

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
October 17, 2011

Board Members Present: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Ms. Dana Grant, Mr. Dale Martin, Dr. Gary Burgess, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, Mr. Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: Dr. Craig Drennon, Mr. Steve Garrison

Call to Order: Mr. Draisen called the meeting to order. Rev. Dr. Mitchell gave the invocation after which everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes—September 19, 2011: Mr. Martin made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Draisen welcomed visitors Mr. Bill Baker, Ms. Liz Carey, Mr. Tom Beckwith, Ms. Terry Martin, Mr. Tom Chapman, Mr. Mike McMahan, Mr. Jim Lusk and Mr. Dan McLeod to the meeting.

Anderson School District Two Bond Issue: Mr. Brock made the motion to approve the bond issue for Anderson School District Two. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion. During discussion, Mr. Chapman, Superintendent of Anderson School District Two, expressed the need for replacing the cafeteria at the Belton-Honea Path High School. The cafeteria was built in 1966 and no longer meets the needs of the students because of the limited size of the cafeteria and logistical issues. Because of these problems all students cannot get their meals before their next class begins. The existing cafeteria will be renovated into three classrooms. Another initiative being considered is the outdated physical education facilities of Honea Path Middle School which was built in the 1950's. Mr. Chapman stated he and the District Two Board of Trustees are proposing increasing the space for updated showers, bathroom facilities, dressing areas and lockers for the physical education department. Included in this proposal would be modernizing the front office to create proper entrance and security. The estimated total cost of all these proposed renovations, additions and updates is approximately \$6.6million. The 8% money would provide approximately \$4.15million. The renovations at the middle school are estimated to require \$1.85million and would come out of fund balance money over a two year period. He believed they could do this and maintain a fund balance recommended by the auditors. Bids on the project would probably be acquired in March 2012 and the actual work would begin summer 2012. Projects would be expected to be completed summer 2013. Mr. Chapman informed the Board the 8% money had not been used for eleven years.

Discussion: Ms. Bradberry asked how big fund balance is at this time and how much did it grow this year. Mr. Chapman answered that it is about \$5.5million presently and grew about \$800,000. Ms. Bradberry asked how long it would take to get it back to present balance. Mr. Chapman stressed that since they are receiving \$3.5million less this year in state money since the recession started, they are working within their means and they can maintain their fund balance at the level suggested by the auditors.

Dr. Burgess stated he did not have enough information before voting on this bond issue. Mr. Chapman replied that District Two is legally bound to the resolution and could spend no more

money than specified by the resolution. He invited the Board to visit anytime to evaluate the need for updates to the older buildings and facilities.

Ms. Bradberry asked Mr. McLeod the definition of the catch phrase "other purposes authorized by the School Board Act". Mr. McLeod explained it is the "School Bond Act". That is the statutory authorization for the school districts to issue bonds. This includes any other capital improvements. In the event bids come in less than anticipated, the school district would be authorized to spend money on any other capital projects. Ms. Bradberry asked District Two to inform the Board of Education if less money is spent than anticipated. She expressed her desire to see any excess money put back into fund balance. Mr. Chapman assured Ms. Bradberry that is their goal. Dr. Burgess explained he would feel better as a County Board Member if he had actually walked through the schools.

Mr. Beckwith asked to be heard at this time to which the Board agreed. He stated he was allowed to tour both facilities and agreed the cafeteria concerns are major but had not seen enough to know this will answer the needs when the new facility is built. He believes this needs to be reviewed. He did not want a facility go in and not accomplish the objectives to get the students through this cafeteria. Mr. Beckwith wanted more information. Mr. Draisen asked Mr. Beckwith to make his comments during the Public Comment Period of the meeting when he has comments to make in the future. Mr. Chapman commented the District Two Board members who are elected have the responsibility to oversee these projects and along with administration make decisions with the best interests of the school and students in mind. Mr. Draisen expressed his opinion that the Board would not only do what was in the students' best interest, but the taxpayers' as well. In response to Ms. Bradberry's question if all students are required to take physical education at the middle school, Mr. Chapman replied it is a requirement by state law.

The motion was passed with six Board members voting yea. Dr. Gary Burgess opposed the motion. Mr. Chapman expressed his appreciation.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Brock reported there are presently 30 students in middle school and 39 students in high school attending the Alternative School making a total of 69 students. There were 70 students attending the Alternative School October 18, 2010. Ms. Grant asked what happens to the students who leave the Alternative School during the school year. Mr. Brock explained some move out of the county, parents take the children out of school, and if they do not adhere to the rules of the Alternative School they are expelled from the school.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer reported:

- A. Richard Lollis, husband of the former County Board secretary, passed away and services are October 18, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.
- B. The State Board of Economic Advisors issued the revenue report for the state for July and August. Revenue grew from the period July 2010 to the end of July 2011 at 1.7% and it grew 5.8% in August. The base student cost was adjusted based on increased revenue from last year.
- C. Ms. Pruitt and Mr. Nimmer completed annual school visits for Districts One through Four. We deal with truancy issues and how they move from school level to court level. The truancy rates in Anderson County and the state have dropped.
- D. Mr. Garrison informed Mr. Nimmer the tentative meeting date of the Education Improvement Committee is the first week in December to be determined at a later date.

Financial:

- A. **Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Collections are on target for this time of year. Property tax relief (Tier 3) payments will start in October for fiscal year 2011-12. Collection rates are fairly consistent for this time of year and should continue given the good report from the South Carolina board of Economic Advisors.

- B. Assessment Totals:** There was a slight dip in September but that is normal this time of year as some of last minute appeals are handled prior to tax bills going out or after tax bills go out. The growth for the calendar year 2010 will be added during October.

Old Business:

New Business: Dr. Burgess made a motion the school districts give a month's notice to the County Board members for investigation of and visitation to the schools prior to presenting a bond resolution to the Board. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion. Ms. Grant asked if the presentation made by a district had to be voted on the night of presentation or could the vote be postponed to acquire more information. Mr. Draisen stated the vote could be postponed. The Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.

ADM Accounts Payable:

B. SFS Accounts Payable: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve both the County Board accounts payable and the School Food Service accounts payable. Dr. Burgess seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned
Respectfully submitted,

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

