

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
September 21, 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, Mr. C. Nakia Davis, Dr. Doug Atkins, Mr. Greg Balog, Mr. David Blanding, Rev. Jason Dorriety, Dr. Vaughn Parfitt, Dr. Mark Williamson, and Mrs. Susan Binninger (ex officio).

Board Members Absent:

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

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Board Meeting: Dr. Burgess made a motion to approve the August 17, 2026, meeting minutes, and Dr. Parfitt seconded the motion. They were approved unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Upton welcomed the Teachers of the Year, their families, and staff from Anderson County's School Districts. Mr. Upton commented that this is one of his favorite meetings.

Recognition of Anderson County School Districts' Teachers of the Year: Recognition of Anderson County School Districts' Teachers of the Year was conducted by the following board members:

- Mr. Greg Balog recognized Maggie Burdick from District One.
- Rev. Jason Dorriety recognized Lori Ashley from District Two.
- Mr. C. Nakia Davis recognized Stephanie Harbert from District Three.
- Dr. Gary Burgess recognized Whitney Geiger from District Four.
- Mr. David Blanding recognized Dylan Taylor from District Five. Mr. Taylor was unable to attend due to a rescheduled football game. Dr. Kelley accepted the recognition on his behalf.

Mr. Upton, along with the Board members, expressed their appreciation for the teachers' dedication and hard work. Each honoree received a certificate and a gift bag.

Executive Session

At 6:11 pm, Dr. Parfitt made a motion to enter Executive Session to receive legal advice protected by attorney-client privilege regarding the Board's authority and responsibilities in reviewing and approving Anderson School District Two's proposed bond issuance, pursuant to S.C. Code § 30-4-70(a)(2). Mr. Davis seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

At 6:31 pm, Mr. Davis made a motion to exit Executive Session. Dr. Williamson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. No action was taken during Executive Session.

Return to Open Session: The Board reconvened in regular session at 6:31 pm.

New Business

Consideration of Anderson School District Two's Request for Bond Issuance.

Mr. Jason Johns reported that the Anderson School District Two Board unanimously approved a request for an 8% general obligation bond at its September 2026 Board meeting. District Two has a debt capacity to borrow approximately \$6.1 million.

Mr. Johns explained that the bond proceeds would be used to replace the roof at Belton Middle School and address several capital needs at Honea Path Middle School, including partial roof repairs, mechanical work, switchgear, a hot water heater, and an expansion tank. He noted that the district has already received a quote for the roof repairs.

Mr. Johns stated that the requested bond issuance is estimated at approximately \$3.5 million and will not result in a tax increase for District Two residents. He added that the bond will be repaid within one calendar year.

Mr. Upton asked about the interest rate on the bond. Mr. Johns stated that the anticipated interest rate is between 3.4% and 4%.

Mr. Balog asked how the district plans to repay the bond within one calendar year. Ms. Parnell explained that the bond will be repaid using funds available in the Debt Service Fund balance, along with anticipated debt service revenue to be collected during the following year.

Dr. Parfitt made a motion to accept the bond recommendation from Anderson School District Two. Dr. Burgess 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 84 students were enrolled as of September 16, 2026. This is an increase of four students from the previous month. There are 10 students in the process of enrolling. On the back side of the report, reasons for students leaving the academy are identified.

B. Administrator's Report: Mrs. Binninger stated that she met with the Finance Directors/CFOs from all school districts on September 16, 2026. They discussed the different accrual periods: some districts use 45 days, while others use 60 days. The finance directors agreed to a 60-day accrual period. This will make the reports easier to compare. The county equalization of Tier revenue will be reported under the Tier accounts and not combined with 14.7 mills. She will plan another meeting before budget preparation begins.

C. Financial

1. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mrs. Binninger presented the Board members with two reports to review and determine which to use going forward. The first report was the original report, which showed revenue collected from July 1 through June 30 which helps predict but does not reflect the actual accrual period. The Board members also received the new report that shows the revenue credited to the fiscal year budget, including ad valorem and 14.7 revenue accrued through August of the following year.

Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the new report. Dr. Burgess seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

2. Assessment Totals: Mrs. Binninger reviewed the countywide assessment totals through August 31, 2026, noting a per mill value of \$1,176,315, a decrease of \$656 since July 2026. Mrs. Binninger presented a three-year comparison of the value of one mill, reporting increases of 6% from 2023 to 2024, 6% from 2024 to 2025, and approximately 5% from 2025 to 2026.

Mrs. Binninger also reviewed the operational millage value by district report. District One's current value of a mill is \$178,858, an increase of \$78 from the previous month. District Two's value of a mill is \$51,664; this has increased by \$13 over the previous month. District Three's value of a mill is \$41,071, an increase of \$33. District Four's value of a mill is \$109,579, an increase of \$135. District Five's value of a mill is \$282,420, a decrease of \$1,008. The countywide value of a mill is \$663,592, a decrease of \$749 over last month.

3. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mrs. Binninger reported that \$3,974,264.09 in Education Sales & Use Tax was collected in August. Revenue increased by \$393,170.18 compared with the same month one year ago and by \$713,356.42 compared with the same month two years ago. 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 were paid in August 2026.

Mr. Davis made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Balog seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

D. Committee Report

Budget Committee Report and Recommendations on School Districts' Budget Process

The Budget Committee met on September 17, 2026, to review the budget process and discuss potential improvements. The Committee has made the following recommendations for consideration by the full Board:

- Remove the lines for operating and debt service millage increases/decreases, Career and Technology millage, total millage, and operating millage value per student.
- Change the mill value reporting date to April 30.
- Add total ad valorem requested and define the sources included in total local revenue.
- Add the building fund/capital projects fund balance and documentation supporting the district's budget and fund balance needs.
- Update the Reduction in Force Plan only if needed.
- Report summary information for job positions and remove individual school information.
- Expand Tab 8 to include current building projects, scheduled maintenance, and five-year capital needs, with estimated costs and funding sources.
- Move projected sales tax debt service relief from Tab 7 to Tab 9.
- Invite Districts Three and Four to present their audits in February with the County Board and Renaissance Academy, and Districts One, Two, and Five in March.
- Encourage County Board members to attend district board meetings and budget workshops.
- Invite districts to present their budgets after their local boards' first readings for County Board information and input. Eliminate the separate County Board Budget workshop unless needed.

- Invite the County Auditor to the July meeting to discuss the countywide reassessments and millage certification.

Mrs. Binninger reported that she contacted all five school districts regarding their long-term capital needs. She explained that the Budget Committee had requested that each district provide consistent information regarding anticipated capital needs over the next five to ten years so that the Board could review the information on a comparable basis.

Mrs. Binninger stated that Anderson School Districts One, Two, and Five had responded, while Districts Three and Four had not yet responded but were expected to do so soon. District Five has a facilities study prepared by an outside agency and offered to provide a copy to the County Board. District One has information related to its building program and has begun reviewing and creating a five-year plan with its Board, although it does not have a formal. District Two has a sales tax plan covering approximately four to five years, as well as a list of projects needed maintained by its maintenance director. District Two is also planning a facilities audit that will include a 10- to 15-year projection, with the information expected to be available around November.

Mr. Davis recommended that the County Board select a three-, five-, or ten-year planning period and require all districts to submit information covering that same period.

Rev. Dorriety made a motion to table the vote on this matter until the next board meeting to allow all the Board members to provide input. Dr. Williamson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Announcements: Mrs. Binninger announced that the Legislative Advocacy Conference will be held December 5-6, 2026, in Charleston S.C., at the Marriott Hotel. Mrs. Binninger asked if anyone is interested in attending the Legislative Advocacy Conference to please notify her. The Board members who are already signed up to attend are Dr. Burgess, Mr. Balog, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Upton.

Mr. Davis asked when the Statement of Economic Interest was due. Mrs. Binninger said she would obtain that information for the Board.

Meeting Date: The next board meeting will be on Monday, October 19, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm 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

