

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
August 19, 2024

Mr. C. Nakia Davis, Board Secretary, served as Chairman in the absence of Mr. Mike Upton for this evening's Board meeting.

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Mr. Nakia Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Greg Balog was appointed as acting secretary for Mr. C. Nakia Davis for this evening's Board meeting. Motion to approve Mr. Greg Balog as acting secretary for this evening's meeting was made by Rev. Jason Dorriety. Mr. David Blanding seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Rev. Jason Dorriety 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 at the meeting: Dr. Doug Atkins, Mr. Greg Balog, Mr. David Blanding, Mr. Frank Kellam, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Mr. C. Nakia Davis, and Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Gary Burgess, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, and Mr. Mike Upton

Approval of Agenda: Rev. Jason Dorriety made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Greg Balog seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2024, Meeting: Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to approve the July 15, 2024 meeting minutes and Mr. Frank Kellam seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Scott Orr from Anderson School District Five was recognized by the board.

Consideration of Anderson School District Five Request: Anderson School District Five is requesting approval from the County Board of Education to dispose of surplus property for the 2024/2025 school year. Mr. Scott Orr was present at the meeting to answer questions and explain how this process works. Items are put up for a community auction after offering the items to other schools. The money from the auction goes back to the general funds. Per the State, this auction is to liquidate the surplus property that the district does not need. Mr. Greg Balog made a motion to approve the request. Mr. David Blanding seconded the motion. The request was approved unanimously.

Administrator's Report: Mrs. Binninger announced that Mr. Frank Kellam will not run in the November 2024 election for Seat 7. Mr. Mark Williamson will run for Seat 7, Mr. David Blanding will be running for Seat 9, Mr. Mike Upton for Seat 2, and Dr. Vaughn Parfitt for Seat 8.

Mrs. Binninger stated that there is not an official report from the Renaissance Academy since school has just started but she was given some information. There are 65 students enrolled. District 5 has rejoined the Renaissance Academy this school year. Seven of these students are from District 5.

The Board of Education Truancy Office has started receiving referrals from all 5 Districts. Enrollment letters are being sent out and truancy meetings are being scheduled.

The Mental Health Counselors are back in Districts 1-4. They are starting to assess students and schedule counseling appointments as well.

Mrs. Binninger requested that at our September 16 meeting, the Board recognize our 5 Teachers of the Year. They will be given gift baskets with items donated by local businesses.

The County Board website is being updated. The website could be down for some time with the updates being made.

The SC Board Association has recognized the following Board Members: Dr. Gary Burgess Level 4, Mr. Greg Balog Level 1, and Dr. Doug Atkins Level 1.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that all 5 Districts, County Board and Renaissance Academy are about 2% collections for the tax year. This is very typical for this time of year. Revenues don't start coming in until towards the end of the year. Assessments have been finalized and all information should be entered in by the end of September. The tax rate is still very high on new vehicles. Tax numbers are going up every month.

B. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger mentioned the new report for assessment totals county wide through the end of July 2024 is at \$1,048,568,191 value of one mill. This is a slight decrease of \$68.00 per mill. The value of a mill has remained steady.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Lastly, Mrs. Binninger reported the Education Sales & Use Tax for the month of July collected \$3,323,025.08. This is an increase of 132,547.00 or 4% from July of 2023. Mrs. Binninger reminded everyone that 20% of these funds are posted to the sinking fund accounts of the districts to rollback debt service millage. The remaining 80% goes to capital projects.

Unfinished Business:

A. Employee Compensatory Time Policy Review: Mrs. Binninger sent to our attorneys the comp time policy in the employee manual for them to recommend how the language should be read. The attorney did give their recommendation for changing the wording in the employee manual. After some discussion, Mr. David Blanding made a motion to approve the recommended change. Rev. Jason Dorriety seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

New Business:

A. Consideration of New Employee: Mrs. Binninger recommended Mrs. Sandra Lawson for a new hire as a part-time Mental Health Counselor. Mrs. Lawson would be working in school District 1 at Powdersville Middle School 2 days a week. This will be for this budget year only but can be revisited for the 25/26 school year. After much discussion and questions by board members, a motion was made by Dr. Doug Atkins to approve the hiring of Mrs. Lawson. Mr. David Blanding seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

B. Consideration of Retention Schedule: Mrs. Binninger presented a retention schedule to the Board from SC Archives and History. She stated, a retention schedule should be in place so that we keep our information for the appropriate amount of time. Some records can be destroyed after 7 years but other records need to be kept longer if not forever. After many questions and discussion, Rev. Jason Dorriety made a motion to adopt the retention schedule. Mr. David Blanding seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

C. Review of Budget Process: Mrs. Binninger suggested that the board extend the time after the regular board meeting or have a separate meeting to decide what information we will need for the budget notebooks from each school district. This will help consolidate the information and make it readable. Historical data could be turned in earlier than some of the other information.

D. ADM Accounts Payable

E. SFS Accounts Payable

Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Greg Balog and was followed by a unanimous vote.

Meeting Date: The next Board meeting will be on Monday, September 16, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. C. Nakia Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Greg Balog, Acting Secretary for Mr. C. Nakia Davis Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.