

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
April 20, 2009 6:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Brenda Bradberry, Jeff Kubu, David Draisen, Mike Brock, Dale Martin, Mike Gray, Steve Garrison and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: Randy Price, Rev. Dr. Mitchell

Call to Order: Mr. Draisen called the meeting to order. Ms. Bradberry presented the invocation. Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve the agenda. Mike Gray seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes—March 16, 2009: Mr. Gray made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections, and Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: There were no visitors and no public comments.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Brock reported the enrollment at present is 124 students, up about 5 students from the last report. Mr. Nimmer said this is the second year the resource special education students, not self-contained students, have been admitted to the Alternative School. Mr. Draisen confirmed the Alternative School does Anderson County a big service by keeping children off the streets and in school. Mr. Nimmer explained the districts want to place students in the Alternative School as opposed to a student being expelled in order to be enrolled. Ms. Bradberry said the Alternative School has to approve a student for enrollment. Mr. Kubu believed a student should be expelled in order to be accepted into the Alternative School. Mr. Nimmer said the only exception to the expulsion at the present time is a court ordered placement.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer reported:

- A. To date, there has been no resolution to the ongoing debate over federal stimulus dollars and what the governor and general assembly will ultimately decide to do concerning this money. The House has been on furlough for the past two weeks and will reconvene on April 21st for the first time since April 6th. The Senate was out for one week on furlough. The Finance Committee has passed a preliminary budget that does include the \$350,000,000 in federal stimulus dollars. A big portion of that is in education but that has not yet been debated on the Senate floor.

- B.** Mr. Nimmer will be attending a grant information workshop sponsored by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators, which deals with stimulus funds available in grant form. These are federal dollars that can be applied for that will go directly to the individual applicants. The grants will not come through the State.
- C.** The manual project the students at Clemson are working on is drawing to a close after receiving information requested from Mr. Nimmer. They expect to have the final draft to the County Board for review by the end of April.
- D.** A House bill 3589, local legislation dealing with the authority of the County Board, has passed both the House and Senate. Every district is now required to supply the County Board with a detailed line item budget. Also, this requires the County Board to publish on their website the names and salary of any administrator in the county who makes \$50,000 or more, which is the threshold, set by the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. That has passed both houses of the general assembly and it has been sent to the governor.
- E.** There has been no further contact with the city regarding the sale of the Millard G. Smith building other than the information received stating there are no plans to demolish the building.
- F.** After talking to the superintendents about grant writers, Mr. Nimmer found they are interested, but not sure about money available for funding at this time. This would be a cost sharing among districts endeavor. The salary for a grant writer ranges from \$35,000 to \$85,000, depending on location. In addition, another 30% has to be added for associated costs. Mr. Gray asked if it could be possible to write a grant for the County Board. Mr. Nimmer said he believed it would be a possibility. In writing a grant when he was at Clemson University, Mr. Nimmer discovered how important it is to show that a position funded by a grant could be continued after the grant money was exhausted. Ms. Bradberry said she wanted to know if the Budget Committee could consider the County Board hiring a grant writer to help the districts that did not have an in house grant writer if money was available. Mr. Garrison said it would only be fair to share all knowledge about the length of time money would be available to fund a grant writer with applicants. Mr. Kubu made the motion to investigate hiring a grant writer and use fund balance money to get the position in place. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion. The vote carried with Mr. Kubu, Mr. Draisen, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Gray, Ms. Bradberry and Mr. Martin voting to approve the motion while Mr. Brock abstained from voting.

G. Financial:

- A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer reported tax collections are consistent among the districts at this time, as they were last month. The Anderson County Treasurer has provided information that collections are a little behind as expected given the economy.

Assessment Totals: The assessment totals held steady with no decline this month, indicating more automobiles were sold this month than in previous months.

Old Business:

- A.** Ms. Bradberry, chairman of the Budget Committee, presented the format that all school districts will be asked to follow when submitting their 2009-10 budgets. Mr. Nimmer explained the format is in Excel format, making it easier for the districts to enter data in digital format. Since a lot is being requested of the districts and they are dealing with budget cuts, Ms. Bradberry expressed the desire to get the format to the districts early and ask for the submission deadline to be June 12, 2009. Ms. Bradberry made the recommendation on behalf of the Budget Committee to adopt the format to send to districts. Mr. Kubu said he would also like to recommend the districts return the hard copy pages to the County Board in the order they are presented. Mr. Garrison asked that interest income from investments be reported and added as item 23. The motion for the recommendation was carried with Mr. Garrison, Ms. Bradberry, Mr. Kubu, Mr. Brock, Mr. Gray and Mr. Draisen voting in favor. Mr. Martin abstained from voting.
- B.** Mr. Gray reported meeting with the Strom Thurmond Institute and asked them not to include as much information concerning test scores. The tax base proposed for each of the districts was discussed with Jacky Hunter, Anderson County Auditor and Mike Freeman, Anderson County Assessor who agreed the numbers were very accurate. Mr. Gray said he believed the Strom Thurmond Institute will be able to present their findings in May and a meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 6, 2009.

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to pay both the ADM accounts payable and the School Food Service accounts payable. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

Mr. Kubu requested bills be listed alphabetically by budget item and a comparison of expenditures with the budget amount for each item.

C. Mr. Nimmer was congratulated for being named the Administrator of the Year for the Upstate Association of Educational Office Professionals for 2008-09.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.

