

MINUTES

ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625

August 21, 2006

Board Members Present: Shawn R. McGee, Thomas F. Allen, Phillip M. Brock, Reverend Rufus Mitchell, Brenda D. Bradberry, Steve Garrison, Millard Smith, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: George R. Price, Dr. Keith Cole

Others Present: Please see attached list.

Call to Order: Mr. McGee called the meeting to order. Mike Brock read from the scriptures and gave the invocation. Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: On a motion by Ms. Bradberry and a second by Mr. Garrison, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes, August 1, 2006 Meeting: With no corrections required, the minutes stood approved as read.

Recognition of Media and Patrons/ Public Comment Period: Mr. McGee welcomed the visitors to the meeting and asked if anyone wished to address the Board. There were no comments.

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

Open Session: The motion to return to open session made by Ms. Bradberry and seconded by Mr. Allen, was unanimously approved. Mr. McGee stated that during executive session Mr. Richard Thompson presented a legal briefing and personnel matters were discussed, but no action was taken.

Consideration Determining Whether or Not to Grant Anderson School District Five a Rehearing on Budget Requests: Mr. Allen made a motion to reconsider School District Five's budget request. Mr. Draisen seconded the motion. Mr. Draisen, Mr. Allen, Mr. McGee, and Rev. Mitchell voted to rehear the budget request. Ms. Bradberry, Mr. Garrison and Mr. Brock voted nay.

Mr. McGee asked Ms. Betty Bagley, Superintendent of Anderson School District Five, to speak. Ms. Bagley thanked the Board for rehearing their budget request. Ms. Bagley stated that in studying their budget, only necessary items were addressed such as the addition of fourteen new teachers, three new custodians, two foreign language teachers and an increase in security warranted by their Board. The County asked the schools to give crossing guards a raise. There was an increase in health costs and fica. The implementation of Nova Net was an added expense. Employees received an increase in pay which needed to be done to be market value. She stressed the fact that there were no frivolous items included. When budget requests were reduced, instructional items and supplies had to be cut. Ms. Bagley reported that they lost \$8,000,000 from the state several years ago that they never recouped. Tan money requested and fee in lieu of did not come in. In 2004-05, they did not meet maintenance of effort and would not likely meet MOE in 2005-06. They asked for a waiver but had not gotten a reply. Funding did not come in as projected. Ms. Bagley said that all of these were the reasons they needed to plead their case again and ask for reconsideration.

Ms. Bradberry asked why it had not been mentioned before that they did not make maintenance of effort in 2004-05. She expressed her dislike of Ms. Bagley's use of the word "cut". She stated that we did not give all that was requested but gave more than last year which was not considered a cut. She asked Ms. Bagley how she could say the money did not come in when on May's financial statement they had collected 97% of collections with other collections still to come. Mr. Brooks reported that they were under budget on ad valorem but Ms. Bradberry

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asked how it could go down. Mr. Allen said that the auditor reported more than a 95% collection rate. Ms. Bradberry asked if there had been overspending in some areas. Ms. Bagley admitted to overspending in some areas because of necessary items such as maintenance, mold issues, psychological testing, copying machines and radios and pagers for bus drivers. Ms. Bradberry explained that they voted on budgets as presented to them. Ms. Bagley said that their administrators were not the highest paid in the State.

In attending meetings throughout the State, Mr. Draisen had acquired the knowledge that our area is growing rapidly. He congratulated Ms. Bagley for doing a great job and believed that District Five was in line with other districts in their requests with 40.83% of students and 43.01% of the budget. He believed that School District Five was doing the right thing by trying to ward off the problem created by such a large growth rather than waiting until it is too late to deal with. Mr. Draisen told that there were 1344 teachers, assistants, bus drivers and 140 administrators in School District Five.

Mr. McGee asked how much maintenance of effort was missed in 2004-05 and if they were going to fall short in 2005-06. Mr. Brooks answered that they were short in delinquent taxes \$175,000 for the month of August. Assuming addition would still be 3 ½ mills short.

Mr. Garrison thanked Ms. Bagley for fighting for the employees of District Five. He reminded everyone that the Board was trying to be good stewards protecting the taxpayers. He asked what did you base your budget on and what was your 135 day enrollment? The answer was 29 students short of 12,000. Mr. Garrison was trying to get a picture of the growth pattern. He asked the total on invested assets to which Mr. Brooks replied that it varied. For instance, in early winter it could be \$20,000,000.

Mr. Allen pleaded with Ms. Bagley to keep the money in academics, and take money from other areas. Ms. Bagley assured him that money had been taken out of everything they could, and everything that remained was put into education. She restated that they were not heavy in administration and invited everyone to visit. She then thanked the Board for rehearing their budget request.

Mr. McGee asked if there was any action the Board would like to take. Ms. Bradberry wished to leave it as it was. When asked for a second to Ms. Bradberry's request, none was given. Reverend Mitchell made the motion to put the money back in District Five's budget. Mr. Draisen seconded the motion and commended School District Five for a job well done in their presentation. Mr. Allen agreed and congratulated Ms. Bagley on a job well done.

Mr. Allen, Mr. Brock, Mr. Garrison, Mr. Draisen, and Rev. Mitchell voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Bradberry voted nay.

List of Candidates Filing for County Board and School Trustees: Mr. McGee reported that there were two positions with no candidates running.

Alternative School: Mr. Brock gave an account of the Alternative School student enrollment. Mr. Dillingham said that there were more students enrolled this year than last.

Old Business:

A. The Board discussed the necessity of producing the directory and decided to continue with production as usual. Ms. Bradberry made the motion to let the bids out for the school directories. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

New Business:

A. Mr. Brock made the motion to pay the ADM and SFS accounts payable. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

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B. Mr. Allen shared information concerning the conference discussing Property Tax Laws at Roper Mountain Science Center in Greenville, South Carolina on October 5, 2006 at 6:00 p.m..

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Draisen, Secretary, Anderson County Board of Education

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