

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
May 16, 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, Mr. Mike Brock, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. Dale Martin, Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell, and Mr. Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Board Members Absent: Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Dr. Gary Burgess, Ms. Dana Grant, and Mr. Mike Upton.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Dale Martin made the motion to approve the agenda. Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board members agreed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2018 meeting. Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell seconded the motion and the Board approved the minutes unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons/Public Comment Period: Mr. Will Ragland was present to observe the Board Meeting as part of his Leadership Anderson class.

Discussion of County Board Budget for FY 2018-19: Mr. Nimmer began by saying the month of May is normally very busy compiling our budget, passing it, and submitting it to the Legislative Delegation for approval. However, this year the State is yet to pass a budget, and since part of our funding comes from the State, we are not in a position to be able to pass a budget. An initial "draft" budget, which is in your packets, has been prepared and the only changes for the proposed revenue for the FY 2018-19 budget are based on the receipts for this year. The proposed revenue for the FY 2018-19 is based on the receipts for the current year. Since this past year was a reassessment year, property tax and ad valorem tax receipts were a little higher. We have seen growth at about 7% which is what you will see reflected in the revenue budget side. Then there are a few budget line items that have been adjusted based on what the current year receipts were from state dollars which will probably stay, but we don't know that for sure and that is part of the uncertainty we have.

Here are the County Board we have an advantage over the other school entities in the county since our revenue is uncertain but expenditures are pretty much set since we do not base any of our pay on a state determined salary schedule. All the teachers in the county are paid under that schedule including those at the Career Center and the Alternative School. A slight adjustment has been made to the expenditure side for insurance due to flooding and hurricane damage during the last few years. The Insurance Reserve Fund in Columbia has notified us that there will be a slight increase of approximately \$500. Also, communications are up by \$250 which Spirit Communications that provides our telephone system and internet. A slight increase on the rent and that is the automatic increase that comes with the growth rate in the county based on the consumer price index in the Southeast along with the increase in population. This is the same growth rate that is used for the millage cap and tier three reimbursement under Act 388. That ties into our lease as an accelerator. I have included a 1.5% increase for salaries. If you recall in the audit two years ago, we under budgeted the cost for employee benefits. You can see the fringe under each department, attendance, psychological, superintendent, and staff services. We have adjusted our fringe allocation upward by an additional 5% based on what we were told the cost of fringe benefits will be passed on to the employers this year. A portion is for the increase on state retirement and the balance is in the increase in health insurance. It is very lean compared to what we have seen in the prior years in terms of a minor increase. Now we sit and wait to see what the actual increases will be on the fringe and what the actual revenue will be on the State side.

I have also included an article from the School Board's Association dealing with the process that the State is now covering. The conference committee was named in April and they have done very little other than agree to carry forward everything that was the same in budgets that both houses generated. They will not meet again until the middle of June although they must have this to the General Assembly and acted upon by June 27th. State Law states that, if a new budget is not approved by June 30th, the current year's budget will carry forward until such time a new budget is approved and signed into law by the governor. Once the budget is passed, it will go to the governor then, with the line item veto authority he has, it may be a week or two while addressing any issues. Ultimately, we are all in a holding pattern with more information to follow.

Anderson County Alternative School Report: Mr. Nimmer referenced the report included in the board packets and told the Board members, that enrollment is down from this time last year. It has to do with demand because there is a waiting list for admittance to some spots. On the back page you will see where the students have gone and this will be a part of the report from now on

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Nimmer was pleased to announce we have a new baby in the family. Anna Hall, one of our Attendance/Drop-Out Coordinators, has recently had her fourth child. She and her husband have three girls and now boy. Mom and baby are doing great and we are very happy for them. Mr. Nimmer will be happy when Anna returns because he has been seeing many truant families in her absence.

The Alternative School graduation is scheduled for Friday, April 20, at 9:30 am and will take place at the River Street Baptist Church. All are welcome to attend.

Ms. Brenda Bradberry is not doing very well according to her daughter. The surgery they did on her neck months ago has not cured the problem or healing properly. She has an appointment at MUSC next week in hopes of getting some relief. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Nakia Davis announced that the South Carolina Teacher of the Year award this year went to Jeffrey Maxey from Anderson County School District Three. Mr. Maxey is a special education teacher and they are very proud of him. Mr. Davis would like to recognize him at the upcoming board meeting in June which everyone thought would be a great idea.

Just as a reminder, Mr. Nimmer said the deadline to file for the November 6th general election will be August 15, 2018. Generally, filing opens on August 1st for all non-partisan elections and you will be updated as the local calendar is confirmed. State law says filing must conclude on August 15th at noon. The seats open in 2018 are Seat 1 – Dr. Burgess; Seat 3 – Coach Martin; Seat 4 - Dana Grant; Seat 5 - Mike Brock; and Seat 6 - Nakia Davis.

Financial:

A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer referenced the information in the packet showing tax collection year to date vs. budget which have remained throughout this fiscal year very consistent among the districts. You will notice the collection percentages are at or about 90% as far as the districts go. District Four is a bit ahead because they derive more of their revenue from local sources and they have already received that. There are a couple more months to receive state payments for the others. The Alternative School and County Board are ahead of where we were last year at this point. You will recall some of our revenue is back loaded and that will be collected by the end of the fiscal year which is the end of June.

B. Assessment Totals: The green sheets, which show the assessment totals, are virtually unchanged from last month. The value of a mil county wide is about \$772,000 and it looks like that's where we will settle in after the reassessment. This represents about 7% worth of growth across the county and board. The Districts have seen growth at different levels. Districts One and District Five have seen more growth than Districts Two, Three, and Four. After the previous 2013 reassessment, we saw a growth rate of about 1.5% which shows how much we have grown since the economy has improved.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Through April 2018, which is three years in, we have collected \$66.7 million in sales tax of which 80% is used for capital projects within the districts and 20% is set aside for property tax relief and rollback on the debt service millage rates in each district. It continues to perform ahead of projections.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable

Mr. Mike Brock made a motion to pay both bills, seconded by Dr. Rev. 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.