

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
May 17, 2021

Call to Order: Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order and Mr. Jim Haning 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 May 2021 meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Jim Haning, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Mr. Willie Day participated by Zoom and Mr. Nakia Davis by telephone.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. John Martin Mr. Mike Upton were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda and Virtual Meeting: Mr. Willie Day made a motion to approve the virtual meeting. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Willie Day seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – April 19, 2021 meeting: Mr. Jim Haning made a motion to approve the April minutes and Mr. Willie Day seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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 as of May 7th, the current enrollment is 97 students compared to 124 at this point last year. Mr. Nimmer reminded the board members that last year's number included students from District Five and they are not sending students this year. So, to compare more accurately, enrollment from the other four districts at this time last year, was at 70 students. There are currently 11 students in the referral/enrollment process. Mr. Dillingham said there is a waiting list for middle school enrollment since they are full. Mr. Nimmer said the reverse side of the report shows the number of students that have left and the reason why. The graduation ceremony at Renaissance Academy will be held on June 11th this year.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer referenced two emails from the School Board's Association that are included in their packets. The progress on the budget process is summarized well and helps to explain the process and how things are going. The first one dated April 26th shows the difference between the budget passed by the House earlier in the session and then by the Senate more recently. It identifies what each one has put into the budget and the reason behind it. The main reason is that the Board of Economic Advisors, that does the revenue projections for the state, had some additional information and upgraded those predictions that the Senate used that were not available to the House. That group will be meeting again soon to issue updates to those predictions, so the entire budget process is on hold until those figures are released. Then the conference committee will be formed, and the House may tweak their bill a bit and then move forward to come up with the actual state budget. The timeline for all this is laid out in the second email dated May 11th which states that we most likely will not see a final state budget passed until the mid to latter part of June. Because of this, Mr. Nimmer met with the financial officers from the five districts last week and we know there are some significant differences, but everyone is going ahead with drafting a budget using the latest numbers from the Senate. With that in mind, we have a proposed schedule and the districts will get their proposed budgets to Mr. Nimmer by Friday, June 4th.

Mr. Nimmer will then compile the budget books and distribute them to the board members during the week of June 7th. The budget workshops with the districts will then be planned for the week of June 14th or perhaps the week of June 28th based on when the budget is finalized at the state level. If there is a need to amend a budget passed at the district level, Mr. Nimmer has asked them to provide a summary no later than June 30th. That would give us about three weeks prior to considering the district budgets at our regular meeting on July 19th. We have used this process in the past and it seems to work well while allowing us to move forward without completely stopping to wait for the state.

For the County Board and Renaissance Academy budgets, we will do the same sort of thing before we go to the Delegation office. Mr. Nimmer said he has started to work on the budgets but has not put the final draft together because we still have questions to be answered. He expects the meeting with the delegation to approve these two budgets to be held later in June than normal because the state must have the state budget finalized before we can submit our budgets in final form.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer referenced the report in the packets stating the tax collections year to date vs. budget continue to outperform last year. District One and District Three are ahead of the others primarily due to significant fee-in-lieu money from the Lee Steam Plan and Duke Power for District One and the Electrolux expansion in District Three. As a reminder, the collection rate for the County Board and Renaissance Academy are slightly behind in terms of collection percentage because much of their revenue is backloaded in the form of reimbursements we get near the end of the fiscal year.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer referenced the green sheets in the member's packets stating we are very steady from where we were last month. We generally use the month of May as the baseline for our budget. If there is any change up or down, those are the numbers we use for our budget analysis and reporting that you will have in the budget books.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Lastly, Mr. Nimmer reported that the cumulative total collected through the end of April was \$147,149,642.62. Collections have continued to remain very strong as we collected almost 2.4 million in the month of April which is about \$400,000 more than last year at this point. As a reminder, 20% of the funds collected are used to post to the sinking fund accounts for each district and used to roll back the debt service millage.

Old Business: Chairman David Draisen made a suggestion that the Anderson County Board of Education make a formal recommendation to the Legislative Delegation in hopes it would speed up the process of filling Mr. Brock's seat on the board. He continued saying we have three candidates that are interested in filling the seat and asked for a motion to make this recommendation. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to make a recommendation to the Legislative Delegation and Mr. Jim Haning seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Mr. Nimmer read the three candidate names: DeWayne Evans, James Dorriety, and Terri Martin. After some discussion, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion recommending Ms. Terri Martin fill Seat 5 as a Board Member. Mr. Nakia Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the other board members. Mr. Nimmer will compose a letter of recommendation and deliver it to the Legislative Delegation office.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jim Haning 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.