

MINUTES
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
August 18, 2008

Board Members Present: John Sherard, Brenda Bradberry, David Draisen, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mike Brock, Jeff Kubu, Steve Garrison and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: Randy Price, Mike Gray

Call to Order: Mr. Draisen 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. Kubu made the motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Corrections had been made since mailing the minutes to the Board members. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons/Public Comment Period: No visitors were present.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Brock reported 57 students enrolled at the beginning of this school year. Parents of Alternative School students from Anderson School District Two met with Mr. Dillingham and requested their children be returned to regular public school. The students could not be returned to public school because of behavior problems. It was noted the Alternative School has to release the student before he or she can return to their previous schools. New teachers for the Alternative School this year are Beth Croft, Findley Smith, and Kristin Cook. Mr. Kubu asked if a child could go to the Alternative School without being expelled. Mr. Nimmer explained a child could only be counted as a student in one district, and the Alternative School was created as a separate district with separate funding. Mr. Brock reported the Alternative School is in the process of tracing former students and their progress. Mr. Garrison inquired about physical education at the Alternative School. Mr. Nimmer answered the boot camp was their form of physical education. Mr. Garrison introduced a program, Midnight Golf, which provides scholarships for inner city children to learn to play golf. Through this program many students have found direction and earned scholarships to college. He stated he would be willing to help set up a similar program at the Alt School. First Tee was mentioned as a similar program. Mr. Brock said some of the students at the Alternative School who do well are rewarded with lunch at Ryan's.

Administrator's Report-Stephen J. Nimmer:

1. The Chamber of Commerce sent Board members an invitation to the Economic Development Summit on Thursday, August 21, from 8:30 to 12 noon.
2. All incumbents on the County Board have filed for the November election with no opposition. These members are Brenda Bradberry, Steve Garrison, David Draisen, and Rev. Dr. Mitchell.
3. Approximately seventy applications have been received for the Attendance Director position. Mr. Nimmer's goal is to have someone in this position within the next four weeks.

4. Lisa Wilson, mental health counselor, has taken another job in North Carolina. This position will be posted and filled in the near future. The Personnel Committee consists of Steve Garrison as chairman, Rev. Dr. Mitchell, John Sherard, and David Draisen and will conduct interviews for both openings.
5. A motion was made and passed at the last meeting to send letters to the valedictorians and salutatorians of Anderson County Schools. The Board agreed that the letters should come from Mr. Draisen as the County Board Chairman.
6. Billboard advertising: More expensive than Mr. Nimmer anticipated. He explained that cost is based on the percentage of population that can be reached in a twenty-eight day period and relative to location. Therefore, the higher the percentage of exposure, the higher volume of traffic, the higher the cost. A 14 ft. by 48 ft. billboard can expect to be seen by 15,000 people. The cost would be \$1,840 for a four month period per billboard. Mr. Nimmer also contacted Charter concerning advertising, but had no response from them at the time of the meeting. A discussion followed concerning the information to be placed on a billboard. Mr. Draisen suggested posting the information on the Board's website, which Mr. Garrison agreed would be the most economical. Mr. Kubu suggested buying an ad in the Chamber of Commerce book which is distributed to businesses. Mr. Brock said real estate agents frequently use this book.
7. Mike Gray was named Conservationist of the Year by the Anderson County Soil and Water Conservation. Mr. Nimmer stated he received scholarship money from the Soil and Water Conservation when he attended college.
8. David Draisen's son has completed basic training and is now at the Marine Naval Reserve Base in New Orleans.

Financial:

- A. **Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer informed the Board the final installment of the Tier III (Act 388) money was received August 11. This was actually 2007-08 money. This put all districts over 100% after receipt of this money. All reimbursement was based on prior year tax invoices. Fund balances should now be adequate moving forward.
- B. **Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer reported dwindling assessment totals due to poor vehicle sales. Gross figures for real estate will not be posted until the middle of September. The millage will be set the first ten days of October based on the completed assessment.

Old Business:

County Board Projects Update:

- A. **Strom Thurmond Update:** Mr. Kubu reported the Strom Thurmond Institute representatives gave the Study Committee a rough draft of their findings so far. They will be checking mapping systems in the future and how it will affect the tax base for Anderson County. Mr. Garrison asked them to look at the pros and cons of shared services, special education programs and subcontracting work. The Institute was asked to request a list from each district and rank services according to need. The Strom Thurmond Institute presented the Study Committee a report on the estimated percentage of residential and rural revenue by district, total population per district, property per pupil, and theoretical value of a mil. Mr. Kubu asked if the Institute would be able to use this information in other places for other studies at the Board's expense. Mr. Nimmer said he would review the contract and discuss this with the Strom Thurmond Institute.

- B. Mr. Draisen was asked at the last Board meeting to send a letter to the Districts concerning the amount of money being sent to the classrooms which he did. Other letters were sent stating there would be revisions in the format of information requested by the Board for all Districts to follow. Mr. Kubu made the motion that all future correspondence to the Districts on behalf of the Board be seen by the Board members before being sent. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.
- C. Ms. Bradberry, chairman of the Budget Committee, called a meeting for September 8, 2008, at 4 p.m. and asked Mr. Nimmer to create a format for districts to use when planning their budgets for the Board's review. Some of the articles to be included are: (1) employee salaries, (2) administrative salaries, and (3) names of administration.

New Business:

ADM and SFS Accounts Payable: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to pay the bills. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded and the Board approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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