

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
November 16, 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 November 2020 meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Jim Haning, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mr. Mike Upton and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Ms. Brenda Bradberry and board member elect Mr. Willie Day, Jr. participated by Zoom. Mr. Nakia Davis participated by phone.

Board Members Absent: Mr. John Martin was 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 - October 19, 2020 meeting: Mr. Jim Haning made a motion to approve the October minutes and Mr. Mike Brock 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.

Renaissance Academy Report: Mr. Nimmer referenced the report in the board member's packet from November 6th showing an increase of four students since the last meeting; and, based on a conversation he had earlier today with Mr. Dillingham, this will be increased by two more students soon. There have been a couple students that have moved out of the area. Mr. Nimmer noted that they are significantly behind with enrollment compared to this time last year. There are two factors, one is that District Five is no longer participating in the program and second some students are doing virtual learning in their home district. They feel the enrollment will increase significantly after the first of the year if schools do not go back to virtual learning.

Dr. Burgess noted that the majority of the students are white males making up about 75% of enrollment. Ms. Bradberry asked if the school will be able to operate with so few students. Mr. Nimmer assured her that everything is well. Some of the positions will remain unfilled until they need them. An on-staff psychologist has been replaced with a contract psychologist from Behavioral Health which was a reduced cost. A bus driver, that was no longer needed this year due to District 5 not participating, was reassigned to make up for an employee that left. There were no teachers let go. If enrollment increases, everything should continue to be fine. Ms. Bradberry asked Mr. Nimmer to check on the class sizes and the number of students that would normally attend in person but are doing virtual learning through their assigned districts. Dr. Burgess added that he believes things are much better this year based on a recent report and with the environment being more conducive to learning. The changes have been positive for both the students and the faculty.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer advised the board members that two new board members have been elected. One is Mr. Willie Day, Jr., elected to Seat 9, who is joining us through Zoom tonight, and Mr. Vaughn Parfitt elected to Seat 8. Mr. Mike Upton and Mr. David Draisen were reelected to their seats and all will be sworn in at the January meeting.

Mr. Nimmer said that he and Mr. Draisen had previously discussed how to handle the normal holiday meal and meeting in December. One thought was the possibility of foregoing the restaurant meal and catering a small meal here for the board members. We also talked about moving the meeting to the 14th of December rather than the 21st. Once a decision is made, he will begin to make arrangements.

Lastly, the South Carolina School Boards Association Annual Convention will be held at the Hilton Head Marriott from February 18 – 21, 2021. Mr. Nimmer let the board members know that it will be handled a bit differently this year. Members must be registered for the event prior to reserving a room. There will be no refunds. Normally he is able to reserve a room for everyone and then cancel any rooms we don't need. Mr. Nimmer asked those interested to commit and let him know by Wednesday, December 18th.

The New Board Member Orientation which is required for all newly elected board members will be held virtually this year. Mr. Nimmer believes the date has been set for Thursday, February 4, 2021 but will confirm that for those attending.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer said the revenue year to date has been remarkably steady and consistent. The rate of collection has been similar for all five districts and remain about 1 1/2 percent ahead of this time last year. As a reminder, 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.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer referenced the green sheets in the board member's folders. Last month we received corrected assessment totals showing the value of a mil from September at \$804,312.00 and then at the end of October at \$847,453.00 which shows growth of about \$43,141.00. This is the best growth seen since 2008 which is a very good starting point. Our collection of taxes will increase in November.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mr. Nimmer said the sales tax totals have not been booked through October yet. However, since the inception of the sales tax through the month of September, we have collected \$2,518,073.86. The collection is amazingly strong even through the pandemic. As a reminder 80% is used to offset debt services.

Old Business: The board members used this time to discuss the plans for the December meeting. Mr. Mike Upton made a motion to move the meeting date to Monday, December 14, 2020. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess and it was approved unanimously.

New Business:

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 Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell 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.