

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
July 15, 2024

Call to Order: Chairman Mr. Mike Upton called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

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. Vaughn Parfitt, Mr. Mike Upton, Dr. Gary Burgess, 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: None

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. C. Nakia Davis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2024, Meeting: Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to approve the June 17th meeting minutes and Rev. Jason Dorriety seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Superintendents: Seth Young (D1), Jason Johns (D2), Kathy Hipp (D3), Dee Christopher (D4), and Brenda Kelley (D5). Chief Financial officers: Travis Thomas (D1), Laura Parnell (D2), Matthew Moore (D3), Cristy Jablonski (D4), and Amy Heard (D5). Tommy Price, District 5 Board Chairman.

Consideration of District One Budget: Mr. Doug Atkins presented the budget for Anderson School District One for the FY2024-2025 in the amount of \$114,070,843 of which \$34,308,411 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2023-2024 was \$106,344,364 representing a budget increase of 7.27% for the new fiscal year. Mr. Atkins made a motion to approve the budget request which meets State requirements and Mr. Nakia Davis seconded the motion. Discussion was held that addressed the merits and concerns of the budget as presented. Following discussion, the District one budget for FY 2024-2025 was approved with a vote of 6 to 3, with Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Greg Balog, and Frank Kellam opposing.

Consideration of District Two Budget: Rev. Jason Dorriety presented the budget for Anderson School District Two for the FY2024-2025 in the amount of \$40,468,050 of which \$10,171,727 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2023-2024 was \$37,926,525 representing a budget increase of 6.7% for the new fiscal year. Rev. Dorriety made a motion to approve the budget request which meets State requirements and Mr. David Blanding seconded the motion. Discussion was held that addressed the merits and concerns of the budget as presented. Following discussion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved the budget for FY2024-2025 for District Two.

Consideration of District Three Budget: Mr. C. Nakia Davis presented the budget for Anderson School District Three for the FY2024-2025 in the amount of \$30,092,750 of which \$8,493.750 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2023-2024 was \$28,808,750 representing a budget increase of 4.46% for the new fiscal year. Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the budget request which meets State requirements and Mr. Greg Balog seconded the motion. Discussion was held that addressed the merits and concerns of the budget as presented. Following discussion, the Board approved the budget with a unanimous vote for FY2024-2025 for District Three.

Consideration of District Four Budget: Dr. Gary Burgess presented the budget for Anderson School District Four for the FY2024-2025 in the amount of \$39,468,876 of which \$16,395,754 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2023-2024 was \$38,447,928 representing a budget increase of 2.66% for the new fiscal year. Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve this budget request that meets State requirements and Mr. C. Nakia Davis seconded it. Discussion was held that addressed the merits and concerns of the budget as presented. Following discussion, with a unanimous vote, the Board approved District Four's budget for FY2024-2025.

Consideration of District Five Budget: Dr. Vaughn Parfitt presented the budget for Anderson School District Five for the FY2024-2025 in the amount of \$153,631,830 of which \$54,612,015 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2023-2024 was \$148,160,680 representing a budget increase of 3.69% for the new fiscal year. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to approve the budget request which meets State requirements and Rev. Jason Dorriety seconded the motion. Discussion was held that addressed the merits and concerns of the budget as presented. Following discussion, with 8 approving and 1 opposing vote by Mr. Frank Kellam, the Board approved District Five's budget for FY2024-2025.

At the conclusion of the budget considerations, Mr. Mike Upton spoke on the graduation rate and concern of non-English speaking students.

Tommy Price, Board Member for District Five, discussed the growth of ESOL students and commended Amy Heard, Chief Financial officer, and Brenda Kelley, Superintendent of a job well done.

Consideration of Anderson School District Four Bond Request: Cristy Jablonski, Chief Financial Officer, brought forth the Resolution asking for the issuance of a GO Bond not exceeding \$8.5 million. This will cover two items, the first being a heating and air project that will be paid off in December 2024. The second item will be the equipment acquisition that will mature in 2028. 3.5 million in payments for the heating and air project and 5.0 million to pay for the equipment acquisition. It will be the only outstanding bond remaining other than the referendum passed by the voters in November 2023. This will also help reduce the debt service millage. Following a period of questions and answers, Mr. Mike Upton asked if a motion would be made. Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the Bond Request. Dr. Doug Atkins seconded the motion. The Bond Request was approved unanimously by the Board members.

Administrator's Report: Mrs. Binninger announced that the Delegation passed the budgets for the Board of Education and Renaissance Academy on Tuesday, June 25th.

Mrs. Binninger reminded everyone of the School Law conference on August 10th and 11th in Charleston, SC at the Marriott. Anyone else that would like to attend please let Mrs. Binninger know so she can get you registered, and a room booked. The rooms that have already been booked will be at the Marriott in the Historic District, 1 mile from the conference. For the ones who have already booked rooms and registered for the conference, they will receive their room information this evening.

The Mental Health Summer Program for Districts 1-4 has 20 students enrolled to participate this summer; 3 students have dropped from the summer program, 2 were siblings. As of last week, 66 sessions were held and there were 17 no shows or cancellations. The program is ending with school starting back on August 1st.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that all 5 Districts, County Board and Renaissance Academy are above 100% collections for the 23/24 year ending on June 30th. Collections will continue on the ad valorem taxes until August 30th. Tax sales in October will be posted to the prior fiscal year.

B. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger mentioned the new report for assessment totals county wide through the end of June 2024 is at \$1,048,636,529 value of one mill. This is an increase of \$1840.00 per mill. The value of a mill has remained steady as projected and should continue to remain steady for the remainder of the year.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Lastly, Mrs. Binninger reported the Education Sales & Use Tax for the month of June collected \$3,218,003.42. This is an increase from June of 2023 by 3% or \$96,579. 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: None

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Mr. C. Nakia Davis made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess and was followed by a unanimous vote.

Meeting Date: The next Board meeting will be on Monday, August 19, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Mike Upton.

Respectfully submitted,

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.