

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
May 18, 2026

Call to Order: Chairman Mr. Michael S. Upton called the meeting to order at 6:07 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: Mr. Michael S. Upton, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. C. Nakia Davis, Dr. Doug Atkins, Mr. David Blanding, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Dr. Mark Williamson, and Mr. Greg Balog, by Zoom, and Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio.

Board Members Absent:

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

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Atkins made a motion to approve the April 20, 2026, meeting minutes and Mr. Blanding 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 107 students currently enrolled as of May 11, 2026. This time last year, there were 84 students enrolled. This is an increase of 23 students from last year. There are no students in the process of enrolling due to this being the end of the school year. On the back side of the report, reasons for students leaving the academy are identified.

B. Administrator's Report: Mrs. Binninger provided an update on legislative matters, beginning with Senate Bill 853. The bill proposes a pause on the approval of certain 100% property tax exemptions for housing developments containing low-income units, effective June 30, 2026. The purpose of the pause is to allow lawmakers time to address a loophole that has resulted in unexpected financial impacts on local governments and school districts.

Mrs. Binninger noted that this legislation could positively impact the school districts by generating additional revenue and potentially helping offset some of the financial impacts anticipated from the new boat bill law this year.

Mrs. Binninger announced that Senate Bill 1162 pertains to the trustee elections for Anderson School District Two. The Act revises the election structure for the seven-member Anderson School District Two Board of Trustees and is scheduled to take effect this year. The revised structure establishes six single-member districts and one at-large seat, replacing the current multi-member district system.

Mrs. Binninger stated that Senate Bill 70, concerning School Board Training and Ethics Requirements, will effect Anderson County Board members as well as local school board members. The legislation requires the State Board of Education to develop a board member training program and a model code of ethics. The requirements will apply to newly elected, reelected, appointed, and reappointed school board members. Training must be completed within nine months of taking office and renewed every three years thereafter. In addition, local boards will be required to adopt the state's model code of ethics and certify compliance by board members. Mrs. Binninger noted that noncompliance may result in warning letters and possible referral to the Governor.

C. Financial

1. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that, as of April 30, 2026, all five districts have collected between 92% and 102% of local and state revenue. Renaissance Academy and the County Board are slightly lower due to revenue from districts being received in June. Mrs. Binninger noted that this report reflects budget to actual amounts.

Mrs. Binninger presented a report on Ad Valorem collections, comparing millage projections to actual collections for all five districts. As of April 30, 2026, actual collections were measured against the 95% millage value estimate established on May 30, 2025, for comparison purposes.

Mrs. Binninger noted that Anderson School District One was the only district that budgeted using more than 95% of its millage value for the 2025–2026 Ad Valorem Budget. As of April 30, 2026, Anderson School District One and Anderson School District Two had collected more than 95% of their millage value estimates, while Anderson School Districts Three, Four, and Five remained below the projected estimate.

Mrs. Binninger further stated that, based on collection trends from the previous year, all districts are expected to exceed 95% of the May 30, 2025, millage value estimate by the close of the fiscal year.

Mrs. Binninger reported on Ad Valorem Revenue, comparing millage value to actual revenue for fiscal year 2024–2025. She noted that Anderson School District One was the only district to budget more than 95% of its millage value and ultimately exceeded its budgeted revenue by approximately \$1.8 million. Actual collections exceeded 95% of the millage value in every district. Mrs. Binninger stated that these collection trends reflect strong property tax revenue performance countywide for fiscal year 2024–2025.

2. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger reviewed the county-wide assessment totals through March 2026, noting a per mill value of \$1,174,567,931, a decrease of \$3,191 since the end of March 2026. Mrs. Binninger presented a three-year comparison of the value of one mill for the month of April, reporting an increase of 6% from 2024 to 2025, approximately 5% increase for this year. We are continuing to see that increase year over year in property values.

Mrs. Binninger presented a breakdown for each district operating millage and value per mill as of April 30, 2026. Anderson School District One's current millage value is \$178,409, Anderson School District Two's current millage value is \$51,317, Anderson School District Three's current millage value is \$40,879, Anderson School District Four's current millage value is \$109,180, and Anderson School District Five's current millage value is \$283,146. Mrs. Binninger stated that these figures place the countywide mill value at approximately \$663,000, which is the amount used by the Anderson County Department of Education for budgeting purposes.

3. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mrs. Binninger reported that \$3,128,823.34 in Education Sales & Use Tax was collected in April. Mrs. Binninger stated that this is a large decrease of approximately \$663,000 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.

Mrs. Binninger provided an update on penny sales tax collections to date. She reported that a total of approximately \$340 million has been collected since the program began. Of that amount, approximately \$68 million has been allocated toward debt relief, while \$272 million has been used to fund capital improvement projects across the school districts.

Mrs. Binninger stated that a current monthly report will be developed to show collections received each month and placed on the Anderson County Board website. The report will also include a hyperlink providing a district-by-district breakdown, allowing users to view how much each school district has utilized for debt relief and capital improvement projects. The report will also have information on how the funds can be used by the districts.

Mrs. Binninger expressed her hope that this information will be available on the Anderson County Board website within the next couple of months.

4. Accounts Payable: Lastly, Mrs. Binninger presented the accounts payable showing the bills that have been paid in April 2026. Mr. Balog made a motion to approve the accounts payable. Dr. Burgess seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Approval of the 2026-2027 Final Budget Mrs. Binninger presented the Anderson County Department of Education's proposed budget for the 2026–2027 fiscal year. Mrs. Binninger discussed with the board members the changes that have been made since the preliminary budget was approved by the board.

Mrs. Binninger stated that, if approved by the board, the proposed budget will be presented to the Anderson County Legislative Delegation for approval.

Dr. Burgess made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 budget. Dr. Atkins seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

New Business: None

Announcements: Dr. Atkins announced that, due to declining health, he does not believe he will be able to seek reelection in 2026 for Seat 3 representing the Anderson School District One area.

Mrs. Binninger stated that the School Law Conference will be held in Greenville on August 29–30, 2026. Mrs. Binninger asked if anyone is interested in attending the School Law Conference to please notify her.

Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be on Monday, June 15, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m. by Chairman Mr. Michael S. Upton.

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.