

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
June 30, 2025

Call to Order: Chairman Mr. Mike Upton called the meeting to order at 6:03 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. David Blanding, Mr. Mark Williamson, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Mr. C. Nakia Davis, Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio, and Mr. Greg Balog by Zoom

Board Members Absent: None

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to amend the agenda. Dr. Burgess requested that "Continuing Old Business" be added to the agenda prior to the Executive Session. Rev. Jason Dorriety second the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. David Blanding seconded the motion, and it was 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), and Cristy Jablonski (D4).

Consideration of District One Budget: Dr. Doug Atkins presented the budget for Anderson School District One for the FY2025-2026 in the amount of \$120,705,198 of which \$38,634,160 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2024-2025 was \$114,070,843 representing a budget increase of 5.82% for the new fiscal year. Dr. Atkins made a motion to approve the budget request which meets State requirements and Dr. Vaughn Parfitt 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 2025-2026 was approved with a unanimous vote.

Consideration of District Two Budget: Rev. Jason Dorriety presented the budget for Anderson School District Two for the FY2025-2026 in the amount of \$41,850,022 of which \$11,964,781 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2024-2025 was \$40,468,050 representing a budget increase of 3.41% for the new fiscal year. Rev. Dorriety made a motion to approve the budget request which meets State requirements and Dr. Doug Atkins 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 FY2025-2026 for District Two.

Consideration of District Three Budget: Mr. C. Nakia Davis presented the budget for Anderson School District Three for the FY2025-2026 in the amount of \$32,190,650 of which \$8,959,650 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2024-2025 was \$30,107,750 representing a budget increase of 6.92% for the new fiscal year. Mr. Davis 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, the Board approved the budget with a unanimous vote for FY2025-2026 for District Three.

Consideration of District Four Budget: Dr. Gary Burgess presented the budget for Anderson School District Four for FY 2025-2026 in the amount of \$41,852,785 of which \$17,095,754 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2024-2025 \$39,468,875 represented a budget increase of 6.04% for the new fiscal year. Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve this budget request that meets State requirements and Mr. Mark Williamson 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 FY2025-2026.

Consideration of District Five Budget: Mr. Mark Williamson presented the budget for Anderson School District Five for the FY2025-2026 in the amount of \$161,196,895 of which \$58,598,858 is identified as local funding. The budget approved and implemented for FY2024-2025 was \$153,631,830 representing a budget increase of 4.92% for the new fiscal year. Mr. Mark Williamson made a motion to approve the budget request which meets State requirements and Dr. Vaughn Parfitt 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 District Five's budget for FY2025-2026.

The board members thanked the superintendents and CFOs for their hard work on the budgets for the 2025/2026 FY.

Continuing Old Business: Dr. Burgess presented Act 868, The County Board of Education Administrator to engage continuously and directly with the budgetary process in the school districts. The board members discussed what this would be like for Mrs. Binner going to the schools and working with and helping the superintendents and CFOs. Dr. Gary Burgess moved that the board direct the administrator of the Anderson County Board of Education to engage continuously and directly with the superintendents and finance directors in the annual budgetary process of the five public school districts of Anderson County so that the budgetary process between the individual districts and the County Board is an interactive process allowing the County Board to set the districts' annual operating tax millage at rates necessary to operate the county's schools efficiently and effectively as required by law. Mr. C. Nakia Davis seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 8-1.

Executive Session:

Personnel Matters-Administrator Compensation/Contract:

A motion was made at 6:36 pm to move to Executive Session by Dr. Doug Atkins and seconded by Dr. Vaughn Parfitt. All board members approved unanimously.

Mr. C. Nakia Davis made a motion to exit Executive Session at 6:47 pm and seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess. All board members approved unanimously. No action was taken during Executive Session, and it ended at 6:47 pm.

Action Items as Necessary from Executive Session: Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion for the budget committee to meet to develop a contract for the administrator. Mr. Mark Williamson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Mr. Mike Upton stated that once the Budget Committee has met and approved the motion for the administrator's contract, the information should be forwarded to the Personnel Committee so they can review and take action on the same matter. The board will vote on this matter at the next board meeting in August.

Meeting Date: The next Board meeting will be on Monday, August 18, 2025.

Mr. Mike Upton adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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.