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Monday, June 8, 2026
Regular Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
Crescent High School Library

The Anderson School District 3 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, June 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Crescent High School Library 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. Holbrook provided an invocation.

AGENDA & MINUTES

Mr. Bouknight moved to approve the June board agenda as written. Mr. Holbrook seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the May 11, 2026 and May 26, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no Citizens' Comments this evening.

Crescent Middle School Construction Update

Representatives from Harper Construction provided the board with an update on the construction of Crescent Middle School.

The project team introduced key personnel assigned to the project and reviewed the construction timeline. Board members were informed that demolition and site clearing had

been completed, utilities had been relocated, water service had been installed, and mass grading and construction of the retention pond were well underway. The team reported that the project remains on schedule despite significant rainfall during the Memorial Day weekend.

Upcoming work over the next thirty days includes installation of the site security fence, completion of sanitary sewer connections, continued construction of the building pad, and installation of storm drainage. The construction team also discussed procurement of long-lead materials and ongoing coordination with trade partners. Board members asked questions regarding site grading, utilities, rock excavation, retention pond placement, and overall project progress.

Representatives from McMillan, Pazdan, Smith Architects also presented updated renderings of the new Crescent Middle School. The presentation highlighted the building layout, secure entrance, media center, cafeteria, gymnasium, collaborative learning spaces, agriculture classrooms, and outdoor learning areas. The architects discussed design features intended to support student collaboration, safety, and flexibility while complementing the Crescent campus. Board members expressed appreciation for the progress and design of the new facility.

Presentation of 2026 - 2027 General Fund Budget

Chief Financial Officer Matthew Moore presented the second reading of the proposed 2026-2027 General Fund Budget.

Mr. Moore reported a proposed general fund budget totaling **$33,495,000**, representing a **4.05% increase** over the current fiscal year budget. He noted that the proposed budget does **not include a millage increase**. The budget is based on current enrollment projections, state funding estimates, local property tax projections, and maintaining the district's goal of a 25% fund balance.

Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- $54,000 starting teacher salary
- $2,000 salary increase for teachers
- $2,000 salary increase for administrators
- 3% salary increase for support staff
- Additional special education teaching position
- Increased funding for school resource officer contracts
- Continued commitment to maintaining a 25% general fund balance

Mr. Moore also reviewed projected revenues, local property tax assumptions, state funding factors, payroll expenditures, and fund balance projections. Board members discussed

local property tax collections, the district's conservative budgeting approach, the impact of legislative changes, and the long-term sustainability of the district's finances.

Mrs. Arnold noted that the district office support staff salary schedule should be reviewed during the upcoming year to determine whether adjustments should be considered in future budgets.

Mr. Holbrook made a motion to approve the proposed 2026-2027 General Fund Budget as presented. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Public Hearing - 2026-2027 General Fund Budget

Mr. Watt opened the public hearing for the proposed 2026-2027 General Fund Budget. No comments were received from the public, and the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Holbrook made a motion to approve the proposed 2026-2027 General Fund Budget as presented. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Financial Reports

Mr. Moore presented the General Fund Financial Report through May 31, 2026.

He reported that revenues exceeded expenditures by **$1,938,036**. Although revenues trail the previous year due to several timing differences, Mr. Moore explained that the district remains on track to meet its 25% fund balance goal by the close of the fiscal year. He also reviewed property tax collections, state aid to classrooms, and expenditure trends, noting that all major revenue sources remain on pace to meet budget projections.

Sales Tax Report

Mr. Moore reported that the May local option sales tax allocation totaled **$332,048.65**, with **$66,409.73** applied toward debt service and the remaining balance available for capital projects. He noted that collections continue to trend ahead of previous years and have already exceeded fiscal year 2023-2024 totals.

Appendix Items

Superintendent Hipp provided a summary of Crescent High School's graduation ceremony, noting that 185 diplomas were awarded, including 25 midyear graduates. She discussed the impact of early graduates on state funding calculations and shared preliminary enrollment projections for the 2026-2027 school year, indicating an anticipated increase of approximately 40 to 50 students entering the district. Board members also discussed the district's continued emphasis on college and career readiness for early graduates.

Mr. Holbrook moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel and contractual matters. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Mrs. Arnold made a motion to eliminate an assistant superintendent position due to a recent retirement. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-3. Mrs. Arnold and Mr. Burdette voted yes to carry the motion; Mr. Watt, Mr. Holbrook, and Mr. Bouknight voted no to decline the motion.

Mrs. Arnold questioned if there would be discussion on the motion. Mr. Watt remarked that the vote had already been taken.

ADJOURN

Mr. Bouknight motioned, and Mr. Holbrook seconded, and the motion passed 5–0 to adjourn the meeting.

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Chairman Secretary