

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
October 19, 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 October 2020 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Jim Haning, Mr. Mike Upton and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Mr. Nakia Davis participated by phone.

Board Members Absent: Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. John Martin and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell were unable to attend.

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

Approval of Minutes - September 21, 2020 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the September minutes and Mr. Jim Haning seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Consideration of Request from Anderson School District Five: Mr. Nimmer previously provided the letter of intent from Pam Hassan who serves as the Director of Purchasing and Warehouse Services at Anderson County District Five. Next he introduced Mr. Ben Willis, Director of Information Technology Services, who was participating through Zoom. Mr. Willis explained the district wanted to conduct two auctions. The first is to liquidate general surplus such as desks and chairs through a public auction. The second process would be for technology related assets that have either reached their end of life or possibly damaged beyond repair that would be sold by a sealed bid.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve District Five's request and Mr. Jim Haning seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Alternative School Report: Mr. Nimmer explained to the board members that, on the first Friday of each month, the Alternative School provides their report so it can be included in the packet mailed prior to the monthly meeting. Since this month's report was compiled, six additional students have been admitted and two more are being interviewed. Therefore, the 41 students in the report has grown to 47. These numbers are a bit lower this year due to District Five not participating along with District One allowing a couple to do virtual learning. Dr. Burgess added that he has been impressed with the changes implemented at the school which is now called the Renaissance Academy. The students no longer participate in boot camp while wearing military fatigues. The student's uniforms are now polo shirts and khakis. Maizy, the school's new mascot and therapy dog, is also in attendance.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer advised the board members that Mr. Brock and Rev. Mitchell are not feeling well and were not able to come tonight. Then Ryan Hall, husband of Anna Hall who works in the attendance area, had very serious surgery last week. He is doing well and on the mend but really needs us to support and encourage him now. Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers.

As follow up to last month's report, the state budget has been tabled by the House of Representatives which means the earliest it will be considered now is when they reconvene in January. It is looking more and more likely that they will continue working under the continuing resolution for the balance of this fiscal year. We, and the five school districts, are continuing to work under the continuing resolution as well. Millage is frozen at last year's levels for operating and debt service. There are some other funds flowing in which are primarily federal dollars such as the CARES Act which pass through the State Department of Education.

As far as the follow up to last month's discussion on the District Two issue about when the seat we appointed would be vacated in the event the incumbent is not reelected: it appears from a recent attorney general opinion that I received through our attorney from the District Two attorney last week, that Code 59-193-15 will take precedent in that. That is the code that says all school district trustees that are elected will take their seat one week after the certification of the election. That is what we discussed last month as being how we thought it would happen and now there is an attorney general opinion that confirms it.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer said the revenue year to date is very consistent although District Three is a bit ahead of the other districts since they receive fee in lieu money before the other districts do from Santee Cooper. The \$130,000 is a sizeable collection they get at the front end of the fiscal year while the other districts receive their fee in lieu money in the middle of the fiscal year. We remain 1.5 to 2 percent ahead of the collection percentage from last year. That will probably be carried over into the next year as we talk about some of the growth on the assessment totals.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer referenced the green sheets and reminded the board members that we did not have the corrected reports last month. Since the August report, we have currently grown about \$1,600 in the value of a mil county wide. Mr. Nimmer reminded the board that this \$804,311.00 county-wide mil value does not reflect any of the real property growth for 2020. That will be posted during the month of October and will be used to generate the tax notices that go out at the end of October. Our October report, based on conversations with the assessor and the auditor, should show growth by \$10,000 to \$15,000 on the value of a mil county wide. That would be pushing \$820,000 which you should see on the report next month.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mr. Nimmer said he continues to be amazed at the sales tax doing so well and remaining very strong during a time when some businesses had to shut down due to Covid-19. It seems that consumption retail-wise and home improvement projects have continued to be strong and outpaced prior years. As we move through November and December, we will probably see a tic down because the attendance at Clemson football games has been greatly diminished and a lot of the monies generated in August, September, and October are from those fans coming through buying supplies and food.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Mr. Mike Upton made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by 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.