

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
March 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 March, 2017 meeting: 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 and Dr. Gary Burgess were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes – February 20, 2017 Board Meeting

Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Dale Martin seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the February minutes were approved.

Discussion and Consideration of Request from Anderson School District Five

Mr. Tom Wilson, Superintendent of Anderson County School District Five, and the Director of Technology, Mr. Wesley Grant, addressed the board members requesting their approval on the resolution to sell part of the property adjacent to McCant's Middle School. The approval is necessary because the land was purchased after 1954 which requires the approval of our local District Board, the County Board, and the State Board. Mr. Wilson said, depending on the outcome here tonight, the resolution request is on the State Board's meeting agenda for their meeting in May.

Mr. Wilson referenced the informational maps send previously by Mr. Grant. He began by explaining that the 18 to 19 acres that fronts Highway 81 can be better used as retail since it is one of the most valuable pieces of land within the city limits. Once the land is sold, the District will build a new football practice field and a lighted walking track on the remaining property. They are asking 6.5 million for that parcel and have had some interest already. With retail there, it will generate more revenue from the penny sales tax as well as property tax.

Ms. Bradberry asked if they preferred one of the planned drawings more than the others. Mr. Wilson answered that they told the broker they are willing to work with the buyer as to what will work best. We plan to be sure there is a buffer zone. Ms. Bradberry felt a couple drawings showed the parcel was too close to the school and hoped they would keep that in mind. Mr. Brock asked if they owned the entire site that McCant's sits on. Mr. Wilson said yes, we own 39.9 acres and we have had interest from people wanting to buy the entire parcel but then what do we do with McCant's? We had considered expanding Glenview Middle School as we did with Robert Anderson Middle School when we decided to close Lakeside Middle, but because of the location near

Cobb's Glen and the traffic already there, it made it cost prohibitive with the road improvements that would have to be done. Now we plan to take whatever revenue is left, after the practice field and walking track is built, for renovations to McCant's. Recently a \$900,000 roof was put on the building. We also plan to make modernization and improvements on the building built in the early 60's like HVAC, lighting, floor coverings, etc.

Mr. Davis asked if the price would change if the acreage sold varied from 13 to 18 acres. Mr. Wes Grant answered the acreage may change a little bit but it is all within the realm of what is identified here. Mr. Draisen asked about the type of buffer that would be built between the new owner and the school. Mr. Wilson said it depends on the zoning set by the city. He envisions a black wrought iron fence to separate the two properties with nice landscaping. Right now the building is not very attractive looking up from Highway 81. The board members asked that District Five try to keep the new owners as far away from the students as possible to avoid it becoming an attractive nuisance.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the request from District Five to sell the property adjacent to McCants Middle School and Reverend Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded it. With a unanimous vote, the resolution was approved by the Board. Mr. Wilson thanked the board for their time and consideration.

Anderson County Alternative School Report

Mr. Nimmer reported that he met with the Alternative School recently, as Ms. Bradberry had requested, to ask about tracking where the students go after leaving the Alternative School. That information used to be included in our report, however, since the software called PowerSchool replaced SASI, it has not been as simple to track or report this information. They will built new queries in the PowerSchool system to get this information and we will receive a report after each grading period.

The current enrollment is 129 students, last month it was 106, and last year at this time total enrollment was 103.

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.

The South Carolina School Boards Association will be holding 2DAC (Two Days at the Capitol brings local school board members and other public education advocates from across the state to the State House for face-to-face meetings with House and Senate lawmakers regarding legislation impacting public schools) on April 25th, from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Mr. Draisen and Mr. Nimmer are registered. If anyone else is interested, please let Mr. Nimmer know by March 24th to complete the registration.

Mr. Nimmer read a note from Dr. Joanne Avery thanking the Board for the resolution recognizing District Four for their response and recovery efforts during and after the tragedy at Townville Elementary School.

Financial

Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget: Collections year to date show everyone is doing well while maintaining the 1 to 1.5 percent ahead of where they were last year at this time. It has been remarkably consistent.

Assessment Totals – February 28, 2017: We have stayed basically flat since last month which is typical for this time of year. Usually there are automobile sales that help drive growth in the early part of year due to income tax refunds that allow more vehicle purchases. The value of a mil county-wide for the past ten years has varied between \$689,000 and \$695,000. Now it is a little over \$730,000 which shows growth. This is a reassessment year and that will cause the numbers to change again.

Old Business

Mr. Nimmer reported on the recent discussion of possibly providing a School Resource Officer (SRO) for every school in the five districts of Anderson County. He went back to the original study done in 2012 which proposed using proceeds from a designated county-wide millage percentage of perhaps 2 to 3 percent. To begin with, Mr. Nimmer got updated figures from the districts. This year most middle and high schools have a designated SRO, however, the districts all have a different approach to covering their schools. For example, in District Three all five of their schools have their own certified SRO every day. District Five uses a combination of SROs and security guards and they rotate coverage at the elementary level. District Four has a designated officer for the high and middle school. Another SRO rotates among the elementary schools with the exception of Townville Elementary which has a full-time officer this year and next year being paid for by a grant.

Mr. Nimmer worked up some preliminary figures that showed what it would cost if all the schools in the five districts had a designated uniformed SRO as well as a couple sample scenarios. This proposal could possibly pay the full amount for each officer or be set up as a cost sharing program. He thought perhaps the best way to go about this, if it is approved, would be to establish new millage which would not fall under the County Board budget but would be under our control. We would collect the funds and allocate it back to the schools to pay for the SROs. It would need to be set up as restricted funds only to be used as payment for certified SROs not a security company.

Mr. Draisen felt if Dr. Avery made a presentation to school officials, parents, and the community, any additional tax would be approved. Several members felt strongly that the most members of the community would want this. Mr. Brock felt that more taxes to benefit the schools after the penny sales tax was approved will saturate us to death. He is concerned that the people of Anderson County will not want the additional tax. Mr. Upton said we would be freeing up money in the school's budget for them to use for other expenses. Mr. Nimmer reminded the Board that this is just the beginning of a discussion and we will continue to work on this in the coming months. The delegation also needs to weigh in eventually.

Mr. Nimmer followed up with the city about the signage on the old Bleckley Street building, however, was unable to get a definitive answer as the head of that department is out due to a knee replacement. When he returns, he will try again.

New Business

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell 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.