

Anderson County Board of Education  
402 Bleckley Street, Anderson, South Carolina 29625  
April 15, 2013

**Call to Order**

Mr. David Draisen called the meeting to order and Ms. Brenda Bradberry gave the invocation after which everyone joined in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

**Board Members Present:**

Mr. David Draisen, Ms. Brenda Bradberry, Ms. Dana Grant, Dr. Gary Burgess, Mr. Mike Brock, Dr. Craig Drennon, and Mr. Joey Nimmer, Ex Officio were present.

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Dale Martin, Mr. Mike Upton and Rev. Dr. Rufus Mitchell were not present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Brenda Bradberry seconded the motion and the Board members approved the agenda unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes – March 18, 2013 Meeting**

Dr. Gary Burgess made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2013 meeting, seconded by Dr. Craig Drennon. With a unanimous vote, the board approved the minutes.

**Recognition of Media and Patrons / Public Comment Period**

Mr. Rick Bradshaw, Chairman of the Anderson County School District 5 Board of Trustees was in attendance and introduced Superintendent Elect of District 5, Tom Wilson, to the Board. After introductions, Mr. Wilson addressed the Board giving details of his personal, educational and administrative background. He told the Board that he looked forward to working with them not only for the students of District 5, but for all the students of Anderson County.

Dr. Lee D'Andrea, Superintendent of District 4 and Mr. Larry Young, District 4 Director of Finance, were in attendance to address the board under the new business section of the agenda.

**Anderson County Alternative School Report**

Mr. Mike Brock provided copies of the report to each member present. It was noted that the current Alternative School Report for the period ending April 25, 2012, indicated the total student enrollment was 110 students and in the same time period last school year, for the period ending April 16, 2013, the total population was 133.

Ms. Bradberry asked what types of infractions are being committed by the special needs students. Mr. Nimmer answered the infractions were usually typical disciplinary infractions and in order to be able to participate in that program they were required to be able to participate in the physical training

components of the program.

Dr. Gary Burgess addressed Dr. D'Andrea, District 4 Superintendent, stating the student population at the Alternative School was predominantly white male, but that he understands that poverty is the most common factor of the students. Dr. Burgess asked Dr. D'Andrea how they succeeded in keeping District 4 schools in house. D'Andrea's replied they view sending a student out of the District as a last resort and mentioned their Focus Program was a step in their intervention process. Dr. D'Andrea stated that most recently they have seen infractions such as drugs and weapons related and not much fighting and disruptive behavior, etc., on campus. Ms. Bradberry asked Dr. D'Andrea if drugs were discovered on campus, what action was taken on the student. Dr. D'Andrea replied that this is determined by the School Resource Officer who works with the Solicitor's Office to establish what action should be taken after age of the student and other factors are determined.

During further discussion, it was also mentioned that students who attend the Alternative School find the structure of the classes and environment lend to a more successful educational experience and some students have requested to stay at the Alternative School.

### **Administrator's Report**

Mr. Nimmer reminded the Board of the Two Days at the Capitol meeting for the Upstate Region that will be held on May 8, 2013. Mr. Nimmer informed the Board that he and Mr. David Draisen would be attending and if any of the other Board members were interested in going, to please let him know.

Mr. Nimmer informed the board of the recent notification from the South Carolina School Board Association regarding the proposed state legislation that rolls back the assessed values of commercial property, primarily manufacturing. He stated that he had contacted two members of the subcommittee expressing our concern of the impact locally and he would keep the Board apprised of the situation.

Mr. Nimmer reported that state revenues continue to grow over the same period as last year. For the period July - February 2012-13, revenues are 12% ahead of 2011-12. Ms. Bradberry asked what the base student cost was in the past budget and Mr. Nimmer replied the base student cost is proposed to be \$2,101, an \$89 increase over the current year of \$2,012.

Ms. Grant asked Mr. Nimmer for an update on the Work Keys Program. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was in a holding pattern, waiting for the state to decide how the program would be funded. Ms. Grant asked if any of the 5 districts were currently Work Keys testing. Mr. Nimmer answered that the Career Center in District 1 and District 2 was using the assessment and believes that District 5, through its Adult Education and Career Campus, were currently performing Work Keys assessments.

Ms. Bradberry asked Mr. Nimmer to give an explanation of the program. Mr. Nimmer explained that it was a nationally recognized assessment tool to determine work readiness. He continued to describe the program and added the assessment was made up of 5 components and the scoring from the total assessment determines student ratings. Employers use this rating as a screening tool in reviewing applicants and more industries are going in that direction. Ms. Bradberry asked if schools were not providing this assessment, where would they be able to be assessed. Mr. Nimmer stated there is a Work Ready Communities Initiative that is being formed. He stated that he served on this committee as an education representative. Mr. Nimmer continued to inform the board that the committee met with all five superintendents and they are all on board with the assessment program as long as there is a way to pay for it. Mr. Nimmer stated that it was either to be administered through the State Department of

Commerce or the Department of Education. Mr. Nimmer concluded that preferably the Department of Commerce would administer the program as they are directly connected to industry who can provide input in the Work Keys Assessment Profiles.

Dr. D'Andrea added that District 4 was conducting Work Keys assessments for special education and career and technology track students who were on track for high school diplomas. She continued that there is support from the superintendents group to ask the state to use Work Keys and or ACT instead of HSAP as a graduation requirement.

## **Financial**

### **A. Tax Collections YTD vs. Budget**

Mr. Nimmer reported that most of the monies have been received but will continue to trickle in for the remainder of the fiscal year. All districts are ahead of last year with the exception of District 1 due to the reclassification of several commercial properties. Ms. Bradberry asked the reason why Districts 1 and 2 were behind in what they budgeted for delinquent taxes. Mr. Nimmer answered that they generally catch up on the taxes and there is ample time to collect, but will check on the specifics.

### **B. Assessment Totals – March, 2013 31**

Mr. Nimmer reported growth of approximately \$300 in the value of a mil county wide which has been the trend for several months, due primarily to the sale of automobiles. Ms. Bradberry asked how mobile homes were assessed in Anderson County. Mr. Nimmer answered assessments on mobile homes are treated as real property and the assessment rate is dependent upon whether the property is owner-occupied. A tax assessment ratio of 4% will be used if occupied, 6% if it is non-owner occupied.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business discussed.

## **New Business**

District 4 was present to address the board regarding a request to pursue the purchase of a piece of property adjacent to Pendleton High School, located on Boscobel Road, using the general obligation bonds. Dr. D'Andrea stated that as requested by the Board, District 4 was giving 30 day notice prior to their voting on a resolution. Dr. D'Andrea explained that District 4 has entered into a feasibility contract to investigate the property to ensure that it is buildable. Dr. D'Andrea added that the property has been offered at a very reasonable rate, at \$12,000 per acre for a total amount of 84 acres. The initial plans are to use the lot for a centralized bus parking lot, but in the future it may also be used to build a new school.

After an in-depth explanation of the feasibility process given by Dr. D'Andrea was concluded, Mr. Draisen stated that the purchase would cost approximately \$1,000,000 (one million dollars). Mr. Larry Young, District 4 Director of Finance, stated that it would total approximately \$1,000,032, and including the cost of the studies, the total will be under \$1.1 million. Dr. Burgess stated that it was a very desirable piece a property if the district decided to build another school.

Page 4 of 4

**A. ADM Accounts Payable**

**B. SFS Accounts Payable**

Ms. Brenda Bradberry made a motion to pay the bills as proposed. Dr. Craig Drennon seconded the motion and the Board approved the payments unanimously.

**Adjourn**

Mr. Draisen made a motion that the meeting be 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.