

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
February 20, 2017

Call to Order

Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell 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 for the February, 2017 meeting: Dr. Gary Burgess, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Dale Martin, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mr. Mike Upton, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Ms. Dana Grant was unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda and Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2017 Board Meeting

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes providing the given corrections are made. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the January minutes were approved.

Presentation to Townville Elementary School & Anderson School District Four

On behalf of the Anderson County Board of Education, Dr. Gary Burgess presented resolutions to Dr. Joanne Avery, Superintendent of Anderson County School District Four, and Ms. Denise Fredricks, Principal of Townville Elementary School, for their handling of the tragedy last September. Through previous superior planning, the staff had received active shooter training. With that, along with the heroic quick thinking of administrators, teachers, and staff, allowed them to handle the situation while protecting the students and staff from further injury. These skills were executed in a professional manner and are recognized and very much appreciated.

Consideration of Recommendation by Anderson School District One

Mr. David Havird, Superintendent of Anderson County School District One, came before the Board recommending that Ms. Pat Cox fill the seat left vacant by trustee Fred Alexander's death in November. Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to consider the recommendation and Mr. Mike Upton seconded.

Mr. Mike Upton said he met Ms. Cox and was very impressed adding that she will be a meaningful board member bringing energy and enthusiasm with her. Ms. Cox was previously employed by Pelzer Elementary School before it closed and has always been involved with youth groups through her church and volunteering at her grandson's school. After a brief discussion, the County Board approved District One's recommendation unanimously.

Consideration of Bond Issue for Anderson School District Two

Mr. Nimmer referred to the letter in the packet from Anderson County School District Two outlining a request to have a bond issued from their 8 percent allocation to be used for a couple projects at Belton-Honea Path High School one being a HVAC, roof repair, not to exceed 1.5 million. Dr. Rosenberger, Superintendent of Anderson School District Two, is here to answer any questions. Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to consider the bond issue and Dr. Rev. Rufus Mitchell seconded.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry asked if the entire amount will be used for Belton-Honea Path High School and Dr. Rosenberger said it will be pretty close. When the District refinanced the referendum money which expires in 2025, we had just finished the cost estimate for the phase one of roofing repairs at the high school and it came to 1.5 million. So it seemed to be a good way to transfer that money with no raise in taxes. This includes roofing in the front part of the building and HVAC in the back part. We will come back to the Board when it is time for Phase 2. Dr. Burgess asked what the average age of the HVAC systems are at District Two and Dr. Rosenberger answered about 15 to 20 years old. Mr. Mike Upton asked what the interest rate was and he answered 1.75 percent locked in.

With no further discussion, the bond issue was approved by the Board unanimously.

Anderson County Alternative School Report

Mr. Nimmer reported that from now on the Alternative School's report will show the current enrollment, last month's enrollment, and last year's enrollment. Current enrollment is 106 students, in January 2017 there were 98 students, and in February of 2016 there were 92. With some significant changes made budgetarily between the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years through the end of December when we closed the books for those months comparing to last year, we are about \$145,000 ahead of where we were. That is a significant improvement financially from where we were. That is a combination of additional revenue and mainly decreased expenditures that are being recognized based on a couple positions held open through attrition last year as well as some additional monies coming in from the districts in the form of the penny sales tax that allows for some long-term capital improvements that don't have to be funded through the operating budget.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Nimmer reminded the Board that the Statement of Economic Interest is due on March 30, 2017 electronically and he will be happy to assist anyone that needs help getting this done on time to avoid any penalties.

He also mentioned the South Carolina School Board Conference this year was very beneficial especially the presentation made by District Four. The conference featured some very good speakers and provided an outstanding chance to fellowship.

Financial

Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget: Collections year to date show we are collecting a great deal of money in December and January. Collection percentages jumped dramatically in January with each district being slightly ahead of where they were at this point last year. Between ½ and 1½ percent ahead of where they were which is the first time since 2010 that we have seen this. Some districts have new industry coming in which increases their fee in lieu of tax money, while other districts have seen more residential growth.

Assessment totals - January 31, 2017: We have held fairly steady for another month. The growth for November had been posted for the real property and we have actually had a substantial increase for the first time in several years. This hasn't been eroded by appeals as it normally has in previous years. We will continue to watch this as they continue to process appeals through the month of February.

Old Business

Mr. Nimmer reported the signage on the old Bleckley Street building has been put up. Ms. Bradberry was hoping the name of Millard G. Smith would be put back on the front of the building like it was. Mr. Draisen and Dr. Burgess agreed to drive by the building to form an opinion.

New Business

Mr. David Draisen shared that he also felt the conference was excellent. He especially liked what some schools are doing to reinforce a positive environment. The teachers have the students submit recommendations for a fellow student that has done something worthy. Then the teachers pull out one of the recommendations and give that student a prize which keeps the momentum going. Mr. Draisen would like to see that in our districts. Mr. Nakia Davis liked the idea of considering a graduation as more of a celebration for the student's achievement rather than being a solemn event. Mr. Upton said that is a controversial subject. You wouldn't want a graduation to get out of hand and become boisterous but certainly understood the concept. Ms. Brenda Bradberry asked Mr. Nimmer how the Mental Health Counselors are doing and if the districts are pleased. Mr. Nimmer said things are much better this year. We are communicating more and have received no complaints so far. Dr. Gary Burgess asked about the plan for resource officers next year and what the plan is. Mr. Nimmer answered that he will check to see what we were proposing back after the school shooting at Sandy Hook. Then we can revisit the issue as far as county-wide funding for the school resource officers and what it would take to fund it. Mr. Draisen said he knows Dr. Joanne Avery would be willing to speak on behalf of the schools since they have recently gone through this and it might help get it approved.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Nakia Davis and was followed by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Draisen.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gary Burgess, Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.