

**MINUTES**  
**ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
August 20, 2007

**Board Members Present:** Randy Price, David Draisen, Mike Brock, Reverend Dr. Rufus Mitchell, John Sherard, Steve Garrison, Jeff Kubu and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

**Board Members Absent:** Brenda Bradberry and Mike Gray

**Others Present:** Mr. Hugh Smith, Mr. Keith Martin, Ms. Betty Bagley, Mr. David Brooks, Mr. Randolph Dillingham, Mr. Dan McLeod

**Call to Order:** Mr. Price called the meeting to order. Rev. Dr. Mitchell presented the invocation. Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Garrison moved to approve the agenda, Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes, July 2, 2007 Budget Workshop Meeting:** Mr. Kubu made the motion to approve the July 2, 2007 minutes as presented. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

**Approval of Minutes, July 9, 2007 Monthly Board Meeting:** Mr. Garrison moved to approve the minutes for the July 9, 2007 Board meeting, Mr. Brock seconded, and the board unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

**Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period:** Mr. Price welcomed the visitors.

**Recognition of Ms. Betty Bagley as South Carolina Superintendent of the Year:** Mr. Price presented Ms. Bagley with a congratulatory plaque to celebrate being selected South Carolina Superintendent of the Year. He thanked everyone who attended the drop-in for Ms. Bagley and everyone who helped with the preparations.

**District Five General Obligation Bonds and Bond Anticipation Note:** Mr. Dan McLeod presented the resolution including bond and bond interest. Mr. Brooks informed the Board that the bond would be applied to projects and would pay on the interest that had been accrued on the bonds. Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve, Mr. Kubu seconded, and the Board agreed unanimously.

**District Three 8% Bond Issue:** Mr. Dan McLeod presented School District Three's Resolution which they approved in their July meeting for the new Flat Rock Elementary School presently under construction. After a brief discussion Rev. Dr. Mitchell made the motion to approve, Mr. Brock seconded, and the Board voted all in favor.

**Personnel Committee Report:** Mr. Garrison reported the Personnel Committee along with Ms. Renee' Potter met on August 6, 2007, and interviewed eight candidates for the position of a new full time Mental Health counselor. The committee agreed unanimously to recommend Ms. Kari-Beth Harrison as the new counselor whose start date would be August 21, 2007.

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Rev. Dr. Mitchell moved to approve the recommendation, Mr. Draisen seconded, and the Board approved unanimously.

**Anderson County Alternative School report:** Mr. Dillingham stated he was expecting to start the school year with around 70 students with an anticipated maximum of 130 students during the year. Mr. Price asked about the process used directing students to the Alternative School. Mr. Dillingham gave the following report:

- (1) A School District recommends a student be sent to the Alternative School after expulsion.
- (2) The District notifies the Alternative School with a letter.
- (3) The parent calls the Alternative School and schedules an interview and orientation for the student.
- (4) The student is enrolled on the following Monday, assuming all paperwork and records are in order.
- (5) After the summer, some students return to public school upon recommendation from Mr. Dillingham based upon behavior and grades.
- (6) It is then up to the public school to make the decision to allow or not to allow the student to return.

A discussion followed with the Board inquiring about the tracking of students and their progress after leaving the Alternative School. Mr. Dillingham said it would be difficult, but it could be done. In the past, the students have not been tracked after they returned to their original schools. Rev. Dr. Mitchell asked what was available for students expelled from the Alternative School. Mr. Dillingham reported that some routes available were home schooling and private schools. Mr. Price asked about the drop out rate. Mr. Kubu said it would be good to know about the success stories of the graduates from the Alternative School. Mr. Dillingham informed the Board that every child could not be saved, but many are turned around and benefit from attending the Alternative School. Mr. Price suggested Mr. Nimmer and Mr. Dillingham collaborate on tracking the Alternative School students after graduation from the Alternative School.

Mr. Dillingham expressed his gratitude to Mr. Nimmer for establishing direct deposit for the employees of the Alternative School.

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Nimmer presented the following information:

- Included new 2007-08 school calendar in packet
- Presented an updated proof of the plaque naming the building for Millard Smith
- Informed the Board of the dedication ceremony for September 17, 2007 at 5 p.m.
- Had talked to Ms. Brenda Bradberry and reported she was doing well after surgery
- The building remodeling was completed.
- Paychex, Inc. has been successfully implemented.
- Special thanks to those who made preparations for Ms. Bagley's drop-in.
- Pat Moore has resigned to accept a position as a guidance counselor at Hart County Elementary School. The Attendance Director's position will soon be posted.

The Board requested a fact sheet for each employee of the County Board so that they could be more informed of the employees, their families, and interests.

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**Financial: Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget and Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer noted that there are still some collections that will be booked in July and August. The assessment totals have maintained well. We closed the year increasing our fund balance by approximately \$90,000. This includes having the \$58,000 set aside for the consolidation study. Mr. Garrison said that the fund balance is usually 15% of the budget and that there is enough money in fund balance to support another mental health counselor. Mr. Nimmer stated that he is working on a plan to involve the school districts in reimbursement for the services of the mental health counselors. The counselors in the schools often have many jobs other than counseling, such as being testing coordinators. The County board is supplementing those counselors by providing mental health services for the schools. A discussion followed concerning the responsibilities of the Board as far as providing mental health services since the grant that originally funded this service is no longer available. Mr. Price reminded the Board that the primary function of the Board is still fiscal services.

**Old Business:** Mr. Price expressed concern that any Board member could sign the claims instead of specific Board members being designated for this task. Mr. Garrison said that since the claims are for money being received instead of money being spent, any member being elected would be an appropriate signature. Mr. Nimmer suggested that the executive committee be the first contacted for a signature.

**New Business:**

A. Mr. Garrison made the motion to pay ADM and SFS accounts payable. Mr. Brock

seconded the motion and the board agreed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Draisen, Secretary, Anderson County Board of Education

This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.