

Anderson County Board of Education
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625
January 26, 2009 6:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Brenda Bradberry, Jeff Kubu, Randy Price, David Draisen, Mike Brock, Dale Martin, Rev. Dr. Mitchell, Mike Gray, and Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: Steve Garrison

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: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the agenda, Mr. Gray seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes—December 8, 2008 Meeting: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Gray seconded the motion. The Board agreed unanimously.

Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period: No media was present. There were no public comments.

Election of Board Officers for Calendar Year 2009: Mr. Price made the motion to elect the following Board officers for the 2009 calendar year: David Draisen, Chairman; Brenda Bradberry, Vice Chairman; Rev. Dr. Mitchell, secretary. Mr. Kubu seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

Presentation of 2007-2008 Audit—Ken Martin, CPA: Ken Martin presented the 2007-2008 audit of the Anderson County Board of Education. He explained the responsibility of management to establish a set of internal control procedures that safeguards the assets of the organization. They are to set up a system of financial reporting that will yield accurate and timely reports enabling them to manage efficiently. They are to plan and budget limited resources to accomplish projected goals and then operate under that budget. Mr. Martin reported the County Board took these responsibilities seriously. In performing the audit according to general accepted auditing standards and governmental auditing standards, Martin Smith and Co., determined there were no instances where the County Board was not complying with the system. In examining routine audit tests of the assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenditures of the organization, Martin Smith and Co. gave the County Board a clean opinion of the financial statements. Mr. Martin congratulated the management and employees for performing the day to day work efficiently during the year enabling his company to give this opinion. A discussion of the audit followed Mr. Martin's report. Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that one change made this year was the transfer of a series of CD's which were unprotected without collateral into a cash management account that uses government securities as collateral. The CD's are in two

different institutions and the cash management account is with one bank that is backed by government securities. Ms. Bradberry asked if all employees are paid for accumulated annual leave when they retire or leave. Mr. Nimmer stated the policy at present is to pay up to ten days accumulated annual leave per employee. Credit for a certain amount of accumulated sick leave is given by the state retirement system. The only long term debt the County Board has is the accumulated leave.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Nimmer reported:

- A. Cindy Pruitt, Attendance/Drop Out Coordinator, had surgery for a detached retina but is expected back to work soon.
- B. Packets were given to Board members which included responses from the Districts to the budget shortfall. Also included was the format used to budget EFA from the State Department of Education.
- C. State ethics forms, which must be filed by April 15, 2009, were distributed to Board members.
- D. The South Carolina School Board Conference will be held February 19, 2009 through February 22, 2009. Mr. Price presented his opinion that in this economic climate, not all Board members should attend the conference. It was decided Mr. Draisen and Mr. Nimmer will attend along with the new Board member, Dale Martin. New Board members are required to attend.
- E. Mr. Nimmer has met with both classes from Clemson University who are working on the Board and employee manuals. April, 2009, is the projected completion date for the manuals. A group from the class will be meeting with the committee, headed by Ms. Bradberry, to review the structure, focus and form for the new Board manual.
- F. Mr. Nimmer and Ms. Pruitt began visitation in the schools prior to her surgery. They were impressed with the spirit of co-operation encountered in the schools. Visitation will resume upon her return. Mr. Nimmer would like visitation to be an annual event to foster continuing working relationships with the schools. Mr. Draisen asked if there was a way to measure the success of the mental health program in the schools. Mr. Nimmer stated we measure success by the feedback being received from the schools, which has been positive.

Financial:

- A. **Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget:** The receipt of tax money from the Treasurer's office to the Districts for January 15th was delayed until January 23rd. Through the end of December all Districts were in the same basic category with the exception of District Three due to transfer issues concerning delay of escrow money. District Four has the highest industrial base so their payments come in right after the 15th of January. Mr. Nimmer explained most Districts are using their fund balances because of lack of state money. Cuts by the state depend on the line item. One across the Board cut

of 3% was carried out in September, 2008. In December, selective cuts were made averaging 6% to 7%. There is the possibility of another cut if revenue does not come in as anticipated. Mr. Nimmer informed the Board there is a lot of speculation concerning revisiting Act 388.

B. Assessment Totals: There are changes in the process of being made which will change the assessment from a 6% property to a 4% property. The assessment, as a result of reassessment, increased countywide by approximately \$70,000.

Old Business: Scenarios being examined by the Strom Thurmond Institute as reported at a committee meeting prior to the Board meeting:

1. Combining all Districts into one County wide District
2. Five Districts as they exist presently
3. Combination of District One and District Two
4. Combination of District Three, District Four, District Five
5. Split District One and split District Five and create three equal size Districts that would have approximately 8500 students each and equal tax dollars

Before completing the project, the Strom Thurmond Institute needed clarification of which student services the Board wanted to address in terms of consolidation, such as special education, technical education, dual enrollment, and technology in the classroom. The reassessment information and the situation at the State level concerning Act 388 are included in the study.

Mr. Nimmer stated the timeline has been mailed to the Districts and all were fine with the change of dates. All Districts are aware preliminary budgets are due to the County Board on June 1, 2009, and budget meetings would begin in July, 2009.

Mr. Nimmer is researching the need for a county wide grant writer. The Districts are receptive of helping fund this project. He made the Board aware that no contract teachers have been cut from the schools so far.

Mr. Nimmer informed the City of Anderson the County Board was not receptive to their offer to purchase the County Board building and land. Ms. Bradberry wanted to know the worth of the County Board building. Mr. Gray said he thought it was foolish of the Board not to hear what the City of Anderson is willing to pay for the building. Mr. Kubu believes it is worth more to the Recreation Center than to anyone else. Mr. Draisen reminded the Board that the matter could not be discussed unless a member who voted against it agreed to revisit the proposition.

New Business:

A. ADM Accounts Payable

B. SFS Accounts Payable: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to pay both the ADM accounts payable and the School Food Service accounts payable. Mr. Price seconded the motion and the Board agreed unanimously.

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Mr. Kubu asked if the Board could know the line item budgets from the Districts. The Board discussed the possibility of knowing where money is being spent for specific programs and items in the Districts in addition to approving the budgets.

C. Schedule of County Board Meetings for 2009: Ms. Bradberry made the motion to approve the 2009 calendar of Board meeting dates. Mr. Price seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Adjourn: