Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
July 20, 2026

Call to Order: Chairman Mr. Michael S. Upton called the meeting to order at 6:00 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: Mr. Michael S. Upton, Dr. Gary Burgess, Dr. Doug Atkins, Mr. Greg Balog, Mr. David Blanding, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Dr. Mark Williamson, by Zoom, and Mrs. Susan Binninger ex officio.

Board Members Absent: Mr. C. Nakia Davis

Mr. Upton appointed Dr. Doug Atkins on June 15, 2026, as acting secretary for Mr. C. Nakia Davis.

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

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Parfitt made a motion to approve the June 15, 2026, meeting minutes and Mr. Blanding seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Mr. Upton appointed Dr. Doug Atkins as acting secretary for Mr. C. Nakia Davis.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Upton welcomed Mrs. Hannah Arnold, Board Secretary for Anderson School District Three.

Reports

A. Administrator's Report: Mrs. Binninger provided a legislative update. The state budget has not been passed. The Budget Conference Committee met last week but did not take any action on the remaining areas of disagreement. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21.

Mrs. Binninger announced that the sales tax information has been added to Anderson County Board website and will be updated at the end of each quarter.

B. Financial
1. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger reported that, as of June 30, 2026, all five districts have collected between 103% and 114% of local and state revenue. Mrs. Binninger stated that this report compares budgeted amounts to actual collections.

2. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger reviewed the county-wide assessment totals through June 30, 2026, noting a per mill value of $1,176,273,366, an increase of $284 since May 2026. Mrs. Binninger presented a three-year comparison of the value of one mill for the month of May, reporting an increase of 6% from 2024 to 2025, and an increase of approximately 5% from 2025 to 2026.

3. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mrs. Binninger reported that $3,889,234.11 in Education Sales & Use Tax was collected in June. Mrs. Binninger stated that this is an increase of approximately $369,000 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.

4. Accounts Payable: Mrs. Binninger presented the accounts payable showing the bills that have been paid in June 2026. Mrs. Binninger pointed out that there is a large check in the amount of $91,904.07 paid to Anderson County Alternative School. Mrs. Binninger explained that the County Board receives the state allocations for Renaissance Academy, reconciles the funds at the end of the fiscal year, and distributes the appropriate amount to the school.

Executive Session: Mr. Upton noted that an Executive Session was on the agenda to receive legal advice regarding the Boards's authority and responsibilities in setting school district millage rates, pursuant to SC code section 30-4-70(a)(2). A motion was made at 6:09 pm to move to Executive Session by Dr. Parfitt, seconded by Dr. Burgess, and approved by all board members.

Rev. Dorriety made a motion to exit Executive Session at 6:55 pm and was seconded by Dr. Parfitt. All board members approved unanimously. No action was taken during Executive Session, and it ended at 6:55 pm.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 6:58 pm.

New Business: Mrs. Binninger outlined the process for establishing the 2026-2027 millage rates for Anderson County School Districts One through Five and presented the proposed millage rates for the Board's consideration and approval.

Mrs. Binninger reviewed the statutory authority governing the establishment of school district millage rates under Act 269 and Act 581. "The tax millage must be set by the Anderson County Board of Education based on the certified assessment values provided to the board by the county auditor." The districts recommend the millage needed, Anderson County Auditor certifies assessment totals, Anderson County Board of Education determines the required millage that is to be set. The calculation must use the certified assessment values provided by the Anderson County Auditor. This determination must be timely and any increases above 8 mills generally require voter approval with a limited hardship emergency exception.

Mrs. Binninger reviewed the certified assessment totals for each school district, the current value of a mill as of June 30, 2026, provided by the Anderson County Auditor, Ad Valorem budget and millage requested by each district.

Mrs. Binninger reviewed some considerations for millage, including the approved Boat Bill for 2027, which provides an exemption of 14.2857% of the fair market value. She reminded the Board that reassessment in 2027, states that under SC law, the increase in property's fair market value caused by a countywide reassessment is limited to 15% over a five-year reassessment period. The school district fund balance and planned use of the fund balance is also a part in determining the millage rate.

Mrs. Binninger presented the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal year ad valorem budget, collections, and millage analysis for each district. Mrs. Binninger pointed out the differences for each fiscal year, and the differences of the revenue collected and budgeted.

Consideration of District One Millage Rate: Mr. Blanding made a motion, pursuant to the authority granted to the Anderson County Board of Education under Act 269 of 1989, as amended by Act 581 of 1994, and after consideration of Anderson School District One's recommendation of 174.05 mills, the Anderson County Board of Education set the operating tax millage for Anderson School District One at 174.05 mills for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, based upon the district's Board-approved Ad Valorem budget, the certified assessment values provided by the Anderson County Auditor, projected tax collections, and other relevant financial information presented to the Board.

