

ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, SC 29625

MINUTES

February 21, 2005 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Steve Garrison, Dr. Keith L. Cole, Phillip M. Brock, Shawn R. McGee, George R. Price, Thomas F. Allen, Brenda D. Bradberry, David Draisen, Rev. Rufus Mitchell, and Millard G. Smith, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: Everyone was present.

Others Present: Alison Glass-Newton, and Sarah Bates, The Anderson Independent-Mail; Daniel McLeod, Jr., McNair Law Firm; David Brooks, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Anderson School District Five; Ed Jean, Elaine Epstein, Ed Heusch, Brantley Jordan and Mary Lee Lollis

Call to Order: Mr. Brock called the meeting to order, read from the scriptures, and led in the pledge of allegiance. Rev. Mitchell gave the invocation. Mr. Brock gave condolences from the Board to Mrs. Bradberry in the death of her father.

Approval of Agenda: Mrs. Bradberry requested that under Section XVII–New Business, Item C be added. On motion by Rev. Mitchell and second by Mr. Allen, the amended agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes– January 10, 2004 Meeting: The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Cole and a second by Mr. Garrison.

Recognition of Media and Others: Mr. Brock welcomed the media and the visitors to the meeting.

Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Board: No one wished to address the Board.

Recognition of Achievement: Mr. Brock congratulated Rev. Mitchell for receiving ninth place in the Religion category and congratulated Mr. Allen for his nomination in the Education category of The Anderson Independent-Mail Leadership Survey 2005.

School District One Request: Mr. Garrison presented the request from School District One to sell old activity buses and made a motion to approve this request. On second by Dr. Cole, the request was approved unanimously.

School District One Bond Resolution Requests: Dr. Cole presented the requests from School District One for a General Obligation Bond Series 2005A

not to exceed \$3,450,000 and a General Obligation Refunding Bond, Series 2005B not to exceed \$4,500,000. The General Obligation Bond will be used to repay the 2004 Bond Anticipation Note of \$2,700,000 with the remaining monies to complete construction projects at Palmetto High School and Cedar Grove Elementary and other small projects. The General Obligation Refunding Bond will be used to repay the General Obligation Bond, Series 2000 to effect a savings. In the event a savings will not be satisfactory, the School District One Board will reject the purchase of the bond. Dr. Cole made a motion to approve these requests and second was made by Mr. Garrison. During discussion Mrs. Bradberry asked if this would increase millage and was informed it could possibly decrease millage. In answer to a question by Mr. Allen, the money from the Series 2005A would be used to complete construction of the freshman academy at Palmetto High School and to also complete the construction at Cedar Grove Elementary. Mr. Price praised the freshman academy concept and its success at Pendleton High School. With vote taken, the requests were approved unanimously with Mr. Brock abstaining as chairman.

School District Five Bond Resolution Request: Mr. McLeod presented the request from School District Five to issue \$7,900,000 General Obligation Bonds, Series 2005, for renovations and additions to T. L. Hanna High School, Westside High School, and Calhoun Street Elementary School (Calhoun Academy of the Arts). Motion to approve the request was made by Mr. Draisen and seconded by Mrs. Bradberry. During discussion Mrs. Bradberry asked if the entire bond would be in the 8% limitation and was assured it would be. Mr. Allen stated the purpose of the 8% money is to provide money in a hurry and felt the 8% money is being somewhat abused. He also voiced his concerns about spending money on an art school rather than a high technical school. Rev. Mitchell asked about renovations to Hanna High School, and Mr. Brooks replied it would be new construction for additional classrooms at Hanna and at Westside. Mr. Price added that the students at both high schools should receive the same class offerings and accommodations. Mrs. Bradberry asked what would happen in an emergency if all the 8% money were depleted. Mr. McLeod responded that expenditures could be shifted to the general operating fund. Mrs. Bradberry then asked how much would millage increase, and Mr. Brooks replied 1 ½ mills with a projected decline in millage the next couple of years. A brief discussion followed. With vote taken, the request was approved with six yeas, two nays and Mr. Brock abstaining as chair.

Legislative Issues: Rep. Ronny Townsend updated the Board on issues before the Legislature this year and reviewed the education related bills. He also gave a report of the recent achievements in South Carolina. On the question of consolidation of the five school districts, Mr. Townsend said that would be the duty of the County Board and that the governor could not consolidate any school districts. Consolidation is based on assessed values and not population. Much would have to be considered including how to delegate bond indebtedness.

Mr. Townsend then addressed the Put Parents In Charge bill and explained this would affect not education monies but the state income tax revenues. He announced on March 3 at Boulevard Baptist Church there will be a debate between Mrs. Tennebaum and Dr. Nielsen concerning this proposed bill.

Duke Energy Recognition and Appreciation: Mr. Brock announced that for the third year Duke Energy had donated \$300,000 for Anderson County Schools. On motion by Mrs. Bradberry and a second by Mr. Allen, a thank-you letter was signed by the Board.

Financial:

A. YTD Revenue from Local Taxes versus Budget as of January 31, 2005—this report was received as information.

B. Fund Balances—this report was received as information.

C. Alternative School: Mr. McGee reported that the enrollment is up and that several students have applied to return to their home schools. Mr. Brock informed the Board that Mr. McGee's term as representative to the Alternative School board has expired according to the agreement. Mrs. Bradberry made a motion to reappoint Mr. McGee to the Alternative School board. With a second by Rev. Mitchell, Mr. McGee was reappointed unanimously.

Executive Session: On motion by Mr. Allen and second by Mr. Draisen, the Board entered into a short executive session for a legal briefing. With no vote taken nor no action taken, the Board returned to open session on motion by Mr. Price and second by Mr. Allen.

Old Business: Mr. Price again asked who has authority over the Alternative School and was informed the County Board has only fiscal authority. Mr. Brock added that the meeting with the Alternative School Board scheduled for January 27 was canceled due to lack of information.

New Business:

A. The ADM and SFS accounts payable were approved unanimously on motion by Mr. McGee and second by Rev. Mitchell.

B. Mrs. Bradberry made a motion to send a thank you letter to the Anderson Five Education Association for the delicious cake furnished to the Board for refreshments. With a second by Rev. Mitchell, the motion carried unanimously.

C. Mrs. Bradberry read the following statement to the Board.

"I would like to record an official objection to the cancellation of the January 27, 2005, board meeting. This board voted unanimously on January 10, 2005, to have that meeting. According to Roberts Rules of Order, the meeting must take place because the body voted to set the day and time. No one had the authority to cancel the meeting without a vote of the body. Since when, have we let the school district superintendents and district school board chairmen tell this board when to meet?

We were elected to represent the people in our districts of Anderson County and therefore the whole county as a board. That responsibility includes dealing with fiscal authority over the alternative school. If members of this board do not want to accept dealing with problems that come with this responsibility, then maybe they should resign from this board. We are suppose to work together and be fair to ALL the students and taxpayers in Anderson County. If we do not deal with problems as we encounter them, we are not fulfilling our responsibility. Is this board and the taxes to support it really needed?"

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda D. Bradberry, Secretary, Anderson County Board of Education

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



402 Bleckley Street · Anderson, SC 29625
Phone: (864) 225-0591 · Fax: (864) 226-7986