

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
March 19, 2018

Call to Order: Mr. Draisen called the meeting to order and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell gave the invocation. Everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Nakia Davis, Ms. Dana Grant, Mr. Dale Martin, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, and Mr. Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Board Members Absent: Mr. Mike Upton.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Brenda Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dale Martin seconded the motion and the Board members agreed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Dale Martin made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2018 meeting. Mr. Nakia Davis seconded the motion and the Board approved the minutes unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons/Public Comment Period: No one from the media or public was present for public comment.

Consideration of Anderson School District Four Bond Issue: Ms. Cristy Jablonski, Director of Finance for Anderson School District Four, began by explaining that back in January her local board approved a priority project list such as roofing, heating and air systems, renovations to one of our older school, fencing, electronic gates, athletic equipment, and technology equipment and this list totaled almost \$15 million dollars. In order to accomplish everything on this list, District 4 sold the remainder of their Sales Tax Anticipation Bonds to be repaid by one cent sales tax funds. We had \$8.5 million of those left and we sold \$5.5 million for our 16% portion of the Anderson Institute of Technology. So, we have those funds set aside already.

Ms. Jablonski continued to explain that she is now here to ask for an Equipment Acquisition Agreement in the amount of \$6.6 million dollars for a 10-year term for items that would qualify. Those items on our list that would qualify under the acquisition are the HVAC units at multiple locations and our district office, security projects like fencing and electronic gates installed in several locations, athletic equipment needs like a wrestling mat, and replacing bleachers at the high school installed in 1981. This summer we also plan to do a technology refresh and get new Chromebooks and lap tops to replace the ones that are three years old for our 2nd graders through 12th grade. We will also add a second road and possibly an entrance loop at Riverside Middle. Pendleton Elementary, Pendleton High, and Mt. Lebanon will have safety gating installed. By using the GEO Bonds and this acquisition agreement, there will be no millage changes since this does not go against our 8% it is only the annual payment which includes both principle and interest.

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the Acquisition Agreement. Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board members.

Annual Audit Review: Mr. Ken Martin began by thanking the Board for the opportunity to present his audit results. The audit followed generally accepted accounting standards and well as governmental audit standards. These standards guide us in all aspects of the audit but the basic requirement is that we plan and perform our audit in a way we gather enough independent audit evidence so we can give our opinion on the fairness of your financials.

We began our audit process by making sure we understand your system of internal controls. This is really your responsibility to set up controls to safe guard your assets and make sure that all your transactions are recorded correctly. When we come in, we understand your system, we document the system, and then during the audit we test your system. A number of years ago the Board office established a good strong system and you have maintained that year after year. The key point during an audit is to make sure it is functioning right. Based on our work, again this year, it appears that management has made it clear to everyone the importance of following procedures and employees are complying with the processes put in place. Our report on your controls would be a strongly positive one.

Next we moved to routine audit tests. As you look at your financials, there is cash, receivables from the county, a little bit of property, and a few liabilities. There isn't much on balance sheets so our audit test are pretty straight forward. We are able to confirm your cash, confirm the amount of receivables from the county, test your liabilities, your expenses, and we are able to confirm all your revenues. We confirm your cash, the amount you receive and are recording the amount correctly. Based on all the work we did, we are able to give an unqualified, clean opinion, which is the best opinion we can give, that your financial statements/position do present fairly and the results of your operation.

I also mentioned we do an audit under governmental auditing standards. They require a separate report to show you are in compliance and conform to governmental standards. Again we had no findings on noncompliance.

In summary our report on your controls – positive; you have good controls in place and they are followed. Our financial statement audit report – clean, unqualified opinion; our report on governmental standards – no findings, nothing we need to report to you or any other governmental entity. We were able to give a strongly positive report based on our findings through the audit process. Mr. Martin wanted to Board Members to know that results like this do not just happen. This is the result of the folks here doing their job day-by-day, transaction to transaction, working hard and doing it properly.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Nimmer referenced the report included in the board packets that also includes a cumulative report from February which was not received last month and the current month. This report includes the information Ms. Bradberry requested regarding where the students are sent once they are no longer enrolled at the Alternative School. This will be included each month in the report going forward. Currently there are 102 students enrolled compare to last year at this time with 106. There have been six students enrolled since last month.

Mr. Mike Brock informed the Board that the Name Changing Committee is still meeting to consider a name change to the Alternative School and one suggestion is The Renaissance Academy. After a brief discussion, Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to leave the name of the Anderson County Alternative School as it is. Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the vote. Ms. Dana Grant abstained from voting with all other members agreed unanimously.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer reminded everyone the Statement of Economic Interest is due and must be filed online. It is due on March 30, 2018 no later than noon. This is required every year.

We have Mr. David Draisen, Mr. Nakia Davis and myself registered for The Two Days at the Capital on Thursday, April 12, 2018. If anyone else is interested in going, let Mr. Nimmer know.

Lastly, as we discussed at the last meeting, Anderson School District Five auctioned off some surplus inventory and they have given us a detailed report as an update on what was sold.

Financial:

- A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer said revenue to date continues to be strong. When comparing the current year to last year, every entity from a collection rate standpoint is at or ahead of where they were at this point last year. District Three is about a half a percentage point ahead of where they were and the others are one percentage point or more ahead.
- B. Assessment Totals:** The green sheet assessment totals for the county have changed very little from last month to this month which is a good sign. There have been quite a number of appeals made since this was a reassessment year so these values are constantly changing. As values of real property drop, they have been offset by new vehicles which seem to be making up the difference.
- C. Education Sales & Use Tax:** Since the inception of the sales tax program, we have collected county-wide a total of \$63,222,422.23 through the month of February, 2018. For the current month, we have collected \$2,435,008.57 and this represents the Christmas season.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business:

- A. ADM Accounts Payable**
- B. SFS Accounts Payable**

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay both bills, seconded by Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell. The Board unanimously approved.

Adjourn: With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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