

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
September 21, 2009

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

Board Members Absent: Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell

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

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda with an amendment to include the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes—August 17, 2009 Meeting: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously agreed.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Draisen welcomed the visitors: Ms. Betty Bagley, Mr. Trip Dukes, Mr. Rick Bradshaw, Mr. Paul Talmadge, Ms. Allison Schaum and Ms. Margaret Mack.

Presentation of Farm to School Program: Ms. Schaum expressed thanks to the Board members for supporting the farm to school program which started two years ago and has since been very successful and a great learning opportunity for the Anderson County children. Participating farmers have expanded their operations in order to accommodate the demand for food for schools. The program has been featured in the “Living in South Carolina” magazine.

Presentation of Pilot Program for Alternative School: Ms. Bagley explained the Transfer-in-Lieu of Expulsion proposal as a program designed to give schools of Anderson County an opportunity to transfer disruptive students from the school without expulsion. She also informed the Board members having an expulsion on a student’s permanent record could prevent him or her from getting into college. Ms. Bagley explained Anderson School District Five would like to be the pilot program for the Transfer-in-Lieu of Expulsion proposal since the other four districts did not want to participate at this time. Mr. Dukes presented the information that Anderson County is the only county in the state not using this program. Mr. Kubu recommended sending a letter to the school districts stating the County Board approved the pilot program of Transfer-in-Lieu of Expulsion. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion. The motion did not pass with Mr. Kubu, Ms. Bradberry and Mr. Gray voting yea, and Mr. Martin, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Brock, Mr. Price, and Mr. Draisen voting nay.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Brock reported a present enrollment of 68 students at the Alternative School. Mr. Price stated District Four is already applying in house the program Ms. Bagley is proposing. Mr. Draisen said Mr. Brock can still vote for the proposal at the Alternative School Board meeting. Mr. Nimmer stated the Alternative School’s maximum enrollment is 138. Anderson School District Four is the supervising district for the Alternative School this year.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer reported:

- a. Cuts by the state have been made at 4.04%. The Board previously requested each district report on how the cuts will affect their school district. The South Carolina Department of Education will determine where the cuts will be made. At that time each District Board will implement cuts at the district level. The districts will then provide information on cuts made.
- b. A copy of the revised Board manual and employee manual was given to each Board member for review.

Financial:

Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer explained collections to date have been meager as expected for this time of year. The state money should begin to flow this month.

Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer stated assessment totals held steady with a slight decrease from last month. As new bills are prepared to be sent out in October, the growth that occurred during 2008 will be added back and reflected in the reports. It should be about \$12 to \$13 million net increase in assessed value county wide.

Mr. Price made the motion to move the Executive Session to the last item on the agenda. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

Old Business:

County Board Projects Update: Mr. Garrison made the motion the Board proceed with informing the public of results of the Strom Thurmond Institute study with emphasis that the information is without recommendation. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of the motion. During discussion, Mr. Price made a personal comment explaining his disappointment in how the information from the Strom Thurmond Institute was received at the Anderson County Library.

Mr. Kubu made the recommendation on behalf of the Study Committee for the County Board to send a letter to the District Board Chairmen and the District Superintendents soliciting their input for ideas as to how the County Board can better ensure all students in Anderson County have the same opportunities for equal education. The following are questions the Board would like the districts to answer:

1. What programs are you currently working on with other districts in Anderson County?
2. What are some new programs you believe we could incorporate in the near future?
3. How can the Anderson County Board of Education and school districts break down some of the borders currently existing to ensure all students get the best possible education?
4. What shared services can be combined by all to assure more money in the classroom?
5. How can we utilize tax payers' money to ensure the best educational environment for students?
6. What are the pros and cons of using an equal tax base figure for all five districts?

The Board is asking these reports be returned by January 1, 2010.

Mr. Price seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously.

Ms. Bradberry made a personal comment stating she was disappointed in the way the information from the Strom Thurmond Institute was received at the Anderson County Library.

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.

At this time, Mr. Gray also made a personal comment stating the following:

1. It was implied the County Board selected a night for the meeting when many parents from District Five would not be able to attend which was not the case. The meeting was scheduled according to the availability of the Strom Thurmond Institute, State Legislators, District Superintendents and Board Members.
2. It was implied the County Board had a hidden agenda with a vendetta against District Five which was not the case. Mr. Gray stated he admired District Five, and the question was only equal opportunity for every student in Anderson County.
3. It was implied the Strom Thurmond Institute performed the study but found nothing wrong, therefore the County Board asked them to find something wrong, which never happened.
4. Also false is that children slated to attend the magnum schools being built in District Five would not be able to attend those schools. The children those schools were intended for would still be able to attend.
5. Mr. Gray repeated the study was only about equal education for all Anderson County students.

Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve the job description for the grant writer position. Mr. Price seconded the motion and the motion passed with all members voting yea with the exception of Ms. Bradberry who abstained.

Mr. Garrison, on behalf of the Personnel Committee, made the motion for Mr. Nimmer to initiate the process of filling the grant writer position. Mr. Price seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

Mr. Price commended the Sub Committee for doing an excellent job with the Strom Thurmond Institute.

Executive Session: Mr. Price made the motion to enter executive session. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

During executive session no items were voted on and no decisions were made.

Mr. Price made the motion to end executive session. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

Meeting 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.
Mr. Brock is acting secretary due to Rev. Dr. Mitchell's absence.

