

**MINUTES**  
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
September 15, 2008

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

**Board Members Absent:** All were present

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Amendments to Agenda include additions of:

Old Business: (B) County Board Budget Committee Report

New Business: (C) Budget Cuts Discussion

New Business: (D) Resignation of Board Member, John Sherard

Item VII added: Executive Session—Personnel Issues

Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Kubu made the motion to approve the August 18, 2008 minutes, Ms. Bradberry seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

**Recognition of Media and Patrons/Public Comment Period:** Mr. Draisen welcomed Dr. Marshall Meadors of Anderson, State Senate candidate from South Carolina Senate District Three. Dr. Meadors gave a brief description of his family and educational background. He informed the Board of his desire to further education in South Carolina. During discussion Mr. Garrison believed the districts should be more accountable for the money being spent on education in Anderson County. Mr. Price stated children may be helped academically using a modified calendar. Mr. Draisen thanked Dr. Meadors for sharing his platform with the Board members.

**Anderson County Alternative School Report:** Mr. Brock reported 66 students enrolled presently at the Alternative School. Mr. Kubu and Mr. Gray asked why there were so many students from McCants Middle School enrolled at the present time. Mr. Price asked what would happen if it came to the point where it is not economically feasible to continue operation of the Alternative School due to lack of enrolled students. Mr. Gray said it was not economically feasible at any number. Mr. Price asked if the number dwindled, would staff be laid off. Mr. Brock said a student that had been sent away from the Alternative School five times would not be accepted as a student again. Mr. Brock explained students wanting to return to their original schools at the beginning of the current school year could not be returned if they had not completed their term at the Alternative School.

Ms. Bradberry made the motion to go into executive session. Mr. Gray seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously. No votes were cast and no decisions were made during executive session.

**Recommendation of the Personnel Committee:** As a representative of the Personnel Committee, Mr. Garrison made the motion to hire Mary Lewis for the 190 day, LPC Counselor

position at the Anderson County Board of Education. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The Board decision to hire Ms. Lewis was unanimous.

**Administrator's Report-Stephen J. Nimmer:**

1. At the September Board meeting, the question was asked if the Strom Thurmond Institute would be able to use the information gathered for the County Board in other capacities. Mr. Nimmer reported that any proprietary information generated for the Board and on behalf of the Anderson County Board of Education belongs to the Board exclusively. Public information included in the study, such as is gleaned from the State Department of Education or any other public source, could be used for future research. This would be no different than getting the information from the internet. The Study Committee will be meeting October 20, 2008 at 4:00pm prior to the monthly Board meeting.
2. South Carolina Department of Transportation is currently working on building the sign for Wren High School girls state softball championship recognition, the Riverside Middle School Palmetto's Finest award recognition and the Pendleton High School cross country championship. Mr. Nimmer will make the Board aware of their completion.
3. Clemson University, through their English department, offers a climate based assistance program that is used for technical writing. They are willing to help construct the Board and Employee Manuals at no cost to the County Board. More information will be presented to the Board after meeting with them to acquire more information. Mr. Nimmer stated the completed manuals would have to follow legal guidelines. The coordinator of this program has assured Mr. Nimmer the faculty has previously created manuals for many businesses and entities.

**Financial:**

- A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that receipts are between 6% and 8%. The 3% cut, based on the monthly meeting with the school district finance professionals, the Anderson County Treasurer, Auditor and Assessor are most concerned about the cut that comes after the first of the year. The numbers are still being calculated by the Board of Economic advisors through the State Budget Control Board for analyzing the numbers of the receipts that have come in from June, July and August. That report will be released around the first of November which means no action will be taken until after the election.
- B. Assessment Totals:** Mr. Nimmer reported the assessment totals held firm for the first time this month over several months. The reassessment is supposed to be completed by September 20<sup>th</sup> and the millage will be set based on the numbers during the first ten days of October. By the next meeting we should have a tax levy sheet showing the new millage rates for each district. Mr. Garrison asked if money would be received from BMW this year. Mr. Nimmer stated the County Board always receives some, but it comes after the first of the year. That money is paid by BMW directly to the state and the state then sends it back to the counties. This money is derived from vehicles provided as an employee benefit by BMW.

**Old Business:**

**County Board Projects Update:**

- A. Strom Thurmond Update:** Mr. Kubu suggested asking the Strom Thurmond Institute their recommendations for the best way to inform the public of the information they have gathered. Mr. Nimmer stated that included in the contract are up to five public meetings to be held at the County Board's choosing. Based on his conversation, the Institute would have more meetings if needed. Mr. Price said the Board needed to make a decision on which direction the Board should take after the final analysis
- B. County Board Budget Committee Report:** Ms. Bradberry presented information that would be requested of the districts next year as follows:
1. Professional certified staff codes will be used to identify and differentiate all personnel expenditures and what their salaries should be.
  2. The years of service for each division will be broken down in five year ranges from zero through thirty and over thirty.
  3. A narrative identifying how dollars are expended in the classroom along with details of increases or decreases.
  4. Identify all per pupil expenditures
  5. All grant funded positions will be identified along with plans for funding them over the long term, for example when the grant runs out, will a permanent position be funded locally?
  6. Identify the percentage of fringe benefits.
  7. Identify all office staff by primary, middle and high school-no names, only positions
  8. Identify how positions are coded using the PCS codes for employees performing multiple functions.
  9. State the district policy for pay increases for all employees, except teachers.
  10. Assure the most current year to date budget report from districts is included with preliminary budget commission
  11. Attach year end budget report with June 30<sup>th</sup> for final consideration
  12. Ask districts to present proposed budgets to the County Board by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

The Board will meet for budget workshops between June 15<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> for discussion before meeting with the districts. The Board would then meet with districts at the County Board office between July 6<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup> to ask questions. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the County Board would be prepared to vote on the budgets.

Mr. Nimmer praised the cooperation of the school district finance personnel and the county elected officials working together in a professional and congenial manner. Mr. Price praised Mr. Nimmer's efforts to have an open relationship with the schools and the county officials. Mr. Price made the motion to send a letter stating the proposed format must be adhered to in order for budgets to be approved. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion. The Board voted all to approve. Mr. Price made the motion to accept the proposal from the Budget Committee of the change to the budget calendar. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

**New Business:**

- A. B. ADM and SFS Accounts Payable:** Mr. Brock made the motion to pay the bills. Mr. Garrison seconded and the Board approved unanimously.

- C. Budget Cuts Discussion:** Mr. Kubu presented information that because of budget cuts, teachers who were to receive grants were told they could only receive 90% of the grant money. Mr. Nimmer needed to know the type of grant and the source of the grant in order to follow up on this matter. The Board discussed asking the districts to explain how they are handling budget cuts. Mr. Price made a motion that the Board writes a letter to the school districts asking them what measures have been taken concerning the 3% cut and what measures they plan to take concerning the 3% cut with a response directed to the County Board. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.
- D. John Sherard Resignation:** Mr. Sherard presented his resignation due to relocation outside of Anderson County. He asked to stay until the personnel problem was resolved. Ms. Bradberry made the motion to accept Mr. Sherard's resignation. Mr. Nimmer said he would prepare a press release and research the proper channels in filling the Board member's vacancy.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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