

**MINUTES**  
ANDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
May 19, 2008

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

**Board Members Absent:** John Sherard, Steve Garrison, and Brenda Bradberry

**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:** Mr. Price asked to add item C. Wren Girls' Softball Team and D. Public Relations Committee to New Business. Mr. Gray made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion, and the Board agreed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Kubu made the motion to approve the April 21, 2008 minutes. Mr. Gray seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

**Recognition of Media and Patrons/Public Comment Period:** Mr. Draisen presented the South Carolina Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jenna Halmon, with a congratulatory plaque from the Board.

**Anderson County Alternative School Report:** Mr. Brock distributed a report of students currently in each grade. Mr. Dillingham explained the drop in total enrollment due to children being dismissed from the Alternative School because of extremely disruptive behavior. This behavior is not conducive to education for those willing to learn. Mr. Kubu asked about the number of students in each grade. Mr. Dillingham reported the sixth grade had been full and challenging. He informed the Board the enrollment of an elementary student at the Alternative School was due to two elementary schools including sixth grade in District Four. Mr. Gray asked if there were any success stories to report. Mr. Dillingham said that there were students with good grades, perfect attendance, one receiving a Governor's good citizenship award and two graduates. As a reward for being on the honor roll and perfect attendance, Mr. Dillingham takes these students to Ryan's every quarter. He invited everyone to graduation and awards day scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Presentation of County Board Budget--Budget Committee:** In response to Mr. Kubu's question about subcategories being listed under travel, Mr. Nimmer stated he based the format of the budget on the State Department of Education budget software. Mr. Price asked for a comparison of last year's budget with this year's proposed budget. Mr. Gray made the motion that further discussion of the budget be tabled until next month when the comparisons can be made. Rev. Dr. Mitchell seconded and the Board agreed unanimously.

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

1. Final schedule for the budget workshops was given to each Board member as follows:

District One: June 2, 2008

District Two: June 10, 2008

District Three: June 9, 2008

District Four: June 5, 2008

District Five: June 3, 2008

Pros and cons were discussed concerning the districts meeting at the County Board office for budget workshops next year. Mr. Price reminded the Board that a specific format for all districts was suggested last year. Mr. Nimmer stated he has put together one excel format for all districts to follow with a request for the information to be returned no later than one week prior to the budget workshops. Mr. Nimmer plans to take this information and create a manual for all Board members a week ahead.

2. A Day at the Capital, attended by Mr. Garrison and Mr. Nimmer, was very positive. At this meeting they spoke with members of the delegation: Kevin Bryant, Billy O'Dell, Mike Gambrell and Don Bowen.
3. Mr. Nimmer received information Randy Barnett would be able to complete his term as a member of the School District Five Board of Trustees which will end in November.
4. The Strom Thurmond Institute study is continuing to move forward with contact information provided by Mr. Nimmer. At present they are working with GIS updating maps and looking at the information asked for by the Board. A meeting is scheduled with them tentatively for June 16<sup>th</sup> which is the day of the next County Board meeting at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Kubu believed some contradictions were made by the Strom Thurmond Institute as far as recommended district size. Mr. Gray believed Mr. Kubu was accurate in his observation. He explained the State studied to find administrative costs by making districts bigger, but that savings was very little in doing this. Mr. Gray asked the Strom Thurmond Institute to present information concerning county wide millage which would give each district access to the same opportunities per student.

**Financial:**

- A. **Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** All districts are on track to meet their budgets as anticipated.
- B. **Assessment Totals:** The assessment totals have increased slightly this month, and they will be changing a great deal over the next few weeks as reassessment continues. The legislature have bill currently before them that deal with reassessment and trying to adjust the results of Act 388, which dealt heavily with capping reassessment values.

**Old Business:** Mr. Price suggested the Board have questions ready for the districts when they present their budgets. Mr. Nimmer explained the format he requested from districts which included a breakdown of payroll by classification, total positions, number of positions by classification, administrative and classroom instruction, school food service, maintenance and transportation. He also asked for the anticipated payroll changes in each classification and the increase in the number of positions in each classification. Mr. Nimmer believed the format used would answer most of the

questions presented by the Board members such as: Is it taken into consideration the number of students per teacher in classrooms, the number of assistants and how they are paid, and a breakdown of each school's finances for each student?

A discussion followed concerning the rights of the County Board members to attend another board's executive session. Mr. Nimmer said to be prepared to ask tough questions and to request follow up workshops if the Board deemed necessary.

**New Business:**

- A. A & B. ADM and SFS Accounts Payable:** Mr. Brock made the motion to approve the payment of the bills. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.
- B. Wren's Girls Softball Team:** Mr. Price suggested road signs to recognize the winners of the State Championship. Mr. Nimmer had received the message that recognition could be made at the school. Mr. Price made the motion to have signs erected in recognition of the State championship won by the Wren girl's softball team and present them with a congratulatory plaque. The placement of the signs was discussed and it was decided to let the school make the decision. There was no opposition.
- C. Citizenship Awards:** As chairman of the Public Relations Committee, Mr. Price writes letters of congratulations to those who receive awards in the schools. He recommended the other Board members adopt this procedure for their districts. Mr. Gray stated the Board needed to have a specific list of awards to be recognized. Mr. Nimmer suggested criteria be sent to the districts for awards that would be recognized by the Board and have the districts inform the Board of the awards. Mr. Brock made the motion to give the Public Relations Committee responsibility for recognition of awards. Mr. Gray 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.