

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
March 19, 2012

Board Members Present: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Dale Martin, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Ms. Dana Grant, Mr. Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: Dr. Craig Drennon, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Steve Garrison

Call to Order: Mr. Draisen called the meeting to order. Rev. Dr. Mitchell gave the invocation after which everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion to approve, and the Board agreed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes—February 20, 2012 Meeting: Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2012 meeting. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Draisen and Mr. Nimmer welcomed Mental Health Counselor Ms. Renee' Potter and Leadership Anderson members Ms. Arlene Young and Ms. Gale Clinkscales to the meeting. There were no public comments at this time.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Brock reported a total of 118 students attending the Alternative School at present. There is no comparison report from last year. District Four is the supervising district this year. District Two will be the supervising district next year. Ms. Bradberry asked the meaning of withdrawal for rehab. Mr. Nimmer explained a child is ordered by the court system to be removed from the home if there is a substance abuse situation involving the student, parent or both. Ms. Bradberry asked for more information on where children are sent for rehab when they leave the home. Ms. Grant asked if a student graduating at the Alternative School would receive a diploma from their home school. Mr. Nimmer stated the students graduating would receive a diploma from their home school and be counted as a member of the home school graduating class.

Administrator's Report:

A. Mr. Nimmer introduced Ms. Renee' Potter, Anderson County Board of Education's longest tenured Mental Health Counselor. In giving a very informative report Ms. Potter stated she and the other school based counselors agree the problems they are seeing now are much more serious than those seen in the past. Adjusting issues and ADHD situations accounted for a lot of the problems seen in the past. Presently the mental health counselors are seeing more self harm such as cutting, psychiatric and mental health issues, suicidal thoughts, clinical depression, sexual and physical abuse and financial worries. Some students are trying to work to help with family finances. Ms. Potter explained the counselors are seeing homeless children. The counselors are also seeing younger children with pervasive developmental disorders. They have less social skills and a lot of anger. Due to the severity of the problems children face, sessions with the counselors are longer and more frequent. Time is required to connect students with other agencies to make sure they get the help they need. Ms. Potter stressed the fact that all children seen by the counselors must have parent consent before the children can be seen. Some of the agencies that are contacted for help are Marshall Pickens, Anderson Behavioral Services, and home school for children with Medicaid. Mr. Nimmer said that due to more press on the subject, people realize children are victims who need help. He stated he is working with the United Way Vision Counsel on funding recommendations for next year and We Stand for Kids is being considered for funding.

The Board members thanked Ms. Potter for the report.

- B. Filing for the November elections for four of the Board seats will open on August 1, 2012 at noon and close on August 15, 2012 at noon. The seats open this year are Seat 2, Mr. Steve Garrison; Seat 7, Mr. David Draisen; Seat 8, Ms. Brenda Bradberry; and Seat 9, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell.
- C. The Statement of Economic Development must be completed online and by April 15, 2012.
- D. A list of committee assignments is included in the Board packets.
- E. On March 20, 2012, Mr. Nimmer has been asked to go to Columbia with the Anderson County Auditor, Mr. Jacky Hunter and the Anderson County Assessor, Mr. Mike Freeman, to testify before the Economic Sub Committee and the Ways and Means Committee about the impact of potential tax relief proposals. These are the two tax relief programs that deal with removing some of the exemptions from sales tax, rolling back the rate from 6% to 5%, and rolling back the assessment ratios on various classifications of property. An estimate of these changes in revenue would impact local funding for school operations about \$17,000,000 in Anderson County alone and about \$7,500,000 for the county itself. When first proposed it was supposed to be a revenue neutral situation. The additional sales tax would offset the relief for the other property tax, however the way the bill is written at the moment, all the money is held by the state and doesn't come back to the state.

Financial:

- A. **Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that collections are ahead of where they were last year. Everyone has collected what they budgeted. The Board of Economic Advisors did not meet in February but are now meeting every other month. There has been no talk of cuts, and all of the revenue reports show that we are holding steady at 4 ½% to 5% above last years revenue levels.
- B. **Assessment Totals:** Assessment totals are holding steady. Mr. Jacky Hunter informed Mr. Nimmer that 500 affidavits filed for vehicle purchases have been processed. Mr. Nimmer believes there will be a rise in assessment totals next month.

Old Business: Mr. Nimmer plans to meet with the Personnel Committee prior to the April meeting so that full recommendations to replace retiring staff will be ready at that time.

A. ADM Accounts Payable:

- B. **SFS Accounts Payable:** Mr. Martin made the motion to remove the table of accounts payable made at the last meeting. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Brock made the motion to pay the ADM and SFS accounts payable. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously. Mr. Draisen reported the SCSBA Conference was very informative this year. It was noted the State Superintendent did not attend the conference. Mr. Martin was impressed with the presentations presented by the Anderson County School Districts at the conference. Mr. Nimmer gave each Board member a full report of the Anderson County Board of Education Mental Health program.

Meeting Adjourned
Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.

