

**Anderson County Board of Education**  
**907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621**  
**November 16, 2015**

**Call to Order**

Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order and 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 August, 2015 meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. Dale Martin, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mr. Mike Upton and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Dr. Gary Burgess and Ms. Dana Grant were unable to attend.

Mr. David Draisen, Chairman of the Board, appointed Mr. Mike Brock to fill in as acting secretary in the absence of Dr. Burgess.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and with a unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes – October 19, 2015 Board Meeting**

Dr. Gary Burgess requested additional information be included in the October minutes regarding his conversation with Ms. Mack and her endorsement for the candidate she felt best suited to fill her seat on the Board of Anderson County School District Five. Ms. Mack's recommendation turned out to be the candidate District Five brought before the Board for consideration at tonight's meeting. After assuring that the additional information would be included in the October minutes, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion, and with a unanimous vote, the October minutes were approved.

**Presentation by Anderson School District One**

Mr. David Havird began by letting the Board know how pleased he was to be attending the meeting and how much he appreciated the continued support. Last time he came to a Board meeting, he showcased the high school students and the use of technology in the classroom and this time it was a group of third graders from Wren Elementary School. Mr. Havird introduced Ms. Kristen Hearne, coordinator of digital learning, along with Ms. Mitchell, Ms. Katie Parks, Ms. Gilstrap, and Ms. Cherry, the third grade teachers. Also attending was Wren Elementary School principal, Mr. Tommy Bolger. Mr. Havird shared a brief example of why it is important for a superintendent to listen to the teachers as they often times know what serves the schools district and students best.

The teachers introduced their third grade students, Warren Holcombe, Brock Cherry, Callie Enloe, and Justin Merritt, and then played a video presentation showing what it is like in the day of a third grader at Wren Elementary School. Next, the students showed a project they are personally working on that utilizes the use of their iPads. These apps are used in Science, Reading, English, Math and most every aspect of learning. The apps focus on creation which encourages the students to be able to find and research information in a way that allows them better understanding of the material. They showed examples of what they are doing to utilize the technology available and how apps such as Book Creator and PicCollage create a broad and meaningful learning experience.

Mr. Draisen said the Board was totally impressed. Originally, District One intended to start the technology rollout at the fourth grade level but then decided to start at the third grade level and they are glad they did. That is when the mandatory testing begins as well. Ms. Bradberry asked if all the students were able to catch on and work with the technology. The teachers answered absolutely! And, in many instances, do better than the teachers with the new technology. Students actually help each other and collaborate which has been a great experience. Mr. Nimmer added when school is fun and the students are engaged, they learn.

### **Consideration of Anderson District Five Recommendation**

Mr. Draisen asked the superintendent, Mr. Tom Wilson, to provide the background information on the candidate before the vote. Mr. Wilson said it was a pleasure to be here tonight and bring forth the recommendation to fill the seat of Ms. Mack who is retiring for health reasons. He continued stating this seat has big shoes to fill since Ms. Mack was a great board member who served and supported District Five for many years. The District Five Board interviewed three candidates for this position and they are proud to bring forth Rev. Johnny Donald. Rev. Donald grew up in this community, graduated from T. L. Hanna High School and has children and grandchildren here. Many principals have called me to say he would make a great board member. Mr. Wilson said Rev. Donald will have to run again in November 2016 because of the way the laws are written. He is committed to that and being elected by the people. We feel good about it and hope you will too. He is here tonight with his wife and will be happy to speak to the Board.

Rev. Dr. Mitchell made a motion that we consider the recommendation coming from District Five and Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion. Ms. Bradberry asked Rev. Donald why he is interest in filling this position and what are his goals. Rev. Donald answered that he works with many young people at his church, his position in the community and his demographic in the church setting, works and interacts with many young people and his key focus is encouraging young people to value education. I can bring that interaction and engage the parents, students, the board, and community so we are on the same page. Ms. Bradberry asked what his number one goal would be for District Five. Rev. Donald said that making sure the children are engaged and not disconnected. He assured the Board he would work for all the students in District Five. After no further discussion, the Anderson County Board of Education gave their unanimous vote of approval for Rev. Johnny Donald to serve on the District Five Board and wished him the luck.

## **Anderson County Alternative School Report**

Mr. Mike Brock gave the report stating there are 68 students attending this year compared to 71 students at this time last year. Mr. Nimmer added that so far this year 11 students have left the Alternative School which is very similar to last year.

## **Administrator's Report**

Joey Nimmer reminded the Board that the December meeting will be held on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Tuckers Restaurant. The traditional holiday dinner will immediately follow.

The South Carolina School Board Association Annual Convention will be held from February 18 through February 21, 2016. It has been our custom to have rooms reserved for everyone and then release those that will not be used. If you know now that you will not be attending, please let us know. The convention will be held in Hilton Head this year.

## **Financial**

Mr. Nimmer referred the Board members to their packets showing tax collections year to date. He stated that we are starting to see ad valorem taxes being collected on real property in October which is a little earlier than normal. The bills for property taxes were delivered in the first week of October. Everyone is remarkably consistent with a couple commercial accounts paying early. District Three continues to be at a higher collection rate because of their fee in lieu booked to their account. The other districts will catch up as the year passes.

Mr. Nimmer referred to the green sheets in the packets which are the assessment totals for the month of October. The report has changed a little bit with additional reporting requirements coming up based on new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) regulations. As these fee in lieu agreements are booked by the county, they are going to have to estimate what the fee in lieu agreements actually cost to put on the books. There is a gray area as to how this will be handled, but it is a requirement that will need to be on the county financial statements. Growth is being booked but also being netted out by fee agreements. At this time, we are very conservative in saying that the assessment totals are fairly flat. We will know what the net effect of these new reporting requirements will be once the audit is finished for the county. I should have more information by the next meeting as to how that is going to play out.

Ms. Bradberry asked how many mills we have now for the entire county. Mr. Nimmer said it will range from location to location. The millage levied is set for each district within the county. Mr. Brock asked when the treasurer will sit down to explain the sales tax and decide how much they will take off the tax bills. Mr. Nimmer said that has already been done for the current year. The three months of collection in place was used and it varied from district to district as to what the net effect was going to be. As the millage is set for 2016, there will be a full year worth of

collection to use to offset the debt service millage on the property tax that every tax payer pays. Collections have been running 20 to 25 percent ahead of projection. It looks like there should be a more significant impact on the debt service millage in 2016. Ms. Bradberry asked if that will be the first time it will come off. Mr. Nimmer answered there was a slight adjustment this year but we only had a third of a year collection and that was really on a partial month in March when the tax was implemented. The full effect will be noted on the 2016 tax bills.

### **New Business**

Ms. 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,

Mr. Mike Brock, Acting Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education  
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.