

**Anderson County Board of Education**  
**907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621**  
**December 14, 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 meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Nakia Davis, Dr. Gary Burgess, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mr. Mike Upton and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Ms. Brenda Bradberry participated by Zoom and the newly elected board members, Mr. Willie Day, Jr. and Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, attended as guests.

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. Jim Haning and Mr. John Martin were unable to attend.

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

**Approval of Minutes – November 16, 2020 meeting:** Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the November minutes and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell 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 noting there has been a change in the format. As always, they broke down the enrollment by school, grade, sex, and race, but also broke out the four districts that remain at the school this year and are now comparing that enrollment to last year at this point from the same four districts. The primary change in enrollment is that District Five is not participating this year along with the students that chose virtual being housed in their home district. Through the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 47 students were enrolled from Districts One through Four. Last year at this time, there were 59 students enrolled from the same four districts. That should explain why the numbers are down. They continue to get referrals so these numbers will continue to change.

Mr. Nimmer then answered Ms. Bradberry's question from the November meeting stating the number of students attending face to face is 47. There are 18 students currently enrolled in virtual learning at their home districts that would normally be housed at Renaissance Academy. The average class size is higher in the high school classes and the average student-teacher ration is 6:1. Mr. Nimmer reassured the board members that these low numbers can be justified during the current year as it was planned for during the pandemic. If enrollment doesn't increase after this year, adjustments may need to be made.

It was also noted that 100% of the students are at the poverty level. On a positive note, the average daily attendance numbers are higher than they were last year at this time. Dr. Burgess mentioned that the changes instituted this year have been an overall improvement to the school. Mr. Upton asked if any of the students attending Renaissance Academy are classified as homeless as there is an alarming number in Anderson County. Mr. Nimmer will report this information at next month's meeting.

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Nimmer passed around a note from the Brock family thanking the board members for their kind gifts and memorials honoring Mr. Mike Brock. Several board members attended his funeral and expressed their condolences personally. After his dedicated service to the Anderson County Board of Education and the Alternative School for well over 25 years, Mr. Brock will be greatly missed. Mr. Nimmer asked that everyone keep the family in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Next, Mr. Nimmer referenced the letter in the packet from Dr. Joanne Avery, Superintendent for District Four, providing information on a preliminary request to transfer a tiny parcel of land from the school district to an adjacent landowner. Apparently, a swimming pool was constructed on this property that encroaches on the school district's property. Although there are no plans to sell this property in the immediate future, this transfer needs to be completed in order to make any future sale legal. The District Four Board of Trustees will consider this at their January meeting, and then the County Board will have it on the agenda during our next meeting.

### **Financial**

**A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer said the revenue year to date has been remarkably steady and consistent. The property tax money is starting to roll in. We actually collected a little more than we did last year at this time as we continue to be anywhere from a half percent to two percent ahead throughout the districts. So far, the December receipts look good. The last date to pay taxes before the penalty is imposed is January 15<sup>th</sup> so that will show an influx of local property tax revenue then as well.

**B. Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer referenced the green sheets in the board member's folders showing the assessment totals. Last month we had an assessed value of \$847,453.00 per mill county wide after posting growth for the year 2020. As of November 30, after some appeals were handled and taken care of, we saw about a \$2,100.00 decrease in the value of a mill county wide which is normal for this time of year while new growth is appealed. Currently we have the value at \$845,279.00 which shows significant growth that is well ahead of the growth figures seen in the past two or three years.

**C. Education Sales & Use Tax:** Lastly, Mr. Nimmer reported that in November we collected \$2,432,711.98. This brings the total cumulative collected to \$134,549,973.42 since the enactment of the sales tax in 2014 which began being collected in March 2015. You can see the breakout for each District for the last payment. The collection is amazingly strong even through the pandemic. As a reminder 20% of the funds collected are used to post to the school bond sinking fund accounts and used to roll back the debt service millage.

**Old Business:** Chairman David Draisen thanked outgoing members Ms. Brenda Bradberry and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell for their dedication and commitment as they served on the Anderson County Board of Education for many years. Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell was presented with a plaque to show appreciation for his service at the meeting and Ms. Brenda Bradberry will receive her plaque personally from Mr. Nimmer very soon.

Mr. Nimmer noted that the January Board Meeting normally held on the third Monday of each month falls on Martin Luther King Day. It has been our policy in the past to move this meeting to the following day. Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to move the January meeting to Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**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. Mike Upton 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.