ANDERSON DISTRICT 3

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

335 WEST FRONT STREET | P.O. BOX 118 | IVA, SC 29655 | (864) 348-6196 | WWW.ACSD3.ORG

Monday, February 9, 2026
Regular Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
Anderson 3 Administrative Offices

The Anderson School District Three Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom of the Administrative Offices located in Iva, South Carolina. Those present were Mr. Watt (Chairman), Mrs. Arnold (Secretary), Mr. Holbrook, Mr. Bouknight, and Mr. Burdette.

Mr. Watt called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Tripp Bouknight gave the invocation.

AGENDA & MINUTES

Mrs. Arnold made a motion to amend the agenda by moving Action Item 6A, the Cybersecurity Policy, to a discussion item under the Superintendent's Report. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Holbrook made a motion to approve the January board minutes as written. Mr. Bouknight seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Commendations and Recognitions

Crescent High School Football Recognitions

Superintendent Hipp recognized several Crescent High School football players and their coach for outstanding accomplishments during the 2025 season.

Amiri Acker was recognized as the South Carolina Football Coaches Association AAA Upper State Offensive Player of the Year, a AAA All-State selection, a Shrine Bowl selection, and a signee to North Carolina State University. As Mr. Acker is currently enrolled at NC State, his family accepted the recognition on his behalf.

Mason Evans was recognized as an AAA All-State selection, the Region I-AAA Offensive Player of the Year, and the Anderson Area Touchdown Club Offensive Player of the Year.

Willie Webb was recognized as an AAA All-State selection.

Coach Sheldon Evans was recognized as the South Carolina Football Coaches Association Upper State Coach of the Year. Superintendent Hipp noted that under Coach Evans' leadership, Crescent High School advanced further in the playoffs than the program had in approximately thirty years.

Bus Driver of the Month

Superintendent Hipp recognized Kathy Patton as Bus Driver of the Month. She was commended for her strong work ethic, reliability, professionalism, and positive attitude. Superintendent Hipp highlighted Ms. Patton's dedication to the students, parents, and staff she serves and thanked her for the important role she plays in supporting the district's transportation operations.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no Citizens' Comments this evening.

REPORTS

Financial Audit Report

Mr. Moore introduced Mr. David Smith of Smith and Company, who presented the district's annual financial audit. Mr. Smith reported that the district received an unmodified (clean) opinion on its financial statements. He explained that the audit included reviews of financial statements, internal controls, and compliance with federal programs. No findings or significant deficiencies were identified.

Mr. Smith commended the district's financial staff for maintaining strong records and internal control procedures. He noted that the food service program was selected as the federal program for compliance testing and was well-organized and compliant.

Anderson Institute of Technology Report

District staff presented an update on programs and initiatives at the Anderson Institute of Technology.

Updates included improvements to safety systems, such as expanded staff radio access, hall monitoring, and updated visitor management procedures. Staff also discussed the launch of a

new Senior Engineering program that integrates CNC machining, engineering processes, and mechatronics to better prepare students for careers in advanced manufacturing.

The report also highlighted partnerships with local industry partners such as Arthrex and Dodge Industrial, which have provided equipment, technical support, and career opportunities for students.

Staff shared enrollment data, program capacity information, and updates on efforts to increase industry certifications and workforce readiness opportunities for students.

Board members expressed appreciation for the work being done at AIT and its impact on preparing students for careers in the local workforce.

Financial Reports

Mr. Moore presented the General Fund financial report through the end of January. He reported that revenues currently exceed expenditures by $2,657,623, noting that the timing of property tax collections largely drives fluctuations during this time of year.

Mr. Moore reported that property tax collections are ahead of last year and that the district is in a strong financial position.

He also reviewed the district's sales tax allocation. January collections totaled $289,368.70, with a portion directed to debt service and the remaining available for capital improvements.

Mr. Moore provided an early overview of the upcoming budget process. He discussed several factors expected to impact the district's financial planning, including projected state teacher salary increases, property tax growth, and state budget considerations.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hipp provided updates regarding the proposed Crescent Middle School project. She shared that district leadership has conducted numerous community information sessions throughout the district to provide residents with project information and answer questions.

Superintendent Hipp also discussed potential factors that may influence the project's overall financial impact, including growth in the district's tax base, potential state infrastructure funding opportunities, and the future renewal of the county sales tax.

A fly-through rendering of the proposed Crescent Middle School facility was presented to the Board to provide an overview of the building design and layout.

Cybersecurity Policy Discussion

Mrs. Gray reviewed the proposed Cybersecurity Governance Policy and associated administrative regulations.

The discussion covered multi-factor authentication, vendor security requirements, data classification standards, and procedures for responding to cybersecurity incidents. Staff explained that the policy aligns the district with nationally recognized cybersecurity standards while allowing administrative regulations to address operational procedures.

Board members discussed several questions related to vendor oversight, incident reporting procedures, and acceptable use policies. The policy was presented for review before its first reading.

Mr. Holbrook made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel matters related to administrative recommendations and contracts. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Burdette motioned, and Mr. Bouknight seconded, and the motion carried 5–0 to come out of executive session.

Upon returning to open session, Mr. Burdette motioned, and Mrs. Arnold seconded to accept the motion to reappoint the administrators listed as presented in the personnel report for the 2026–2027 academic year.

Mr. Bouknight motioned, and Mr. Burdette seconded. The motion to accept the recommendation of certified candidates A, B, and C for employment for the 2026–2027 school year was accepted as presented.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Arnold motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Holbrook seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

_____ _____

Chairman Secretary