

**Anderson County Board of Education**  
**907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621**  
**July 18, 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: Dr. Gary Burgess, Dr. Willie Day, Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Jim Haning, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Mr. Mike Upton, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio. Ms. Terri Martin participated via Zoom and Mr. Nakia Davis joined by phone.

**Board Members Absent:** Mr. John Martin did not attend.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Jim Haning made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2022 meeting:** Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes and Mr. Mike Upton 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 One Bond Issue:** Mr. Nimmer stated the letter included in the packet from District One regarding the bond issue was also mailed to them last week. He then turned it over to Mr. Robbie Binnicker, Superintendent for District One, who explained the plans for the district. First, he explained that the per pupil funding for District One state average puts them 33 million dollars behind the average South Carolina district. District One has also grown over 30% in the last 15 years which, at this rate, will add more than 3,000 students in 15 years. Currently, all the elementary schools are at or over capacity. Classrooms and portables have been added totaling 66 rooms since 2019, but they are completely out of room.

Mr. Binnicker continued to explain the building plans which will take place in two phases. Phase 1 (2023-2027) includes building a new elementary school in the Powdersville area to relieve overcrowding in Concrete Primary and Powdersville Elementary; build a 10 room addition to Powdersville Middle; 6-8 rooms added to Palmetto Elementary; 10 rooms added to Wren Middle for an approximate cost of \$45 million. Phase 2 (2027-2030) includes building a new elementary school to relieve the Spearman Elementary area for an approximate cost of \$40 million. The funding for the Phase 1 building program will come from the \$20 million bond issue (35 – 45 mils) that we are here for tonight, Mr. Binnicker explained, along with \$23.4 million local option sales tax, and \$2.3 million from the general fund. Funding for Phase 2 will be similar.

The District One School Board has approved these improvements along with the building program and Mr. Binnicker is asking for the County Board's approval on a \$25 million bond issue.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the bond issue for District One. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Consideration of Anderson School District Four Bond Issue:** Mr. Nimmer recognized Ms. Cristy Jablonski, Chief Financial Officer for District Four, who came before the board for the annual General Obligation (GO) Bond approval. Ms. Jablonski explained this comes from their 8% money not to exceed \$4.6 million. She explained that they have two acquisition agreements, and this will pay each of those. One is from 2014 equipment acquisition with a payment \$1.6 million and the other is from a 2020 acquisition just under \$1 million and the remainder of the funds, \$1.9 million, will be used for maintenance through the district and safety upgrades. An example of some of the planned safety renovations in the schools will take place in the front offices which, as of now, anyone can walk in, right by the receptionist, and into a principal's office. This will take place in three of our six schools.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve District Four's bond request. Dr. Willie Day seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Consideration of Anderson County Board of Education 2022-2023 Budget:** Mr. Nimmer referenced the proposed fiscal year budget in their packet for the board office which had been reviewed and approved by the County Board Budget Committee. He said all the revenues are based on either direct state allocations or what the current year's receipts were for local revenue. Most of the increase in funding is for a 3% salary increase for employees and 18.1% increase in the cost of employee benefits as dictated by the State of South Carolina. There were slight adjustments to travel reimbursements due to the increase in the rates set by the IRS. Other than that, the budget stayed the same in the other line items.

Dr. Willie Day asked what the psychological fringe was for and Mr. Nimmer explained that each department has its own salary allocation and its own employee benefit allocation. Each department has an 18.1% fringe. Mr. David Draisen mentioned that the millage will remain the same.

Mr. Jim Haning made a motion to approve the County Board's budget. Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimously.

**Discussion of 2022-2023 District Budget Schedule:** Mr. Nimmer received the final school district budget last Friday and spent time over the weekend preparing them for distribution. Now that they are ready, he proposed that the budget workshops be done on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, doing all the five districts that day. Normally, the workshops are done over two days, but since we are several weeks behind, it would be best to do them in one day scheduling them for one-hour sessions rather than two hours. Some board members will be out of town but will plan to participate by Zoom. Following the workshops, the Called Meeting to approve the school budgets will be held on Monday, August 1st at 6:00 pm.

After some discussion, the dates were tentatively scheduled, and Mr. Nimmer will send an email to the board members with the final times once he confirms them with the districts. This will help to put us more on track.

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Nimmer thanked the board members for reaching out and checking on him during his recent challenges. The support, caring, and encouragement was over whelming and he really appreciates it. Mr. David Draisen took a moment to also thank the staff for holding down the fort while he has been out.

## **Financial**

**A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer reported that we have the fiscal year-end report on revenues and all entities finished above the budgeted amount in terms of collections. You can see the consistent amount of growth throughout the county and have wrapped up the year in a good position.

**B. Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer reported the value of a mil countywide at the end of June was \$878,855.00 with the net value of a mil at about \$508,000.00. We continue to maintain a good healthy millage value and don't see that changing anytime soon other than to post more growth as Mr. Binnicker stated so eloquently earlier.

**C. Education Sales & Use Tax:** Lastly, Mr. Nimmer reported the Education Sales & Use Tax for the month of May was \$3,211,237.86. For the month of June, collections totaled \$3,018,893.97. That brings the cumulative total since the inception of the tax being implemented in 2014 to \$187,602,369.25. As always, Mr. Nimmer reminded everyone that 20% of these funds are posted to the sinking fund accounts of the districts to rollback debt service millage. So, some of these funds will be used to offset some of these additional costs from the bond issues approved this evening. It continues to perform at an amazing rate.

**Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.

### **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 Dr. Vaughn Parfitt 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.