

MINUTES
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
February 19, 2007

Board Members Present: Brenda Bradberry, Mike Brock, David Draisen, Steve Garrison, Mike Gray, Jeff Kubu, Rev. Rufus Mitchell, Randy Price, John Sherard, and Joey Nimmer, ex officio

Board Members Absent: All were present.

Others Present: See Recognition of Media and Patrons below.

Call to Order: Mr. Price called the meeting to order. Rev. Mitchell gave the invocation. Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item four to include approval of minutes from the January 16, 2007 regular meeting as well as the February 5, 2007 special meeting. Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with this addition.

Approval of Minutes, January 16, 2007 Meeting: Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve the minutes, Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Mr. Price welcomed the following visitors to the Board meeting: Mr. Randolph Dillingham, Ms. Betty Bagley, Mr. Paul Talmadge, Mr. Bob Daniel, Mr. Paul Sutherland, Mr. Tom Dobbins, Mr. Danny Merck and Mr. Ronnie Townsend.

Mr. Price recognized Mr. Dillingham, director of the Alternative School, who wished to brief the Board on the change in policy of the Alternative School from serving no special education students to implementing a special education program in August contingent upon a teacher being hired. At the school's last Board meeting, authorization was given by the Board to Mr. Dillingham to hire a special ed teacher. The implementation of a special education program on a very limited basis will be discussed at the next Board meeting. Qualifications for participation in the program would be to have been expelled from regular school, possess an LD resource disability, and be able to participate in the boot camp activities. He stressed maintaining the structure and integrity of the established Alternative School program.

Mr. Garrison stated precautions be taken to avoid any violation of the law concerning discrimination. He suggested the Alternative School use other schools programs as models. Mr. Dillingham assured Mr. Garrison that Duff and White, attorneys specializing in special education, had approved the procedures in place. He confirmed that there is enough room to accommodate the students and the buildings are handicap accessible. A screening committee consisting of one assistant superintendent, two directors of special education from the five districts, and staff from the Alternative School would determine

qualified students. Mr. Dillingham thanked the Board for their attention and the Board thanked Mr. Dillingham for the information.

Special Recognition—Paul Sutherland: Mr. Price presented Mr. Sutherland, athletic director and head football coach at Pendleton High School, the County Board's Award for Excellence in Education. He commended Mr. Sutherland for his dedication to the character building of the students of Pendleton High School by his outstanding example.

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2005-06 Audit—Greene and Company: Mr. Bob Daniel of Greene and Company presented the County Board audit. A discussion followed with Mr. Nimmer explaining the funding of the School Food Service account and the duties of the School Food Service director who operates from the County Board as manager of food service for Districts Two and Three. Mr. Nimmer explained the late payment of EIA funds to the Alternative School which occurred during the time of transition between Millard Smith's death and the arrival of the new administrator. The payment was made and a schedule implemented to assure timely payments in the future.

Legislative Update-Ronnie Townsend: Mr. Townsend, former State Representative, presented a summary of recent legislation enacted by the General Assembly that substantially changes funding mechanisms for local schools. This deals with the 1% state sales tax increase that will replace local property taxes for owner occupied dwellings. Attached find summaries of the presentation provided by Mr. Townsend.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer presented reports on the following items:

1. Jacky Hunter is scheduled to speak at the next Board meeting.
2. The School Boards Association would present a program on parliamentary procedure at the cost of between \$400 and \$750, according to the length of the program.
3. Distribution of House and Senate bills pending
4. Distribution of school calendar for Fiscal Year 07-08 adopted by all Districts.
5. Mental Health meeting update
6. Jim Rex addressed a chamber gathering attended by Mr. Gray and Mr. Nimmer.
7. Presented letter from legal counsel, Richard Thompson, concerning conducting referendums in the County dealing with consolidation issues. Will have follow up letter in March concerning funding referendum. Mr. Kubu, through Rep. White, has requested an opinion from the House Judiciary Committee.

Financial:

- A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer calculated percentages and noted that District Two was a little behind the other Districts in collections because of ad valorem taxes which may not have been claimed as of January 31.
- B. Assessment Totals, January 31, 2007: Assessment totals from Jacky Hunter, County Assessor, were distributed.

Old Business:

- A. Committee Assignments: Mr. Garrison proposed the formation of a Public Relations committee whose purpose would be to promote the County Education System. He made the motion to establish a Public Relations committee, and Mr.

Gray seconded the motion. A discussion followed with Mr. Garrison and Mr. Draisen volunteering to be spokespersons on behalf of education in our area. The motion passed. The full slate of committee assignments for the year 2007 are identified on the attached document, Committee Assignments 2007.

New Business

- A. ADM Accounts Payable
- B. SFS Accounts Payable: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to pay the bills, Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve.
- C. Special Called Meeting update—Long Range Planning: Mr. Nimmer reported that two key issues had been taken care of during the planning meeting: (1) Establishment of a Public Relations committee and (2) Request to have the referendum issue clarified. Mr. Nimmer explained that there were two referendum issues being discussed. One was the consolidation issue and the other was the financing issue which was not yet resolved. A discussion ensued involving the role of the County Board in the role of consolidation. Mr. Gray made the motion to conduct further research into a possible study examining the consolidation of school districts in Anderson County. Mr. Sherard seconded the motion. A discussion followed and the motion was passed. Mr. Gray was asked to chair a special consolidation subcommittee. Mr. Kubu and Mr. Garrison also agreed to serve.

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.