

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
May 16, 2022

Call to Order: Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: 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 meeting: Mr. Willie Day, Mr. Jim Haning, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Mr. David Draisen and Ms. Terri Martin participated via Zoom while Dr. Gary Burgess and Mr. Nakia Davis joined by phone.

Board Members Absent: Mr. John Martin and Mr. Mike Upton were unable to attend.

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

Approval of Minutes – April 18, 2022 meeting: Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to approve the March 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 Anderson School District Two Bond Issue: Mr. Nimmer stated there is a request from District Two to authorize a bond issue up to 2.5 million to complete some projects within the district. After some discussion at our last board meeting, he asked the district for a letter describing what the funds would be used for and the plan for repayment as well as the resolutions from Burr & Forman, LLP, the law firm for the district. Mr. Jason Johns, Superintendent, and Ms. Laura Parnell, Finance Director, are here from Anderson County School District Two to answer any questions you may have or provide more details. Mr. Johns explained one construction project will be to add a kindergarten wing for four-year old students. Several years ago, that specific school was full and so we moved most of those 4K classes to a middle school about a half mile away. We had to outfit those classrooms to house those students in the middle school where the restrooms are not pre-school sized, it's right downtown and not as secure as it would be at the elementary school, and the 4K teachers are not able to collaborate with each other which is very important to them and to us. It is a huge desire by our community to bring that 4K program back to that school. That is the reason for our request before the county board.

Dr. Parfitt asked if the county in general is facing a crisis with maximum capacity in our schools? Mr. Johns could not speak specifically for the other counties but did say it is well known that District One is at a critical point and District Four isn't far behind with growth faster than the schools can keep up with. Mr. Willie Day stated their bond request is for 2.5 million; when will they know the exact amount needed for the projects? Ms. Parnell said she feels comfortable with 2.2 million and hopes it will be close to that figure but won't know for sure until the bids come back.

Chairman Draisen asked if there were any more questions from the board members and, if not, we need a motion. Ms. Terri Martin made a motion to approve the bond issue on behalf of Anderson School District Two. The motion was seconded by Mr. David Draisen and unanimously approved.

Mr. Johns thanked the board members for their consideration.

Renaissance Academy Report: Mr. Nimmer reference the Renaissance Academy report in the member's packets stating the current enrollment is 99 students compared to 97 students at this time last year. Enrollment has remained steady. As always, on the back of the report has information as to why students have been removed from the roles. This month most have been removed due to excessive absences while four have enrolled elsewhere such as Adult Ed or an online school.

Dr. Vaughn Parfitt noted that the per pupil cost for an alternative school is higher than the average cost per student in a normal school environment, but it is understandable and to be expected with the added resources required.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer advised the board members that much of his report deals with the current state budget and how it affects us locally. A few weeks ago, while he and Mr. Draisen attended the Day at the Capitol, most of the discussion centered around the state budget. Since that time, the Senate passed their version of the budget. Unfortunately, however, the breakdown of that information and what was passed has not been posted by the State Department of Education and those are the numbers we work with that impact us directly. There are some distinct differences between the version passed by the House back in March and those passed in May by the Senate. It remains to be seen what the reconciliation between the two will be when the Conference Committee meets and works this out.

Our annual budget calendar is unsettled at this point because of that. The districts don't know what to do to put a budget together and we don't know what to tell them to do to get a budget to us that we can begin analyzing and looking at. Mr. Nimmer was hoping to have more clarity by tonight. It is also an election year for everyone in the South Carolina State House so with the primary coming up in June, a lot of them are campaigning and that may impact when the Conference Committee will come together. Mr. Nimmer continued to say the Delegation is slated to meet on June 22nd and that is when they will consider the Board of Education's budget. Since we do not have reliable numbers right now, we may need to do one of two things between now and our June meeting. One would be to do a called meeting to consider the budget, or if the budget has not been worked out, vote to pass a continuing resolution at the June meeting to operate under the current 2021-2022 fiscal year budget until such time when the 2022-2023 budget can be passed and approved by the Delegation and then implemented retroactive back to July 1, 2022.

Mr. Draisen asked about the planning of the district budget meetings and Mr. Nimmer said we will have to wait for information to come from the State on both Senate numbers as they compare to the House numbers. Then the Senate and House Conference Committee will schedule meetings to work out any differences and decide on a compromised budget. As soon as we have a rough idea as to when that will be, Mr. Nimmer will propose some various schedules for budget workshops by email. As of right now, we are in a holding pattern.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer reported that all the districts have remained remarkably consistent throughout the year. There are two months left to post revenue and it looks like everyone will meet and exceed their anticipated revenue for this year. A big part of that is the growth in property value here in the county during the previous 18 months. We have received and posted all the state revenue and only have a slight balance to go for local property taxes.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer reported the value of a mil county wide as stayed pretty much the same as last month at approximately \$877,230.00. This is a good sign as automobiles depreciate and those values drop, there have been just enough new sales to offset the depreciation even though they are nowhere near where they would normally be at this time of year. These are still good solid numbers and remain strong.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Lastly, Mr. Nimmer reported the Education Sales & Use Tax in the month of April for sales that occurred during the month of February totaled \$2,757,362.96. Of that, 20% is posted to the sinking fund accounts to rollback property tax millage. As an example, a portion of this 20% is what District Two will use to repay the Bond issue. Since the inception of the penny sales tax in 2014, it has remained incredibly strong.

Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

New Business: There was no new business due to computer problems in the financial office that prevented us from generating the claim. Next month we will have a two month claim ready for the meeting.

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

To be voted on next month as discussed in New Business.

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.