

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
June 21, 2021

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 June 2021 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Willie Day, Ms. Terri Martin, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Mr. David Draisen and Mr. Mike Upton participated by Zoom.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. Jim Haning, and Mr. John Martin were unable to attend.

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

Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2021 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the May 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.

Consideration of Anderson School District Four Bond Issue: Ms. Cristy Jablonski, Chief Financial Officer for District Four, came before the board with two items needing approval. The first is the annual General Obligation (GO) Bond which is used to cover the majority of our two equipment acquisition payments. The first being for the 9.7 million borrowed in 2014 for the HVAC system to Pendleton High School which is due annually in December. Also, the annual payment of \$924,000 for the 7.9 million acquisition agreement that we took out in 2018 and refinanced in 2020. These two amounts make up the majority of the 3.75 million requested tonight. The remaining bond proceeds, which is a little over 1.1 million, will be used for maintenance, safety, and instructional supplies. Our new superintendent has requested a facility and enrollment study to be done this fall and that will also be paid for with these funds.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the request and Mr. Willie Day seconded the motion.

Dr. Burgess asked about the progress on the HVAC systems for all the schools and Ms. Jablonski said the majority of the projects are finished. Pendleton High School's system was completed in 2014 and now we are upgrading the field house and 9th grade wing. Riverside Middle School's was completed this year as well as Pendleton Elementary, Townville Elementary, and LaFrance Elementary. Mt. Lebanon Elementary, which is our newest school, just had some upgrades done.

Dr. Burgess then asked about the security in the schools. Ms. Jablonski said all schools have card access now and the front offices are being redone for the fall so no one can just open the door. All door locks were replaced last year to push button locks which do not require a key. Security cameras are installed with very few blind spots.

Dr. Burgess then asked for more information on the facility and enrollment study planned in the fall. Ms. Jablonski said from what she understands it will be a look at what will we need for funding in the next five to ten years with the increased enrollment and overall maintenance.

She then suggested that Mr. Christopher, who will be at the budget meeting next week, be asked for specifics since he is heading the study as well as finding a vendor for the study.

Mr. Vaughn Parfitt stated the 3.75 million was for bond issues that had already incurred but asked for clarification on the portion being planned for new expenses totaling 1.16 million. Ms. Jablonski said the 1.16 million will be used for maintenance, safety, and instructional supplies. These were originally issued as equipment acquisition borrowing instead of GO bonds and so we have to take out a GO bond each year for these payments. Ms. Jablonski said this 3.75 million borrowing will be completely paid off, principal and interest, in March 2022. The 9.7 million matures in 2025 and the 7.9 million matures in 2029.

Mr. David Draisen asked if any of the sales tax money is used to pay this debt. Ms. Jablonski said they put 20% of the sales tax collection into the debt service pool so that is considered already. Ms. Martin asked about the districts plans for the recovery funds. Ms. Jablonski said, as an example, if the district office needed improvements since it is not directly related to students, they would not be able to use any of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Dr. Burgess then asked how much District 4 received from the Cares Act and ESSER funds. She said the first payment from the Cares Act was a little over \$300,000. The first ESSER fund payment was \$504,000, ESSER 2 was 2.4 million, and the most recent ESSER 3 was 5.4 million.

The vote was unanimously approved.

Renaissance Academy Report: Mr. Nimmer told the board members classes ended for the year last week with 109 students. Over the summer, students will be assessed to determine if they will return to their home school or back to Renaissance in the fall. Mr. Nimmer attended the graduation on June 11th for the Wren High School student. Numerous awards were given out during the Awards Day portion of the ceremony as well.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer was pleased to announce the appointment by the Legislative Delegation of Ms. Terri Martin to the open Area 5 seat that Mr. Mike Brock held for so many years. Everyone was very pleased to welcome her to the County Board.

At that same meeting held on June 14th, the budget for the County Board was unanimously approved by the Legislative Delegation. Mr. Nimmer went on to thank everyone that helped to accelerate the budget preparation for the County Board after the meeting date was moved up. Originally, we thought the meeting would be later in June, but we had to take the earlier date. The budget for the Renaissance Academy was also approved on June 14th along with the budget for the Anderson District 1 and 2 Career and Technology Center.

Mr. David Draisen asked why Rep. Brian White didn't vote on the Renaissance Academy budget that night. Mr. Nimmer was not sure, but after talking to him after the meeting, he thought it may have been because he is an advocate for the boot camp. Mr. Nimmer told him the boot camp is still there for those students that need it, but it is not mandatory for everyone. Mr. Nimmer encouraged him to go visit the school and he said he would like to do that.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer reported the tax collections year to date vs. budget are very strong through the end of May with all districts at or above 100%. The County Board is at 98.24% and the Renaissance Academy is at 99.03%. As a reminder, we get reimbursements at the end of the fiscal year that come in during the month of June as does

Renaissance Academy. All entities will be over 100% which is to be expected because we had a hold over budget from two years ago. With the slight growth in assessed value and slight adjustments with state funding, that is the reason for the collections as we see them. At the July meeting we should have the year-end figures for all.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer said the value of a mill has stayed steady as it has for the past four months. The value of a mill county wide is \$839,686.00 and it was slightly over \$840,000.00 last month. The primary reason for any fluctuation this time of year is due to depreciation of automobiles. If the depreciation is greater than new car sales, you will see a slight downward trend in those assessed values. New car sales have not dropped because people don't want them, it is because they don't have them to buy right now as new car inventory is low. This should rebound once new car sales pick up.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Lastly, Mr. Nimmer reported that through the end of May we have collected \$150,209,796.31 since the inception of the program. 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: Dr. Gary Burgess and his wife wanted to show their appreciation for the work Nancy Allen did over the past eight years with their great nephew. He graduated from Pendleton High School this year and they believe one of the reasons he was successful in his school career is due to Ms. Allen's working with him. Dr. Burgess wanted to be sure that she knows how grateful they are for her work with Darian as well as the patience she had with him personally during trying times.

New Business: No new business was discussed.

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. Willie Day 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.