

Anderson County Board of Education  
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621  
January 20, 2015

**Oath of Office for elected Board members:** Chairman David Draisen called the board members that were elected to serve another term, Mike Brock, Gary Burgess, Dana Grant, Dale Martin and the newly elected board member Nakia Davis to be sworn in and take the Oath of Office.

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Mitchell seconded motion and the agenda was approved with a unanimous vote.

**Election of Board Officers for Calendar Year 2015**

Dr. Gary Burgess nominated Mr. David Draisen to continue to serve as the Chairman of the Board for the year 2015, seconded by Ms. Brenda Bradberry and was followed by a unanimous vote.

Reverend Mitchell made the motion to nominate Ms. Brenda Bradberry to serve as Vice- Chair of the Board, seconded by Dr. Burgess. Mr. Brock moved that the nomination be closed and approved the nomination unanimously.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to nominate Dr. Gary Burgess to serve as Secretary for the calendar year 2015 and Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve.

**Approval of Minutes – December 15, 2014 Board Meeting**

Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Mr. Mike Brock. With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes of the December 2014 meeting.

### **Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period**

No representatives from the public were present at the Board meeting.

### **Presentation by Anderson School District One**

Superintendent David Havird, Mrs. Kristen Hearne, Coordinator of Digital Learning, and two District One students provided information on the roll-out and implementation of iPads throughout District One. Mr. Havird thanked the Board members for being so supportive of the bond issue last year. He emphasized how much he values the trust and confidence shown to his schools and staff to present this new technology. Mr. Havird believes iPads will allow for classroom lessons and homework assignments that better engage and motivate students, and also help students work on their own. The top three benefits are formative assessments, collaboration and creativity. This technology has helped improve the graduation rate and career readiness as well.

Ms. Hearne also thanked the Board. The first iPads were given to the high schools on August 20, 2014 and the last group to Hunt Meadows Elementary School. Approximately, 9,000 are used by students in 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in K through 2<sup>nd</sup> use them in the classroom. iPads will allow for classroom lessons and homework assignments that better engage and motivate students, and also help students work on their own. In October they celebrated “APPToberfest” in which many schools came together to demonstrate what the new technology is capable of and to demonstrate to parents. Ms. Hearne showed a video of students receiving their iPads and the joy on their faces. It also showed students interacting in classrooms with technology, making presentation, taking notes. She believes strongly that focus, creativity, and organizational skills have improved. Their new slogan is Discover – Transform – Excel.

Ricardo Hernandez, the first student to speak, shared how he had helped a young student to speak English through the use of the iPad. He also showed some of his class notes from calculus. Next, Jacob Roach, talked about how he considered the iPad the ultimate resource. It has replaced the need to carry heavy books and trips to the library.

Ms. Bradberry asked if students were more motivated. Ms. Hearne answered that they definitely are and extended an invitation to the Board to visit any District One school to see the difference the iPads have made in learning. Mr. Havird added the huge impact the new technology has made on the Special Ed students. He has also been very impressed with the teachers and staff incredible progress over the past four months.

Ms. Grant asked about text books on the iPad. Mr. Havird said it is actually less expensive to use digital books rather than paper books. Digital books also cut down copying costs. Ms.

Bradberry asked how often digital books are updated. Mr. Havird said most every year.

Page 3 of 5

Mr. Brock asked how does this relate to the Career Center and Ricardo stated he uses it every day.

Ms. Bradberry mentioned that she would like a report from each school district explaining how they plan to spend the sales tax revenue. Mr. Havird said the meeting minutes from District One will show the proposed projects temporarily. Once things are rolled out in June, he will be able to provide an actual report.

Dr. Burgess questioned how underprivileged children are reading with iPads. Mr. Havird feels they are doing better since the new technology holds their attention more, therefore, they read more. Mr. Upton shared from his personal knowledge that children are learning to read better without even knowing it. Ms. Hearne added that all K4 classrooms have iPads and there are many apps for this age group to read. They are having fun and learning at the same time. The High School students really enjoy using the iPads which force them to read. Many of our students collaborated and helped the teachers and staff who were not as tech savvy.

