

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
March 16, 2026

Call to Order: Vice Chairman, Dr. Gary Burgess, 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. Gary Burgess, Mr. C. Nakia Davis, Mr. David Blanding, Dr. Doug Atkins, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Mr. Mark Williamson, Mr. Greg Balog by Zoom, and Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Mike Upton

Approval of Agenda: Mr. C. Nakia Davis made a motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Jason Dorriety seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to approve the February 17, 2026, meeting minutes and Dr. Doug Atkins 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 90 students currently enrolled as of March 16, 2026. This time last year, there were 94 students enrolled. This is a decrease of 4 students from last year. There are 12 students in the process of enrolling. On the back side of the report, reasons for students leaving the academy are identified.

Mr. Mark Williams asked how long it takes for the students that are in the process of enrolling to be enrolled. Mrs. Binninger explained that enrollment timelines depend on the situation. For example, if a student requires placement in a special education classroom, the process may take longer because enrollment can only occur when a vacancy becomes available. Likewise, if a student is trying to enroll in a course that is already full, they will be placed on a waiting list. The academy offers enrollment sessions or seminars on a regular basis.

B. Administrator's Report:

Legislative Update:

Mrs. Binninger reported that the Senate has amended the Boat Bill and returned it to the House for approval. If approved, the legislation is proposed to take effect in January 2027. The bill was introduced to reduce property taxes on watercraft and to consolidate boats and motors onto a single tax bill.

Mrs. Binninger stated that the proposed changes would be implemented over a three-year phase-in period, with credits applied each year. Additionally, the tax rate would decrease from 10.5% to 6%. Mrs. Binninger noted that approximately 70% of the revenue generated from this tax directly supports school funding. Mrs. Binninger went over the estimated loss to each district with the board members.

C. Financial

1. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that, as of February 28, 2026, all five districts, Renaissance Academy, and the County Board have collected between 75% and 86% of their local revenue. She noted that collections are at or above the levels reported at the same time last year.

Homestead exemption funds are expected to be received in April. The State reimbursement offsets property taxes for qualifying homeowners by exempting the first \$50,000 of a home's value from taxation. Mrs. Binninger emphasized that this funding does not result in a loss of revenue to the districts.

2. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger reviewed the county-wide assessment totals through February 2026, noting a per mill value of \$1,181,255,034, a decrease of \$90 since the end of January 2026. Mrs. Binninger presented a three-year comparison of the value of one mill for the month of February, reporting figures of \$1,043,678 in 2024, \$1,118,615 in 2025, and \$1,181,255 in 2026. Mrs. Binninger reviewed the approved school millage for the 2025-2026 school year, and millage value by district.

3. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mrs. Binninger reported that \$4,093,184.09 in Education Sales & Use Tax was collected in February. Mrs. Binninger stated that this is a decrease of approximately \$42,000 from this time last year. Mrs. Binninger pointed out that this is the second month straight that we have seen a decrease in Education Sales and Use Tax. 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 in February 2026. Mr. Greg Balog made a motion to approve. Dr. Doug Atkins seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business

A. Set Date for Budget Workshop: The board reached a consensus to schedule a budget workshop for Friday, March 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Session

A motion was made at 6:14 pm to move to Executive Session by Rev. Jason Dorriety, seconded by Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, and approved by all board members.

A. Administrator Contract

Dr. Doug Atkins made a motion to exit Executive Session at 6:27 pm and was seconded by Mr. David Blanding. All board members approved. No actions were taken during the Executive Session.

Action as Necessary from Executive Session: Dr. Vaughn Parfitt made a motion to approve the contract discussed in Executive Session as presented. Mr. C. Nakia Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved with 7 affirmative votes and 1 opposing vote cast by Mr. Mark Williamson.

Announcements: Mrs. Binninger announced that the Statement of Economic Interest must be submitted to the Ethics Commission no later than March 30, 2026, to avoid a fine.

Meeting Date: The next Board meeting will be on Monday, April 20, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chairman Dr. Gary Burgess

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.