

**MINUTES**  
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
May 21, 2007

**Board Members Present:** Randy Price, David Draisen, Jeff Kubu, Mike Brock, Reverend Rufus Mitchell, Brenda Bradberry, Mike Gray, Steve Garrison and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

**Board Members Absent:** John Sherard

**Others Present:** Mr. Mike Burns, McNair Law Firm

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Mitchell seconded the motion, and the Board agreed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes, May 18 Meeting:** Rev. Mitchell made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. Gray seconded the motion and the Board voted all in favor of the approval.

**Recognition of Media and Patrons/ Public Comment Period:** Mr. Price welcomed Mr. Burns from McNair Law Firm who explained the School District Three bond issue. Ms. Bradberry asked why the bonds were called refunding bonds instead of refinancing bonds. Mr. Burns explained that they were paying off the old debt with the new debt at a lower interest rate. Mr. Price asked if the Board would like to change the wording from refunding to refinancing. Ms. Bradberry expressed her agreement to save money on bonds whenever possible, but she was concerned that if a bond was put before the people, they may not understand the wording. Mr. Brock made the motion to leave the wording as it was. Mr. Gray seconded the motion and seven members of the Board voted yea with Ms. Bradberry abstaining from voting. Mr. Nimmer stated that this bond was very similar to the one for School District Five and that he would fill out the appropriate information, have the papers signed, and distribute them to McNair Law Firm and keep a copy on file. Mr. Price thanked Mr. Burns for presenting the information.

**Anderson County Alternative School Report:** Mr. Brock informed the Board of the Alternative School graduation held on May 17, 2007. Mr. Nimmer attended the impressive ceremony which was coupled with the citizenship and academic awards ceremony and congratulated Mr. Dillingham on behalf of the County Board for a job well done. Two students graduated, one from Crescent and one from Belton-Honea Path.

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Nimmer presented the following information:

- (1.) District One sold assets that the Board approved for liquidation in February.
- (2.) A meeting with the Mental Health counselors, staff and Mr. Draisen was held to discuss the future path of the Mental Health program. An opening was created due to the resignation of Donna Tingle, a contract employee, who left to pursue private practice. Mr. Nimmer commended the present staff for helping in her absence. His recommendation to the Budget Committee was to fill this position with a full time

Mental Health counselor to be partially funded by the School Districts in which he or she works. Mr. Nimmer said this idea had been well received by the Districts. Another recommendation was to keep specific records documenting hours worked in the Districts by the counselors. Mr. Draisen reported that Medicaid funding would hopefully be forthcoming.

- (3.) Mr. Nimmer distributed a copy of the District budget workshop schedule. A copy of the proposed budget had been given to the Budget Committee. That meeting was scheduled for June 14, 2007 at 4:00 P.M.
- (4.) Mr. Draisen made a motion to hire a third full time Mental Health Counselor assuming provision is made possible in the budget. Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the Board voted all in favor to hire a third full time counselor.

**Financial: Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer noted that everyone is at 92% or above on their year to date collections and that does not include the manufacturers' depreciation reimbursement that came in today so everyone should be at or above 100% by the end of May. A County Equalization disbursement was conducted today for School District Five. Ms. Bradberry suggested that the low fee in lieu be looked into for School District Four because it should not be that low. Mr. Price said he would call Maurice Lopez for an explanation. Mr. Nimmer said it may be one that wasn't claimed until the end of a period. Ms. Bradberry said all the others were all over except District Four.

**Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer reported that according to Jacky Hunter, County Auditor, we are holding steady in spite of the draw down on automobile taxes. We are holding steady on the total assessed value in the County which should maintain for this year and would be over in December. The anticipated value of a mill is around \$570,000 for next year.

### **Old Business:**

**A. Consolidation Study Update** — After meeting with the Riley Institute, the Ad Hoc Consolidation Study Committee decided that the Institute was not equipped to conduct the study. Mr. Gray made the motion to hire the Strom Thurmond Institute to conduct the study at a cost of \$58,000. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion. In the discussion that followed Mr. Price liked the idea that the Strom Thurmond Institute presented many different options. Ms. Bradberry said that one of the scenarios was that they could leave things the way they are. Mr. Gray said that the Board should be informed so they could do what is best for the taxpayers and children of Anderson County. He said consolidation could include consolidation of services, technology, and record reporting. Mr. Gray believed that with X amount of dollars coming into Anderson County from different sources; the Board needed to be aware of what is the best use of those dollars. Mr. Gray, Mr. Nimmer, Mr. Sherard and Mr. Kubu toured the Career Center, and Mr. Gray was amazed that someone twenty-two years ago had the vision to create this vocational school as a consolidation of two School Districts. It was noted that The Strom Thurmond Institute would probably be a six or seven month study. Mr. Nimmer reported that the Board has revenues ahead of anticipated budget revenues. Expenses

were held down by some vacancies on the staff. The passing of Mr. Smith left a four and one-half month period with no expenditures for payroll or fringe and a vacancy in the Mental Health department. We will be adding to our fund balance an estimated \$150,000. We can pay for this study out of our budget for the current fiscal year. In the future budget, items were added to accommodate expenses of the Public Relations Committee. Mr. Nimmer assured the Board that the money was available to fund the study, and his recommendation was to go forward with the study. The Board voted unanimously to go forward with the study. Mr. Kubu made the motion to pay for the study from the current year's budget. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. Mr. Price suggested the motion include the stipulation that the study be paid for up to \$58,000. Anything above that amount would have to be brought before the Board for approval.

- B. Ms. Bradberry asked about the progress of the naming of the County Board Building for Mr. Smith. Mr. Nimmer reported that Michael Thompson at the State House was working on getting the State recognition for this event. The dedication ceremony could then be planned and the plaque ordered. Estimated cost of the plaque would be \$2500 to \$3000 and would be similar to the one already on the front of the building. The Board discussed making some improvements to the building, but no decisions were made.
- C. Mr. Garrison reported on the Public Relations Committee meeting with representatives present from the School Districts. They shared ideas concerning combined statistical studies, web sites, and creating a new logo that would create a positive updated image for all Districts.

**New Business:**

- 1. Mr. Brock made the motion to pay ADM and SFS accounts payable. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.
- 2. Ms. Bradberry requested a copy of the quarterly County Board budget, revenues and expenditures, beginning the first of the 07-08 fiscal year to which Mr. Nimmer replied that it would be provided starting in July, 2007.
- 3. The Board voted unanimously to move the County Board meeting time to 6:00 P.M permanently.
- 4. Mr. Garrison presented a proposal to have Mr. Nimmer research the length of time an auditor should conduct audits for the same entity. Ms. Bradberry made the motion to have Mr. Nimmer check into other firms and prices to conduct the County Board audits. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion. The Board voted all in favor of this motion. Mr. Nimmer handed out information on Greene, Finney and Horton, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

David Draisen, Secretary, Anderson County Board of Education  
This is a true and correct copy of notes taken at the meeting.

