

Anderson County Board of Education
907 North Main Street, Suite 202, Anderson, South Carolina 29621
August 19, 2019

Call to Order: Chairman David Draisen called the meeting to order and Dr. Gary Burgess gave the invocation after which everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Board Members Present: The following board members were present for the August 2019 meeting: Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Nakia Davis, Mr. Jim Haning, Mr. Mike Upton, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio.

Board Members Absent: Mr. John Martin and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell were unable to attend.

Approval of Agenda: Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion and with a unanimous vote, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Nakia Davis made a motion to approve the July 15, 2019 minutes and Mr. Mike Upton seconded the motion. With a unanimous vote, the minutes were approved.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: Ms. Helen Bell from Anderson School District Two requested time to address the County Board to express her concerns over how the School Board Members are handling the controversy over the superintendent as well as her personal experience after being ejected from a board meeting. Ms. Bell expressed frustration over the amount of money being spent on legal fees rather than on the students and their education. Ms. Bell feels that there is no accountability or limit to their spending. She also requested that the School Board give her a reason for being ejected from a public board meeting. Ms. Bell feels that she did not do anything different from any other person in attendance that evening, but now has to deal with the humiliation and embarrassment of being singled out and asked to leave the public meeting.

Consideration of Bond Issue for Anderson School District Four: Ms. Cristy Jablonski, Chief Financial Officer, was introduced by Mr. Nimmer. She presented information to the County Board Members requesting their approval for the annual bond that is through the South Carolina Association of Government Organizations (SCAGO) not to exceed 3 million dollars. This is a program that her district has used for several years now which is used for debt service payments for the QZAB Grant payments. The first payment for the 2019-20 school year will be close to a million which goes towards our 9.7 million borrowing for renovations at Pendleton High School. There is an escrow payment due in the amount of \$642,000 on the QZAB Grant which will be the final payment of this ten year borrowing. Then the annual payment of \$516,000 for an equipment acquisition agreement will be paid that covers security equipment, heating and air systems throughout the district, and the remaining \$475,000 will be used in the district for other maintenance, safety, or instructional type purchases. Our District Four Board approved this bond in June, and if the County Board will grant approval tonight, we will sell those bonds in September in time for the interest and debt service payments.

Mr. Mike Upton made a motion to approve District Four's request for bond issue approval. Dr. Gary Burgess seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer began by stating that schools are back in session today and everything seemed to go smoothly. He hopes this will be a very good year for everyone involved in Anderson County.

Next, he told the Board Members that he recently attended the ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony for the new Anderson Institute of Technology. He encouraged everyone to go see the new facility because it is very impressive and something we can all be proud of. If anyone would like to see the new facility, let him know and he will arrange it.

In the packets, there is an email from Mr. Taylor, who spoke last month at the meeting. Mr. Nimmer told him he would share this with the Board Members and Mr. Taylor's questions have been answered. This is a very unique situation and everyone is waiting for the ruling from the court. Finally, Mr. Nimmer has been told that the judge handling the state of affairs at School District Two is scheduled to announce a ruling on Thursday, September 5th. Hopefully, once that decision is made public, it will bring a close to the controversy and the healing will begin.

Financial

A. Tax Collection YTD vs. Budget: Mr. Nimmer reported that for the first month of the 2019-20 academic year we are collecting the normal small amount coming in. This will continue to improve after ad valorem taxes are finalized in late September with the bills going out in October.

B. Assessment Totals: Mr. Nimmer stated the green sheets which show assessment totals have continued to hold very steady over the entire calendar year. There will be growth added during the month of September and early October that will be used prior to the generation of the property tax bills. \$784,192 the value of one mil countywide will be adjusted upward. Growth has been moderate but still better than five or six years ago due to depreciation and lack of construction.

C. Education Sales & Use Tax: Mr. Nimmer referenced the sales tax report which is through the month of July. He expects that between now and the next meeting in August, the total will have eclipsed the one-hundred million dollar collection mark. We have collected \$98,325,229.62 through the end of July which is significantly ahead of projections.

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 the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Brock and was followed by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Draisen.

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.