

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
May 19, 2025

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Mr. Greg Balog called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. C. Nakia Davis, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Mr. Mark Williamson, and Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Mike Upton

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to approve the April 21, 2024, meeting minutes and Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: None

Reports

A. Renaissance Academy Report: Mrs. Binninger provided the board members with the monthly report on enrollment information for the academy. Mrs. Binninger stated that there are 95 students currently enrolled as of May 6, 2025. Two are in the process of enrolling, for a total of 97 students. This time last year, there were 107 students enrolled. This is a decrease of 12 students from last year. The Renaissance graduation program will be May 20th at 9:00 am. if anyone would like to attend. There are 2 students graduating this year. On the back side of the report, reasons for students leaving the academy are identified.

Dr. Doug Atkins asked if Renaissance Academy operates during the summer and Mrs. Binninger stated that it does not operate during the summer.

Mr. David Blanding asked if a student is dropping out of school, would they be referred to the Renaissance Academy and Mrs. Binninger said that the student would be referred to our office for truancy.

Rev. Jason Dorriety commented that some of the school districts have different programs within the district for students that are on the verge of dropping out of school.

B. Administrator's Report: Mrs. Binninger announced that the School Law Conference will be on August 23rd and 24th in Charleston SC. Please let Mrs. Binninger know if you would like to attend the School Law conference.

Mrs. Binninger gave a report on the 135 ADM numbers that have been received. There are 163 fewer students countywide since the 45 ADM. District three is reporting additional students over this time last year. All five districts report a combined total of about 500 fewer students since 2024.

Mrs. Binninger informed the board that Irene Griebno, mental health counselor supervisor, has put in her resignation. Mrs. Griebno will be going to work at School District Five as a mental health counselor.

Mrs. Binninger spoke about the parental note policy for the school districts. Currently, we have 800 truancy cases, half of which are school District Five students. School District 1,2, and 4 already have 5 parent note policy and District 3 is now implementing the same policy. District 5 does not have a district wide parent note policy. Each school has a different policy. District 5 is in the process of implementing some type of parent note policy by next school year.

Mrs. Binninger gave an update on current legislation. Of note was a 4.6% increase for the employer in PEBA State Health insurance.

C. Financial

1. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that all 5 Districts, Renaissance Academy, and County Board are at 80%-90% in collections of their local revenue. Homestead tax funds are not reflected in this report. They were received in May, but this report only goes to the end of April. It appears that everyone will be coming in where they need to be by the end of the year.

2. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger reviewed the report for assessment totals county wide through the end of April 2025 at \$1,116,085,784 value of one mill. This is a decrease of \$2,728.00 since the March report.

3. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mrs. Binninger reported the Education Sales & Use Tax collected in April was \$3,792,232.77. Mrs. Binninger stated that this is an increase of \$700,000.00 from March and an increase of \$750,000.00 from this time last year. Mrs. Binninger reminded everyone that 20% of these funds are posted to the sinking fund accounts of the districts to roll back debt service millage. The remaining 80% goes to capital projects.

4. Accounts Payable: Lastly, Mrs. Binninger presented the accounts payable showing the bills that have been paid from April 16 ,2025 to May 15, 2025. Mrs. Binninger pointed out that new checks had to be ordered therefore you will see a big jump in check numbers. Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to pay the bills. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements: Mrs. Binninger stated that she included the budget workshop schedule and the districts presentations. Presentations for each school district are scheduled for June 23rd and June 30th to approve the budgets. The June 30th board meeting will take the place of our July board meeting.

Meeting Date: The next Board meeting will be on Monday, June 16, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m. by Mr. Greg Balog

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.