

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
Special Called Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2025

Call to Order: Acting Chairman Mr. Greg Balog called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Chairman Mr. Mike Upton conducted the remainder of the meeting when he arrived.

Dr. Gary Burgess was appointed as acting secretary for Mr. C. Nakia Davis by Mr. Greg Balog.

Board Members Present: Mr. Mike Upton, Mr. Greg Balog, Dr. Doug Atkins, Mr. David Blanding, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Mark Williamson, and Mrs. Susan Binninger, Ex Officio.

Board Members Absent: Rev. Jason Dorriety and Mr. C. Nakia Davis

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

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: None

Strategic Planning Discussion:

A. Overview of Identified Needs-Administrator: Mrs. Binninger, Dr. Doug Atkins, along with District One's Superintendent Dr. Seth Young, met with Mr. Blake Sanders from the Delegation at District One's office. Mr. Sanders would like to see the Board of Education's mission statement and focus. Mr. Sanders would like the board to define the needs of the districts. Mrs. Binninger has met with Districts One and Three, she has requested meetings with Districts Two, Four and Five. Mrs. Binninger would also like a board member to attend these meetings with the school district's superintendents. Mrs. Binninger stated that she will be finding out the needs of the districts, what they are happy with and where do they see future needs. Mrs. Binninger mentioned that one of the future needs that we are purposing is with two additional SROs that we can equalize through the county. Both Districts One and Three are supportive of that initiative and Mrs. Binninger feels like the other districts will be as well. This would help the school districts to not have to pay for additional SROs. Mrs. Binninger commented that this will be a lot of hand in hand work that we will be doing with the districts to find out their needs. Mrs. Binninger stated that this presentation would be at the delegation meeting in December.

B. Discussion by the Board: Dr. Vaughn Parfitt asked about the time frame for the strategic meeting. Mrs. Binninger stated that she would like to meet within a month, if possible, no later than September 15th. Mrs. Binninger will need to give this information to Mr. Sanders for his review by the middle of October. Mrs. Binninger will send the board members the legislation information as requested by Dr. Burgess.

C. Board Action or Direction: Mrs. Binninger and the board discussed dates for September since school will be starting back in August, and they will have a conference to attend. The strategic meeting will be scheduled for early September. Mr. Mike Upton asked Mrs. Binninger to please email the SOPs and board policies to all the board members before the meeting in September.

Executive Session

A. Personnel Matter - New Hire:

B. Personnel Matter – Contract Review:

A motion was made at 11:23 am to move to Executive Session by Mr. David Blanding, seconded by Dr. Doug Atkins, and approved by all board members. Mr. David Blanding made a motion to exit Executive Session at 12:12 pm and seconded by Dr. Doug Atkins. All board members approved. No actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Action as Necessary from Executive Session: Mr. Mike Upton called for a motion. Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to accept the salary plus vehicle expense for the administrator and Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion. The motion was passed with four yes votes, one opposed and one abstained.

Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to table the severance pay contract for the administrator until the next board meeting. Mr. Mark Williamson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Dr. Vaughn Parfit made a motion to hire Makayla Smith as the new mental health counselor. Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Announcements: Mrs. Binninger announced that we will be recognizing our Teachers of the Year on September 15th.

Mr. David Blanding announced that the HBCU is trying to hold a fish fry this year and would like this to take place at the Renaissance Academy. Mr. Blanding will have more information for the board members at a later date.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m. by Mr. Mike Upton.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gary Burgess, 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.