

**Anderson County Board of Education**  
**907 North Main Street, Suite 202,**  
**Anderson, South Carolina 29621**  
**June 20, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order. The 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 June, 2016 meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Mike Brock, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mr. Mike Upton, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

The following board members were unable to attend: Mr. Nakia Davis, Ms. Dana Grant, and Mr. Dale Martin.

**Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Mike Upton made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Dr. Gary Burgess. With a unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2016 Board Meeting**

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the minutes from the May meeting and was seconded by Dr. Rev. Rufus Mitchell. With a unanimous vote, the May 16, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

**Consideration of Anderson School District Four Bond Issue**

Mr. Larry Young, Director of Finance, presented the bond issues to the Anderson County Board of Education at the May 16, 2016 meeting. With no further discussion, questions, or changes, a motion was made by Mr. Mike Upton to approve the Anderson School District Four Bond Issue. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brenda Bradberry and with a unanimous vote, the bond issue was approved.

The Board took a moment to recognize Mr. Young for his 22 years of service with the school districts as he will be retiring on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Consideration of the Anderson County Board of Education Budget for 2016-17**

Budget Committee Chair Brenda Bradberry advised that the County Board and Anderson School District Five had decided to continue to utilize the professional services of the three mental health counselors employed by the Anderson County Board office in its present structure. The Board will also be hiring an additional mental health counselor for Anderson School District Two. With this additional

position it will be necessary to pledge \$24,700 from the fund balance in order to balance the budget. Board employees will receive a 2% salary increase which matches what district employees across the county are receiving. There will be a slight adjustment to the travel reimbursements to account for the price increases we have incurred primarily for attending the school board association events. There will be no millage increase with the very minor adjustments to 2015-16 budget.

Ms. Bradberry asked how the other members felt about adding an additional mental health position for Anderson School District Two. Dr. Rev. Rufus Mitchell said "If there is a need, then I think we should go ahead and add it". Mr. Brock and Mr. Draisen agreed. Vote to approve was unanimous on recommendation from the County Board Budget Committee.

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

Mr. Nimmer referenced the year-end report that was included in their package showing the Alternative School's attendance numbers had ended at full capacity. This should alleviate the fear of some that the school is not being utilized. Ms. Bradberry asked about the school's financial situation and Mr. Nimmer reminded everyone that we have not yet closed the year. The Alternative School, as well as the County Board, are back loaded on some of the revenue and we will continue to receive funds until the end of the fiscal year. With anticipated funds from state and local districts, it is projected we will add an additional \$35,000 to \$40,000 to the fund balance this year. We have a budget in place that will add about \$90,000 to it next year. Ms. Bradberry asked how many of the 130 students would be back next year. Mr. Nimmer stated that is a difficult question to answer since some will go back, some may return to their home schools, and those that are 17 will make the choice on their own unless they are court ordered to attend.

Ms. Bradberry also asked if there was anyone working during the summer months at the Alternative School. Mr. Nimmer answered the teachers, teaching assistants, and bus drivers are 190 day employees. A couple of the teaching assistants do extra custodial duties as well. They have a contract for 220 days as does the guidance counselor. There are only 2 people that are 240 day employees.

Dr. Burgess noted, after looking at the ethnicity and gender, that there are 20 black females at the Alternative School which account for 65% attending. Considering they only make up 15% or less of the overall county population, Dr. Burgess requested that Mr. Nimmer ask Mr. Dillingham what is going on with these girls. Is it a mental health issue or are they incorrigible? Mr. Nimmer said that black males and females are just half of the population. Another year there were more white males enrolled, so it may just depend on the offenses of each student which range from drug offenses, gang activities, truancy, etc.

### **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Nimmer told the board that he really enjoyed attending the Moving Forward Together Summit in Columbia earlier this month with Dr. Burgess and two of the mental health counselors. We provided an informative presentation on our school based mental health program, how it came to be, and how we use it currently. Two counselors, Nancy Allen and Jan Martin, also attended to take part in the break-out sessions and explain how our program is delivered. The summit was well represented with law enforcement officials, educators, clergy members, and many community partnerships and programs attended as presenters. Dr. Burgess, who served as Chairman of the Steering Committee

for the summit, said he hoped this was going to become an annual event. Mr. Nimmer was pleasantly surprised with the great turnout with at least 500 attendees which was huge considering the end of year challenges with school staff development activities and many family vacations. Mr. Nimmer thanked Dr. Burgess for inviting them and will look forward to attending again next year.

Mr. Nimmer reminded the members with seats coming up for re-election that filing will open at noon on August 1, 2016. Those board members are: Seat 2 - Mike Upton; Seat 7 - David Draisen; Seat 8 - Brenda Bradberry; Seat 9 - Rev. Rufus Mitchell. The filing end date is noon on August 15, 2016.

## **Financial**

**Tax Collection:** Mr. Nimmer reported that the year-to-date tax collections actual vs. budget are very close to reaching or going over the 100% mark of collecting what was budgeted. It has been several years since this has happened. He reminded everyone that the Alternative School and the Anderson County Board receive a good portion of their money at the end of June and this gap will continue to close throughout the month.

**Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer stated that the total assessed value of a mil is \$708,192,766.00. If you divide this number by 1,000, it will give you the value of a mil county-wide. That is what we look at on our month-to-month analysis and that number has changed very little since property growth was posted in the fall of last year. We have been able to maintain that level primarily because new automobile sales have been strong enough to offset the depreciation as it posts. We are also seeing a solid year as far as property construction goes. This is only posted once a year and that will happen in the fall. The unfortunate thing is that many homes that are owner occupied do not have any impact on tax revenue for the school districts.

## **New Business**

A motion was made by Ms. Bradberry to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Rev. Dr. Mitchell and was followed by a unanimous vote.

## **Adjourn**

With no further business at hand, Mr. Draisen adjourned the meeting.

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.

## Discussion:

After the meeting was adjourned, Ms. Bradberry requested to see the mental health counselor's contracts. Mr. Nimmer told her they are at-will employees with no contracts. She then asked to see the individual schedules for each counselor. For instance, where they are supposed to be each day, how long they spend at each school, and how long it takes to drive there. She asked who evaluates them and Mr. Nimmer answered that he does. Mr. Upton asked if during the evaluation process we get any feedback from the principals. Yes, Mr. Nimmer stated that he requests information from each principal through email though some responses are very short with a one word – great. If the response is not good, he follows up with them in more detail. Mr. Upton would like to know how the responses are from District Five compared to the other districts. Mr. Nimmer said District Five was held up because of their scheduled meetings with our board members, however, he will be meeting with all the principals together to go over everything late in July and then again prior to school starting in August. Ms. Bradberry asked for a report showing how many students they have seen at each school. Mr. Nimmer said that information is recorded by Alicia here in our office and he will be able to provide that as well.