Mr. Blanding further moved that the Administrator be authorized to certify the approved millage to the Anderson County Auditor and provide any necessary supporting documentation for implementation. Rev. Dorriety seconded the motion. Anderson School District One's millage rate for 2026-2027 fiscal year was approved with a unanimous vote.

Consideration of District Two Millage Rate: Rev. Dorriety made a motion, pursuant to the authority granted to the Anderson County Board of Education under Act 269 of 1989, as amended by Act 581 of 1994, and after consideration of Anderson School District Two's recommendation of 202.1 mills, the Anderson County Board of Education set the operating tax millage for Anderson School District Two, 95% of the collection rate at 202.1 mills for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, based upon the district's Board-approved Ad Valorem budget, the certified assessment values provided by the Anderson County Auditor, projected tax collections, and other relevant financial information presented to the Board.

Rev. Dorriety further moved that the Administrator be authorized to certify the approved millage to the Anderson County Auditor and provide any necessary supporting documentation for implementation. Mr. Balog seconded the motion. With 6 yes votes and 1 opposed vote by Dr. Parfitt, the Board approved Anderson School District Two's millage rate for 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Consideration of District Three Millage Rate: Dr. Atkins made a motion, pursuant to the authority granted to the Anderson County Board of Education under Act 269 of 1989, as amended by Act 581 of 1994, and after consideration of Anderson School District Three's recommendation of 190.5 mills, the Anderson County Board of Education set the operating tax millage for Anderson School District Three at 185.1 mills for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, based upon the district's Board-approved Ad Valorem budget, the certified assessment values provided by the Anderson County Auditor, projected tax collections, and other relevant financial information presented to the Board.

Dr. Atkins further moved that the Administrator be authorized to certify the approved millage to the Anderson County Auditor and provide any necessary supporting documentation for implementation. Mr. Blanding seconded the motion. With 6 yes votes and 1 opposed vote by Dr. Parfitt, the Board approved Anderson School District Three's millage rate for 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Consideration of District Four Millage Rate: Dr. Burgess made a motion, pursuant to the authority granted to the Anderson County Board of Education under Act 269 of 1989, as amended by Act 581 of 1994, and after consideration of Anderson School District Four's recommendation of 164.25 mills, the Anderson County Board of Education set the operating tax millage for Anderson School District Four at 154 mills for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, based upon the district's Board-approved Ad Valorem budget, the certified assessment values provided by the Anderson County Auditor, projected tax collections, and other relevant financial information presented to the Board.

Dr. Burgess further moved that the Administrator be authorized to certify the approved millage to the Anderson County Auditor and provide any necessary supporting documentation for implementation. Dr. Atkins seconded the motion. With 6 yes votes and 2 opposed votes by Dr. Parfitt and Mr. Balog, the Board approved Anderson School District Four's millage rate for 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Consideration of District Five Millage Rate: Mr. Balog made a motion, pursuant to the authority granted to the Anderson County Board of Education under Act 269 of 1989, as amended by Act 581 of 1994, and after consideration of Anderson School District Five's recommendation of 191mills, the Anderson County Board of Education set the operating tax millage for Anderson School District Five at 185.3 mills for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, based upon the district's Board-approved Ad Valorem budget, the certified assessment values provided by the Anderson County Auditor, projected tax collections, and other relevant financial information presented to the Board.

Mr. Balog further moved that the Administrator be authorized to certify the approved millage to the Anderson County Auditor and provide any necessary supporting documentation for implementation. Mr. Blanding seconded the motion. With 7 yes votes and 1 opposed vote by Dr. Parfitt, the Board approved Anderson School District Five's millage rate for 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Announcements:
Mrs. Binninger announced that the School Law Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville on August 29–30, 2026. Board members that are signed up to attend are Dr. Parfitt, Mr. Balog, Mr. Davis, Mr. Upton, and Dr. Williamson. Mrs. Binninger asked if anyone is interested in attending the School Law Conference to please notify her.

Mrs. Binninger stated that the Upstate Regional Advocacy meeting will be held on October 7, 2026. At this time, the location has not yet been announced. Mrs. Binninger asked if anyone is interested in attending the Upstate Regional Advocacy Meeting to please notify her.

Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be on Monday, August 17, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m. by Chairman Mr. Michael S. Upton.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Doug Atkins as 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.