

# ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, SC 29625

## MINUTES

July 18, 2005 7:00 p.m.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Dr. Keith L. Cole

**Others Present:** Alison Glass, The Anderson Independent-Mail; Hugh Smith, School District Three, Maurice Lopez, School District Four, Dr. W. M. Burriss, Dr. Paul Talmadge, Walter Mayfield, David Brooks, and Tracey Nettles, School District Five; Camille Klein, Brantley Jordan and Mary Lee Lollis

**Call to Order:** Mr. Brock called the meeting to order. Mr. McGee read from the scriptures, led in the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation.

**Approval of Agenda:** On motion by Reverend Mitchell and second by Mr. Allen, the agenda was approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes–June 20 Meeting:** The minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Mrs. Bradberry and second by Reverend Mitchell.

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

**Opportunity to Address the Board:** Mr. Jordan said Mr. Smith did a wonderful job representing the Board in presenting the budgets to the Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Brock asked that all votes on the budgets be made by show of hands.

**Budget Request for School District One:** Mr. Garrison presented the budget request from School District One for \$43,792,662 General Fund, \$3,263,103 EIA, and \$2,505,203 Federal for a total of \$49,560,968. He then made a motion to approve the budget. With a second by Mr. Price, the proposed budget was unanimously approved with eight yea votes.

**Budget Request for School District Two:** Mr. Garrison presented the budget request from School District Two for \$20,912,027 General Fund, \$1,542,818 EIA, and \$2,761,395 Federal for a total of \$25,216,240. He then made a motion to approve the budget, which requires no millage increase. With a second by Reverend Mitchell, the proposed budget was unanimously approved with eight yea votes.

**Budget Request for School District Three:** Mr. McGee presented the budget request from School District Three for \$14,711,144 General Fund, \$2,378,521 EIA, and \$1,794,829 Federal for a total of \$18,884,494. He then made a motion to approve the budget, which requires no millage increase. With a second by Mrs. Bradberry, the proposed budget was unanimously approved with eight yea votes.

**Budget Request for School District Four:** Mr. Price presented the budget request from School District Four for \$19,052,635 General Fund, \$1,288,667 EIA, and \$1,311,521 Federal for a total of \$21,652,823. He then made a motion to approve the budget, which requires no millage increase. With a second by Reverend Mitchell, the proposed budget was unanimously approved with eight yea votes.

**Budget Request for School District Five:** Mr. Draisen distributed a worksheet he prepared that showed the budget request from School District Five was in line with the requests from the other districts. Mr. Price said no one had questioned this, and Mr. Draisen should be reading the budget. Mr. Draisen then presented the budget request from School District Five for \$74,195,037 General Fund, \$6,841,803 EIA, \$8,615,342 Federal for a total of \$89,652,182. A second to the motion was made by Mr. Price. During discussion, Mrs. Bradberry apologized for missing some of the budget meetings due to illness and requested opportunity to ask questions. 1. Was the salary schedules delivered to the County Board on July 14 approved by the District Five Trustees? Mr. Brooks replied the schedules were approved but they could change during the year. The schedules represent a twelve (12%) per cent increase over state minimum. Last year the increase was 11.35% over state minimum. 2. What is the proposed enrollment? Ms. Nettles replied two hundred forty (240). 3. Is growth the reason for the proposed increase of thirty-seven teachers? Mr. Brooks replied the majority of the thirty-seven is due to growth. Mr. Price asked for a point of order explaining the Board had voted on budget presentations without questions.

Mrs. Bradberry made a substitute motion for \$73,313,137 General Fund, \$6,841,803 EIA and \$8,615,342 Federal for a total of \$88,769,282. This would require no tax increase. A second to the substitute motion was made by Mr. Allen. During discussion, Mrs. Bradberry stated School District Five would be receiving over \$4 million in new money and that the taxpayers could not bear another tax increase. Mr. Allen added that reassessment last year increased tax bills by twenty-three (23%) per cent with seventy (70%) per cent of this going to the schools. He briefly addressed expenditures at South Fant and Calhoun and stated due to increased technology coming to the upstate a school for the sciences and math was more needed than a school for the arts. Mr. Draisen replied that education is an investment and that research has shown a direct correlation to arts participation and improved math and science skills. Mrs. Bradberry and Mr. Allen said they favored the arts. With a vote taken the substitute motion failed with Mrs. Bradberry, Mr. Allen and Reverend Mitchell voting yea and Mr. Draisen, Mr. Garrison, Mr. McGee, Mr. Price and Mr. Brock voting nay.

Mr. Brock called for a vote on Mr. Draisen's original motion. The requested budget was approved five to three with Mr. Draisen, Mr. Garrison, Mr. McGee, Mr. Price and Mr. Brock voting yea and Mrs. Bradberry, Mr. Allen and Reverend Mitchell voting nay.

**FY 06 Budget for County Board Approved by Delegation/FY 06 Budget for Alternative School Approved by Delegation:** Mr. Smith reported that during the Delegation meeting of June 30 the budget requests for the County Board and for the Alternative School were approved unanimously. Also approved was the County Equalization levy for fiscal year 06 with the school districts receiving 14.70 mills, the County Board receiving .90 mills and the Alternative School receiving 2 mills for a total of 17.60 mills.

**End of Year Collections Received for All Districts from County Treasurer:** This report was received as information.

**Old Business:** Mr. Price asked about a follow-up of the lawsuit with School District Five adding that in the event the state supreme court ruled in the favor of the County Board, he thought the County Board should sue for legal fees. Mr. Smith said the County Board attorneys were addressing this issue. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Price made a motion for Mr. Smith to follow up with the attorneys regarding legal fees and a second was made by Reverend Mitchell. The motion passed with six yeas and two nays. (Yeas: Mr. Price, Mr. Garrison, Mr. McGee, Reverend Mitchell, Mr. Allen and Mr. Brock; Nays: Mrs. Bradberry and Mr. Draisen)

Mr. Price and Mrs. Bradberry had a heated discussion regarding the appropriate manner various County Board matters should be handled. After the meeting, apologies were made for the statements made.

**New Business:** The ADM and SFS accounts payable were approved unanimously on motion by Mr. McGee and second by Mr. Garrison.

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.



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