

**MINUTES**  
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
April 21, 2008

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

**Board Members Absent:** Jeff Kubu

**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:** Rev. Dr. Mitchell made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Garrison seconded the motion, and the Board agreed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Garrison made the motion to approve the March 17, 2008 minutes. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve with the exception of Ms. Bradberry who abstained due to her absence at the March meeting.

**Recognition of Media and Patrons/Public Comment Period:** No visitors or media were present.

**Anderson County Alternative School Report:** Mr. Brock presented a detailed report, created by Ms. Wanda Collins, of active student enrollment, current number of students in each grade and the reasons students left the Alternative School from August 21, 2007 through April 15, 2008. Mr. Nimmer figured the percentage of children from each district attending the Alternative School as of April 15, 2008. A discussion followed concerning safe computer use, supported by the Safe School Act, by the Alternative School students. Mr. Nimmer reported that the invoices for the Alternative School enrollment had been distributed to the School Districts.

**County Board Study Committee Update:** Mr. Gray, chairman of the County Board Study Committee, reported the following items discussed at the meeting with Strom Thurmond Institute representatives: To physically consolidate school districts is probably not practical according to national data which indicates Anderson County Districts are too large for consolidation. As the Board has already established, a standard millage for the county would be beneficial to the School Districts. Distributing funds and consolidating services would be areas to be organized by the County Board. It would be important to see that each child in Anderson County have the same opportunities regardless of which district they are in. A discussion followed concerning dual enrollment for dual credit. Mr. Garrison suggested creating a program using webinars to make it possible for students to receive dual credit. It was noted the Strom Thurmond Institute is looking into costs and combination of services in the districts.

**Administrator's Report:** Mr. Nimmer reported:

1. Tentative dates for the 2008 budget workshops have been scheduled as follows:  
County Board Budget Committee—May 8, 2008 @ 4:00 pm  
District One Budget Workshop-----To be determined  
District Two Budget Workshop-----June 10, 2008@ 6:30 pm  
District Three Budget Workshop-----June 9, 2008 @ 6:30 pm

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District Four Budget Workshop-----June 5, 2008 @ 6:00 pm

District Five Budget Workshop-----June 3, 2008 @ 6:30 pm

2. Information gained from April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Department of Revenue and school business officials from across the state: (a) Update on Act 388—Money is available for funding of schools this year with what has been taken in so far. This law contains a provision that the State Department of Revenue reimburse the county for the owner occupied property tax. Any additional money collected would then go back to the county for additional property tax relief. There won't be any additional property tax relief. The projections were off by that amount. The other penny of the Educational Improvement Act is a one to one relationship. The final payment of ten equal payments for the reimbursement is a "catch up" payment. The State Department of Revenue has decided to audit every county's tax invoices to verify the 4% property tax to insure everyone is being reimbursed at the proper level. That will delay the final payment by approximately two months. The audits will be started with the counties having the largest discrepancy between 2006 and 2007. Anderson County is not one of those counties, meaning the audit for Anderson County will be conducted later with less spread and chance for adjustment. Everybody will probably close their books with a receivable, the County Board included. After a brief discussion, Mr. Nimmer explained that in theory it would not be possible to meet effort if you are capped at what you can do in terms of millage. Presently millage can only be increased by CPI plus growth in the district. There is no provision in the law for reserve. The law requires that 100% of money collected be dispersed among the school districts first and what is left must be dispersed to the counties for additional property tax relief. Mr. Price stated he had always been an advocate of giving the schools all they needed to educate the children. He noted that through referendums the districts had money coming in over the last few years. This year, the districts will be limited as to what they may ask for. Mr. Nimmer explained the three pools dealt with are: (1) Operations-limited by the CPI plus growth (2) 8% money (3) Bond issues. Mr. Garrison said that interest is earned on the bonds, even though there is a limit to what that amount can be. Mr. Nimmer stated the result of Act 388 is still evolving.

3. The County Board website is continually being updated and made more interactive by Ms. Connie Gray. Rather than publishing a paper directory as has been done in the past, a link to all Anderson County Schools is now available on the website. The new logo is also on the website.

4. Attending a Day at the Capital: Joey Nimmer, Mike Gray, Steve Garrison.

5. Bill # 4883, a local option sales tax bill for educational capital improvement is in the House of Representatives. This would be a way to pay down bonded indebtedness using sales

tax as opposed to traditional tax levies. It has cleared the Ways and Means Committee and now will go into the House for debate. This bill has the potential to change educational funding in the future.

#### **Financial:**

A. **Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** Mr. Nimmer reported District Two is lagging behind; however there is a large collection of delinquent taxes in District Two that will likely close this gap. All other districts are in line as they should be. The gap for the Alternative School will be closed when the Districts send the invoice money based on the 135 ADM to the school.

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- B. **Assessment Totals:** The assessment totals are basically flat due to disappointing new vehicle sales, foreclosures up dramatically in the county over last year at this time, and building permits being down until the month of March. Mr. Brock noted there were a lot of remodeling permits issued. The quarterly revenue and expenditure report for the County Board shows high Board purchased services due to money expended for the study this year that should be recorded in last year expenditures. This will be corrected by the auditors at the close of the year. The County Board is 87% on revenue and 67% of budget on expenditures so expenses are being controlled.

**Old Business: New Board Manual:**

- A. **County Board Projects Update:** Mr. Nimmer assured the Board the new manuals are in progress of completion as time permits
- B. Mr. Price reminded the Board to let him know of the awards given to schools in their districts in order to give them special recognition.

**New Business:**

**A & B. ADM and SFS Accounts Payable:** Rev. Dr. Mitchell made the motion to pay the bills. Mr. Brock seconded the motion, and the Board agreed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Bradberry, Acting Secretary of the Anderson County Board of Education

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