

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
August 18, 2025

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

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance: Dr. Gary Burgess 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, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Mr. Mark Williamson, and Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio.

Board Members Absent: Rev. Jason Dorriety and Mr. Mike Upton

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

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Mark Williamson made a motion to approve June 16, 2025, meeting minutes and Mr. David Blanding seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to approve June 30, 2025, meeting minutes and Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Mr. David Blanding made a motion to approve July 24, 2025, meeting minutes and Dr. Doug Atkins seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Greg Balog recognized Leadership Anderson Class of 40.

Jason McAulley shared an update on Leadership Anderson, a program under the Anderson Chamber of Commerce. This year, Leadership Anderson chose to partner with Vets Helping Vets of Anderson, contributing meaningfully to the organization's mission. Through their efforts, they have helped raise funds to support the operations of Vets Helping Vets' new facility. In addition, the volunteers have provided hands-on assistance by mowing 53 lawns for veterans and their spouses. Looking ahead, they will be supporting an upcoming golf tournament and hosting a car show in October. Leadership Anderson is also assisting with the group's branding and logo development, further strengthening the visibility and impact of Vets Helping Vets in our community.

Consideration of Anderson School District Five Request: Mr. Scott Orr presented the online auction that they have been having through govdeals.com. He asked for permanent approval from the board to continue using GovDeals.com for the auction.

Dr. Gary Burgess asked if the law allows it to be permanent and Mr. Orr said that it does.

Mr. Mark Williamson asked how long District Five has used GovDeals and Mr. Orr stated that they have used GovDeals for four to five years. They sold \$16,000 to \$17,000 last year.

Mr. C. Nakia Davis asked if an annual contract must be signed. Mr. Orr said that a contract does not have to be signed as there is no cost.

Mr. Orr said that the auction is the last resort. He tries to find someone nearby that needs the items such as other school districts.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to allow District Five to continue to use GovDeals permanently as long as they report periodically to the board. Mr. Mark Williamson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

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 73 students currently enrolled as of August 18, 2025. Four are in the process of enrolling, for a total of 77 students. This time last year, there were 81 students enrolled. This is a decrease of 8 students from last year. On the back side of the report, reasons for students leaving the academy are identified.

B. Administrator's Report: Mrs. Binninger reminded all board members that the School Law Conference will be on August 23rd and 24th in Charleston SC.

Mrs. Binninger informed everyone that the strategic planning meeting will be held Friday, September 5, 2025, at 12:00 pm, lunch will be served. This meeting will be 3-4 hours in duration. The board policies were emailed out a week ago. The board policies, the mission statement, and our mission to the five school districts will be reviewed at this meeting.

Mrs. Binninger stated that Mr. Rusty Burns will be at the next board meeting on Monday, September 15, 2025, for the FILO discussion. We will also be recognizing our five teachers of the year at the September board meeting.

Mrs. Binninger announced that she has signed the board and office staff up for the United Way snack pack program on September 22, 2025, at 8:30 am in Williamston.

C. Financial

1. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that all 5 Districts, Renaissance Academy and County Board are between 1.5% to 4.5% in collections of their local revenue as of July 31, 2025. Ad valorem taxes will be collected and accrued back to last fiscal year. District 3 collected some delinquent taxes. There are some other districts that will also be collecting delinquent taxes.

2. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger reviewed the report for assessment totals county wide through July 2025 at \$1,117,192,704 value of one mill. This is an increase of \$442.00 since the June report, countywide.

3. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mrs. Binninger reported the Education Sales & Use Tax collected in July was \$3,606,147.68. Mrs. Binninger stated that this is an increase from June and an increase of over \$280,000.00 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 June 16, 2025 to June 30, and July 1 to August 1, 2025. Mrs. Binninger pointed out that there is an exceptionally large sum paid to Renaissance Academy. This is for their MDCC funding which is their alternative school funding and their teacher supply transfer. The funds are sent to County Board as their fiscal agent and then transferred back to Renaissance Academy at the end of the fiscal year. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. C. Nakia Davis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business: Dr. Gary Burgess asked if the letters have been mailed out to the district's board chairs about Mrs. Binninger collaborating with them. Mrs. Binninger stated that they have not gone out and recommended that they work on the letter at the strategic meeting in September.

New Business: Mr. Greg Balog asked if anyone from District One has reached out about replacing their newly elected board member. Mrs. Binninger stated that District One has not reached out, but she will contact them.

Executive Session**A. Personnel Matter – Contract Review:**

A motion was made at 6:24 pm to move to Executive Session by Dr. Doug Atkins, seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess, and approved by all board members. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to exit Executive Session at 6:45 pm and seconded by Mr. C. Nakia Davis. All board members approved. No actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Action as Necessary from Executive Session: Mr. Mark Williamson made a motion to refer the contract discussion back to the personnel committee for clarification of the language, alignment with the job description, and consistency with the strategic plan. The personnel committee will bring the revised contract back to the board once the strategic plan is finalized. Dr. Vaughn Parfitt seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Announcements: None

Meeting Date: The next Board meeting will be on Monday, September 15, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 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.