Mr. Draisen asked if they used the Cloud to do back up. Mr. Havird answered they do.

### **Anderson County Alternative School Report**

Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that enrollment is 98 students at the Alternative School compared to 101 last year at this time. He then turned it over to Mr. Dillingham. Ms. Bradberry expressed an interest in knowing the number of students to succeed, those that return to their home school, and those that do not. She would like to have the stats listed on the back of the report the way it used to be. Mr. Dillingham stated the information was very difficult and cumbersome to pull from PowerSchool. Ms. Bradberry reminded him he has less than 100 students to keep up with. She also asked what districts had students successfully return to their home school and he answered 11 students but no students from District Four. She asked if any students had dropped out. Mr. Dillingham stated that student attendance is always a struggle and he has referred many to court through the County Board.

### **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Nimmer began with the announcement that Kim Davenport, the Board's secretary, was in the ICU of AnMed Hospital. He asked everyone to keep her in their prayers. The Board asked that we let them know how she is doing.

Mr. Nimmer announced the Annual Convention for the School Board Association will be held from February 19 -22. Reservations have been made for Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Mike Upton, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. David Draisen and Mr. Nimmer. If there is any further

information he will pass it along or will discuss it at the February 16<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

Page 4 of 5

Mr. Nimmer let the Board know he attended the first planning session for the Career Center. They are in the process of choosing the architecture firm and site selection near the Tri-County Technical College Campus in Anderson. Dr. Burgess questioned whether it is useful to be there and Mr. Nimmer felt it was and that a decision would be made soon. Board members and Superintendents make up the planning committee. Dr. Burgess has who the chairman was. Mr. Nimmer responded that there is no official chairperson but rather the meetings are hosted.

Mr. Draisen mentioned a letter from District Five welcoming anyone interested to sit in on all planning meetings. District Three sent the same message by email and he is waiting on District Four. Mr. Nimmer will report monthly with any updates.

Lastly, Mr. Nimmer announced that everyone on the County Board must complete the annual statement of economic interest by March 30, 2015. [www.http//ethics.sc.gov](http://ethics.sc.gov)

## **Financial**

Mr. Nimmer stated that year-to-date tax collection through December information was in the packet. Tax revenue is beginning to flow heavily with District Four, that was behind is now eased ahead which is normal since they collect more from local funds - Everyone is about a percentage point ahead of where they were last year at this time. Probably the improved economy and people paying on time.

Green sheets – assessed value is unchanged at 689 thousand dollars per mill. Growth holding fairly steady. Will have the final numbers at the end of January following all appeals.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **New Business**

Dr. Burgess requested a thank you note be sent to Mr. David Havird for presenting at tonight's meeting. The new technology presentation was very impressive. Rev. Mitchell asked that notes be sent to the students as well.

Ms. Bradberry would like each district to report in February or March how they will spend the sales tax money. Mr. Nimmer suggested March or April would be better as the tax becomes effective March 1, 2015. Ms. Bradberry is concerned that the board will not have this information prior to budget time. Mr. Nimmer informed the County Board that the school districts will keep their own records and that all sales tax revenues will be accounted for as designated funds.

Ms. Bradberry made a motion to send letter to all districts requesting information on how they will spend the money they receive from the local option sales tax by the April 20, 2015 meeting. Dr. Burgess seconded and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Bradberry brought up a concern regarding overcrowding on the District Five school buses transporting students from campus to campus. She witnessed students standing on the buses due to overcrowding and feels this is unsafe. Following discussion, it was determined that Ms. Bradberry should contact Anderson School District Five as a concerned citizen to communicate the bus overcrowding issue.

Ms. Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills. Mr. Martin seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Nimmer presented the 2015 calendar year schedule for County Board meetings. Dr. Burgess made a motion to approve, Mr. Upton seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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.