

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
June 16, 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, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Mr. Mark Williamson, and Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio, and Mr. Mike Upton by Zoom

Board Members Absent: Mr. C. Nakia Davis

Mr. David Blanding was appointed on June 18, 2025, as acting secretary for Mr. C. Nakia Davis. Mr. Greg Balog made a motion to approve Mr. David Blanding as acting secretary for the meeting. Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Gary Burgess 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 May 19, 2025, 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 92 students currently enrolled as of May 27, 2025. Four are in the process of enrolling, for a total of 96 students. This time last year, there were 108 students enrolled. This is a decrease of 16 students from last year. On the back side of the report, reasons for students leaving the academy are identified.

Mr. Balog asked what happens to the students when school starts in August.

Mrs. Binninger stated that for the 92 students that are already enrolled the director of the Renaissance Academy will meet with the superintendents of each school district to see which students will be returning to the Renaissance Academy and which students will return to their home school. The four that were in the process of enrolling at the end of the school year will continue the process to start Renaissance Academy in August.

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 spoke about the parental note policy for the school districts. National chronic absenteeism rate is 23%; South Carolina is 22.5%; pre-COVID SC was around 13.%. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing more the 10% of the school year (18 days). District absenteeism rates a year ago: District 1-16.9%, District 2-23.1, District 3-28.1, District 4-19.5%, and District 5-25.3%. School districts 1,2, and 4 already have a 5 parent note policy in place, district 2 was the only one above the state average out of the three districts. Since that time district 3 has now implemented the same parent note policy. District 5 has had their first reading of the parent note policy. District 5 is in the process of approving a 10 parent note policy by the board. State law allows only 10 legal excuses per year; absences beyond 10 require administrator approval.

Mrs. Binninger gave an end of the year report on mental health counselors, truancy officers, and food services. Mental health counselors served 264 students, logged 3,652.25 hours, and held 4,565 one-on-one sessions in the 24/25 school year.

Truancy officers completed 779 referrals, down from 794 last year. There were 106 cases that went to court, resulting in 75 orders to attend and 44 rules to show cause; 1 parent sentenced to jail.

School Food service served 652,097 student meals in District 2 and 3 645,675 student meals in District 3. Adult meals included special events and staff meals.

Mrs. Binninger informed the board members that there is a schedule of the workshop and board meetings in their folders.

C. Financial

1. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that all 5 Districts are above 100% in collections of their local revenue as of May 31st. Renaissance Academy and County Board are just below 100% in collections of their local revenue. They should reach 100%, if not a little ahead. Ad valorem taxes continue to be collected and accrued for several more months. Tier III payments include one regular and one catch-up payment in June for the budget year.

2. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger reviewed the report for assessment totals county wide through the end of May 2025 at \$1,114,664,369 value of one mill. This is a decrease of \$1421.00 since the April report, county wide.

3. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mrs. Binninger reported the Education Sales & Use Tax collected in May was \$3,719,615.70. Mrs. Binninger stated that this is a decrease of \$72,000.00 from April and an increase of over \$375,000.00 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 May 16 ,2025 to June 15, 2025. Mrs. Binninger pointed out that there is one EFT and one voided check to Anderson University. Anderson University wanted their rent check for 2 months in 2 separate checks and not 1 check. Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to pay the bills. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A Discussion on Fee-in-Lieu of Taxes (FILOT)-Rev. Jason Dorriety: Rev. Dorriety stated that FILOT is currently distributed to school districts based on business location, not student population. Significant disparities exist in FILOT revenue among districts, especially those with less industry or infrastructure. A proposal was discussed to distribute future FILOT revenue based on Average Daily Membership (ADM), similar to sales tax distribution. Current FILOT agreements would remain unchanged; the new distribution method would apply only to future agreements. Mrs. Binninger spoke with Mr. Rusty Burns and Mrs. Rita Davis, if we take this route that the county council must approve changes through three readings before this can be passed; the board can recommend but not make the decision. Mr. Burns will attend a future board meeting to go into more detail about FILO. Mr. Mike Upton made a motion for Mr. Rusty Burns to be at our meeting on August 18, 2025, at 6:00 pm to discuss funding. Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Announcements: Mrs. Binninger stated that the budget workshops start tomorrow, and they are open to the public. The schedule has been posted on the County Board website.

Meeting Date: The next Board meeting will be on Monday, June 30, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. by Mr. Greg Balog

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. David Blanding, 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.