved.

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 updated the board members on the filing for the four seats on the Anderson County Board of Education that will be up for reelection in November. For the Board of Education Seat 2, currently held by Mr. Mike Upton: he has filed and will be running for reelection. Seat 7, currently held by Mr. David Draisen: he has filed for reelection. Both those seats are running unopposed. Seat 8, currently held by Ms. Brenda Bradberry: she did not file. We have two people that have filed to run for that seat: Vaughn Parfitt and Bob Tompkins. And finally, Seat 9 currently held by Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell: he did not file for reelection. The person who did is Willie Day and he will be running unopposed. Chairman Draisen said that he hoped the people running for election to the board seats have been vetted by the Anderson County Election Commission. Mr. Nimmer said that is his understanding after speaking to them earlier in the afternoon after the filing closed.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer apologized to those joining virtually because he wasn't able to compile and complete the report until late this afternoon due to the closure of the court house annex. All districts have received one month of collection which was July. We did collect the manufacturer's depreciation reimbursement that was mentioned last month for the prior year. We book everything as it is received and then the corrected entries will be made later to put it in the appropriate year which will be the 2019-20 fiscal year. All of the districts are very similar including the County Board and Alternative School at this point with a range from 2.99 percent collected up to a high of 6.58 percent. The 6.58 percent is in School District Three because they have collected a good portion of their fee in lieu of taxes that they receive each year from Santee Cooper. That is \$130,000

of the budgeted \$500,000 that they will receive during the course of the year. Some of the Ad Valorem taxes are slightly ahead because of the delay that the general assembly allowed this year in collecting some of these taxes on new car sales until July 1st. Let's hope that will maintain itself. Everything else is right where it should be at this time of year.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer said the value of a mil countywide increased about \$1,200 this past month. That is due in large part to booking those automobiles that had been building up. This was the catch up for those booked on July 1st. Typically by this time of year, there is some settling as the new car purchases wain a little bit before they amp up again when the new models are released later in early fall. That is another good sign, despite the issues we have had this year, that the automobile business is fairly strong thanks to many incentives from the dealers.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Lastly, for the local option sales tax for education, we booked \$2,696,946.03 for the month of July which represents May collections. Mr. Nimmer was prepared for a dip with the shutdown going on, but it actually is higher than the prior month. Consumption has remained strong which probably has a lot to do with Home Depot and Lowe's staying packed during this time. Overall it was a very, very good month. As a 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: Dr. Gary Burgess requested the letter dated August 5th that was emailed to the board members be included in the minutes as part of the permanent record. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Dr. Gary Burgess needed to read his letter during the meeting to make it part of the record. He read as follows:

I am intrigued with the statement by Jim Haning to be placed in the minutes of the July 20, 2020 meeting of the board. As you know, two members (Rev. Dr. Mitchell and me) of the four-member personnel committee were never involved in prior discussions to table the vote for the appointment to the ASD2 Board at the June 15, 2020 meeting. The tabling of the vote was a complete surprise as we had a recommendation from the Personnel Committee from the committee's June 10, 2020 meeting to present to the full board. It was verbalized that there was not enough time to communicate with Rev. Dr. Mitchell and me prior to the June 15, 2020 meeting.

Regarding the June 23, 2020 meeting of the Personnel Committee, when I arrived, Ms. Crochetiere was at the back entrance to allow entry to board members prior to the meeting as is the custom since the meeting was closed for public-personal attendance as a result of Covid-19. Ms. Crochetiere and I greeted each other, and I proceeded to the meeting room.

When I entered the meeting room (three people were in the meeting room - Rev. Dr. Mitchell, Mr. Mike Brock and his wife) for the June 23, 2020 Personnel Committee meeting. I noticed that the door was closed to the Executive Suite. (I was told that two members of the Personnel Committee were behind those doors, Mr. Mike Upton and Jim Haning, meeting with Mr. Nimmer). When the chairman of the board arrived he was concerned that the computer was not set-up for the Zoom meeting as the chair of the Personnel Committee, Mr. Upton, had stated he could not attend in person because of a medical issue with his back but would attend virtually. (The board chair was told the personnel chair was present.) I do not know what was discussed behind those doors prior to the June 23 meeting nor do I care.

However, when the Personnel Committee meeting was called to order on June 23, one of the candidate's children, Mr. Scott McGonigle's, were discussed apparently to disqualify him for a political appointment. As I remember, once the meeting was called to order, Mr. Upton said, "Joey tell us what

you found." I have two questions: 1.) Which Personnel Committee members and/or other County Board members knew this information was being collected about the candidate's children prior to the Personnel Committee meeting on June 23? 2.) When was the information about the candidate's children discussed prior to the Personnel Committee meeting?

I am certain that Mr. Alderman Maynard would have won the vote had the vote been taken on June 15, 2020, during our regular board meeting, and I would have been completely at peace with that, as I am with my vote for Mr. Marion Nickles.

Nonetheless, since we are in pursuit of accuracy (as Jim Haning said in his statement that my statement is false) let's set the record straight. Hopefully, the notes and electronic records of the June 23 meeting have been preserved for future reference.

Regardless of the nature of the discussions/meetings/phone calls regarding the Personnel Committee by Mr. Upton and Jim Haning prior to the June 15, 2020 meeting of the County Board or the June 23, 2020 Personnel Committee meeting, neither Rev. Dr. Mitchell nor I, as members of the Personnel Committee, were involved in prior discussions as to the actions of the Personnel Committee; therefore, those meetings were closed to us.

Respectfully,

Gary L. Burgess, Sr.

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

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