

MINUTES
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
October 15, 2007

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

Board Members Absent: John Sherard, Steve Garrison

Others Present: Mr. Burriss Nelson, Mr. John Hammond, Ms. Amie Crolley, and Pat Smith

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

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Bradberry moved to approve the agenda, Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the September 17, 2007 minutes with corrections. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Recognition of Media and Patrons/ Public Comment Period: Mr. Price welcomed the visitors, Burriss Nelson and John Hammond.

Air Quality Presentation—Burriss Nelson and John Hammond: Mr. Hammond, representative of McNair Law Firm, made the Board aware of the Environmental Protection Agency's policy of setting up monitoring sites measuring air pollutants around the State. With Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg being considered one area, bad air quality in one of these areas would apply to all three. PM 25, particle matter in the air partially due to wood burning stoves, is one pollutant measuring high in Greenville. Another pollutant being watched in our area is ozone, caused by car emissions and smog, which is considered dangerous at ground level. Standards should be met and in compliance with DHEC by December 31, 2007.

Mr. Price asked Mr. Hammond what the Board could do to help. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Nelson stated that the public needed to be made aware of the problem. Since industry would have a more difficult and costly time moving into the area if standards are not in compliance with DHEC, schools would be affected from the lack of growth and progress. Mr. Price thanked Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hammond for the information.

Recommendation of Personnel Committee:

- A. Rev. Dr. Mitchell recommended changes be made to the Attendance Dropout Coordinator's job description to include making it a 240 day a year job and to add limited duties for assistance to the Public Relations Committee.
- B. After careful consideration of the submitted résumés and interviews, the Personnel Committee's representative, Rev. Dr. Mitchell, read the job description, quoted the salary, and made the recommendation to hire Ms. Amie Crolley for the position of Attendance Dropout Coordinator. Mr. Draisen seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the Board voted unanimously to hire Ms. Crolley as the new Attendance Dropout Coordinator. Ms. Crolley gave a short background of her family, education and

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work experience. Mr. Price welcomed her as the new Attendance Dropout Coordinator to work 240 days yearly and to start work on October 22, 2007.

Mr. Kubu initiated a discussion of implementing drug testing and background checks of new hires. Mr. Nimmer said sled checks and background checks were being done. Mr. Kubu believed it would be mandatory since many of the employees are physically in the schools among the students. Mr. Price stated that he believed it would be a good idea from this point forward.

Rev. Dr. Mitchell presented a revision of the Attendance Assistant's job description. Mr. Nimmer reminded the Board that Ms. Ellen Davis was hired year round, but in a part time position. He assured the Board that should the position require a full time assistant, Ms. Davis would either take that position or relinquish her part time position so that a full time assistant could be hired. Mr. Nimmer explained the Attendance Assistant position was being revised to accommodate the Attendance Coordinator's job description which included working with the Public Relations Committee. Rev. Dr. Mitchell made the motion to revise the job description for the Attendance Assistant, Ms. Bradberry seconded and Mr. Brock, Mr. Draisen, and Rev. Dr. Mitchell voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Kubu and Mr. Gray voted against the motion.

Mr. Price strongly cautioned the Board they were going in directions for which they were not designed. Mr. Price asked why the Board had two people working with the Public Relations Committee. Mr. Kubu stated that the Attendance department would not be expected to report to the Public Relations committee, but could assist if asked for help.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Brock reported an enrollment of eighty-seven students at the Alternative School. The information concerning the progress of students leaving the Alternative School is difficult to obtain, but they are doing the best they can to conduct a student follow up.

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

- The Millard Smith resolutions and picture were being framed and would be ready shortly for display in the office
- Discussion of Christmas party—Board members offered suggestions of restaurants to be considered. December 17th, the regular Board meeting date, was decided upon as the date for the Christmas party. The Delegation will be invited.
- Mr. Nimmer presented the Boardmanship Institute certificates from the South Carolina School Boards Association to Rev. Dr. Mitchell, Mr. Gray and Mr. Kubu.

Financial: Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget and Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer reported that things are as they should be for this time of year. October is the first installment of the Act 388 reimbursement. Collections are consistent throughout the County. District Four is a little behind, but they are more heavily industrialized and will receive money in January. Assessment totals are holding. The assessment total report given to the Board members did not include any of the growth which will be posted in October. To be at the \$540,000 figure for the value of a mill is ahead of where projections were.

Old Business:

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A. The logo contest has been presented to all Districts with submissions from several of the schools. November 1st is the deadline for entries.

B. There was a discussion of the cancellation of the meeting of the personnel committee with the Strom Thurmond Institute. Mr. Price stated he did not know about the meeting, and he reserved the right to know about the meetings. Mr. Gray reminded Mr. Price that he was out of town. Ms. Bradberry believed that the subcommittee had the right to have a meeting with the Institute since Mr. Price appointed the committee. Mr. Nimmer apologized for not letting Mr. Price know about the meeting because he believed Mr. Price was present when the meeting was planned. Mr. Price informed the Board that he believed he had the right to cancel a meeting as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Draisen said he believed Mr. Price had the right to know about the scheduled meetings of the committees. Ms. Bradberry stated the Chairman should be informed, but the Chairman does not have the right to call off the meeting. She believed that since the Board had asked the Strom Thurmond Institute for information, it could not be kept in the dark. She also believed that information they provide could be beneficial to the School Districts. In the future and as a courtesy, every committee should inform the Chairman of the scheduled committee meetings.

New Business:

A. ADM and SFS Accounts Payable: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to pay the bills. Mr. Brock seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

B. Mr. Kubu presented the proposal to adjust all job descriptions to include background checks and drug testing prior to hiring. After much discussion at different intervals during the meeting, the final motion presented by Mr. Kubu was to have Mr. Nimmer investigate random drug testing as a requirement for all County Board employees in the future. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously. Ms. Bradberry believed drug testing was not required for those who did not work directly with children.

C. Mr. Gray told the Board of a meeting he attended in Clemson with Dr. Bruce Yandle as the speaker. Mr. Gray was very impressed with Dr. Yandle's statement that the single most important thing that could be done in South Carolina to help the economy of the whole state was to improve the dropout rate. Mr. Gray said he would like to invite the Dr. Yandle to speak to the Board and Districts about this subject. Mr. Gray made the motion for the Board to host a meeting with Dr. Yandle to address this subject. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously. Mr. Gray expressed his interest in obtaining more information concerning the school dropout rates. Mr. Draisen agreed anytime the drop out rate is lessened, the economy improves.

Ms. Bradberry made the motion to enter into executive session.

After the executive session, Ms. Bradberry made the motion to have the Administrative and Personnel Committees review and revise, where necessary, the entire personnel, employee manual. This is to include that all forms are up to date. Evaluations of employees should be added along with the instruments to be used for the evaluation. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded and the Board agreed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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David Draisen, Secretary, Anderson County Board of Education

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