

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
January 18, 2022

Call to Order: Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order and Mr.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: 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 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Nakia Davis, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

The following board members participated through ZOOM: Mr. Willie Day, Mr. Jim Haning, Mr. John Martin, Ms. Terri Martin, Mr. Mike Upton and Dr. Vaughn Parfitt.

Approval of Agenda and Virtual Meeting: Mr. Draisen asked for a motion to approve that the meeting be held virtually by ZOOM and Mr. Nakia Davis made the motion. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. 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.

Election of Board Officers for 2022: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion that Mr. David Draisen be elected to serve as Chair of the Board for 2022. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion that Mr. Mike Upton be elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Board for 2022. Mr. Nakia Davis seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion that Dr. Gary Burgess be elected to serve as Secretary of the Board for 2022. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – December 13, 2021 meeting: Mr. Nakia Davis was appointed as the acting secretary for the December meeting in Dr. Gary Burgess' absence.

Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes and Mr. Jim Haning seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously

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 said this request was a follow up on an approval that we gave in October for District Five to liquidate some surplus assets they had. They went through the first phase of the sale and that was covered at the last meeting. They would now like to have approval to liquidate the remainder of what they have for the current fiscal year which would run through June 30, 2022. Once these sales have been conducted, Mr. Scott Orr, Director for Purchasing & Warehouse Services for District Five, will provide us with a report on what was sold and the value of those sales. The district would like to have approval as is outlined in the request between now and the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Mike Upton made a motion to approve the request, Mr. Willie Day seconded the motion, and the board unanimously approved the request to liquidate the surplus items.

Chairman Draisen then opened the floor for questions. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt asked what condition these surplus items are in. Mr. Nimmer said they range from pretty good to junk and asked Mr. Wes Grant, chief operating officer for District Five, to provide more information. Mr. Grant from District Five added that most of these items in the surplus warehouse are considered to be of no value. We ask all our schools if they need any of these items before we try to dispose of it, or it ends up in the surplus warehouse. At this point, the items are of no value to us. Dr. Parfitt continued to question if the items are dilapidated, outdated, can no longer be used, not safe, or is it just because you have bought something so much better that you no longer want it? Mr. Grant said these items are of no value. For instance, a desk with three legs, or damaged, broken, unsafe items. Based on the State of SC Procurement Code, any and all surplus property must be disposed of in this way.

Discussion of Anderson School District Five Board Vacancies: Mr. Nimmer mentioned the letter of recommendation in their packets from the School District Five Board recommending two individuals be appointed to fill vacancies on their board of trustees. He then handed the floor to the Superintendent, Mr. Tom Wilson, who stated they have two unusual vacancies on the District Five School Board that need to be filled. He explained that Mr. Brad Freeman was elected two years ago to represent Area One. Since then, Mr. Freeman moved to another area only by two streets. Then Dr. Sandy Addis who is an at-large seat had to resign due to personal issues. The School Board has recommended and voted unanimously to support that the County Board appoint Mr. Brad Freeman, to serve in the at-large seat and Ms. Julie Usherwood, who lives in Area One one and served on our Foundation Board, to represent Area One. Both of these individuals will have to run in the November election for re-election as required by law. Mr. Nimmer added that the voter registration and election office has vetted these two individuals and they are duly qualified to serve in the seats. That information is also included in the packets.

Dr. Gary Burgess asked why the letter of recommendation was signed by the vice chair instead of the chair. Mr. Wilson said the chairman, Rev. Johnny S. Donald, was absent due to illness that night and, therefore, the vice chair, Tommy Price, signed the letter. The chairman is aware and fully supports the recommendations. It was a unanimous vote.

Mr. Draisen asked if there were any other individuals that may want or wish to be on the board. Mr. Wilson said not that he is aware of. Dr. Burgess added that, although he does not know Ms. Usherwood personally, he does know and worked with her father at District Four and he is a fine man.

Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to appoint Mr. Brad Freeman to serve in the at-large seat as a board trustee for Anderson County School District Five. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and the board unanimously approved the appointment.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to appoint Ms. Julie Usherwood to the Area One seat on the Anderson County School District Five Board of Trustees. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The board members congratulated the new appointments and Mr. Wilson thanked them for their consideration and time.

Renaissance Academy Report: Mr. Nimmer referenced the report in the board member's packet showing there was a loss of one student between the first week in December and the first week in January. During the first week in January there were also nine students referred for enrollment and they are now in the process of being admitted. On the back of the report you will see the reasons students have left. Things have remained steady this year and are significantly ahead of last year when only 48 students were enrolled at the same time period.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer thanked everyone for letting him know their plans so promptly as to who will be attending the South Carolina School Board's Association Convention beginning on February 17th and ending on the 20th. All those attending have been registered and have a hotel room reserved for them except for Mr. Upton who will be staying in a room reserved through District One.

Mr. Nimmer reminded all members of the County Board that their annual Statement of Economic Interest must be completed and filed electronically by noon on March 30, 2022. Another reminder will be made at the February meeting. If anyone needs help, please let Mr. Nimmer know.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer said this is the time of year when the local revenue begins to come in. Everyone has a collection rate through December 31st between 46% and 53% with District Three the highest because more of their revenue is derived from local sources. Everyone is ahead of where they were last year. Collections continue to remain strong. January will be another strong collection month because local revenue is collected through January 15th with no penalties and many people wait until the last minute to pay. At the next meeting we will have the January figures and after that everything will show as delinquent taxes.

B. Assessment Totals: There is no report this month for the assessment totals. Normally the county completes the reports between the 10th and the 15th of the month and, between the holiday and inclement weather causing the county offices to close, we were not able to get the reports. We will have them next month at the February meeting.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Lastly, Mr. Nimmer reported the Education Sales & Use Tax has collected \$169,792,918.67 since the inception of the tax through December 2021. Collections continue to remain very strong. Of that total, 20% is taken off the top and posted to the sinking fund accounts for rolling back debt service millage property taxes. This has continued to be a very strong source of revenue for the county school districts.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Upton and was followed by a unanimous vote.

C. Schedule of County Board Meetings for 2022: A 2022 proposed meeting schedule for the Anderson County Board of Education was distributed. Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. Mr. Nakia Davis seconded the motion and the motion was approved 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.