ANDERSON DISTRICT 3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

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Monday, September 14, 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, September 14, 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. Burdette, and Mr. Bouknight.

Mr. Watt called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led virtually by Mrs. Burdette's 6th grade class from Starr-Iva Middle. An invocation was provided by Mrs. Arnold.

AGENDA & MINUTES

Mr. Bouknight moved to approve the September 14, 2026 board agenda as written. Mr. Holbrook seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the August 10, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commendations and Recognitions

Life-Saving Action

Dr. David Nixon recognized School Resource Officer Jason Hanks, Trent Milford, and Jeremy Duncan for their life-saving response to a medical emergency involving a Crescent High School student on August 14, 2026.

The three were commended for quickly recognizing that the student was not breathing and did not have a pulse, immediately beginning CPR, providing ventilations, and utilizing an AED. Their actions resulted in the student regaining circulation prior to the arrival of EMS.

Representatives from Anderson County Emergency Management and Anderson County EMS joined the district in recognizing the three individuals and presented them with life-saving awards. District leaders also highlighted the importance of Anderson 3's commitment to CPR and AED training for faculty and staff.

SC READY Perfect Scores

Superintendent Kathy Hipp recognized 21 Anderson 3 students who earned perfect scores on the 2026 SC READY assessment, the highest number of perfect scores in district history.

Flat Rock Elementary - Charles Mack & Talon White

Iva Elementary - Uriyah Goodin, Ben Hayes, Jackson Hudson, Elisey Razin, Zannah Richey, Lillian Swaney

Starr Elementary - Jaina Eubanks, Eliza Kay Long, Carter Patterson, David Richardson, Dallas Sherard, Warden Taylor, Silas Wences, Josie May White

Starr-Iva Middle - Jocelyn Hays, Darla Moore, Benjamin Morrison, Lillian Osborne, Kayden Sutton

Superintendent Hipp congratulated the students, teachers, and school staff for their outstanding achievement.

Bus Driver of the Month

Superintendent Hipp recognized Karen Rhoades as the September Bus Driver of the Month. Ms. Rhoades serves as a floater and routinely steps in to cover routes throughout the district. She was commended for her dependability, flexibility, knowledge of district routes, calm demeanor, and willingness to assist wherever needed.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Tonya Dotson addressed the Board on behalf of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She thanked the district and Board for allowing FCA to serve Anderson 3 students and coaches and discussed FCA's work to provide mentorship, encouragement, leadership development, and support to students.

REPORTS

Financial Reports

Chief Financial Officer Matthew Moore presented the General Fund financial report through August 31, 2026. Expenditures exceeded revenues by $833,960, which Mr. Moore explained is consistent with the district's normal cash-flow cycle early in the fiscal year before significant property tax revenues are received.

Mr. Moore reported that the state's FY 2026-2027 budget had been formally adopted and that future financial reports would reflect updated state allocations.

Preliminary enrollment information showed an increase of approximately 17.5 students compared with the previous year, with growth particularly evident in special education enrollment. Mr. Moore explained that the increase could positively affect the district's weighted pupil units and state funding allocation following the 45th-day enrollment count.

Sales Tax Report

Mr. Moore reported that the district received an August Local Option Sales Tax allocation of $338,173.63, the third-largest monthly allocation received to date.

Of that amount, approximately $67,634 will be applied directly to debt service, with the remaining amount available for capital purposes. Mr. Moore also reported that a $950,000 transfer from the district's 80% sales tax portion will be needed during FY 2026-2027 to maintain the district's promised debt service millage of 38 mills.

Mental Health Program Update

The Board received an update on Anderson 3's district mental health program. The presentation reviewed current mental health referrals, suicide assessments, behavioral threat assessments, and the district's efforts to move from primarily reactive services toward a more proactive approach.

The district is focusing on developing student resilience, internal motivation, and core values. The presentation also highlighted concerns surrounding excessive screen use and its impact on students' social development, sleep, coping skills, and mental health.

The district's new Core Essentials initiative was highlighted as one strategy for establishing common language around positive values across all grade levels. August's Core Essential was Creativity, while September's focus is Friendship. The district is incorporating these values into classroom activities, counseling services, student recognition programs, and family engagement efforts.

The Board also discussed student technology and cell phone use and the district's efforts to reduce unnecessary screen time, including Starr-Iva Middle School's Tech-Free Week.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Hipp provided an overview of recently released state assessment results and statewide rankings. Anderson School District Three was ranked No. 5 in South Carolina.

Among the district's academic highlights, English 2 ranked No. 2 statewide, Biology 1 ranked No. 3, fourth-grade Mathematics ranked No. 3, fifth-grade Mathematics ranked No. 3, seventh-grade Mathematics ranked No. 5, fourth-grade ELA ranked No. 4, and seventh-grade ELA ranked No. 5.

Crescent High School was ranked No. 24 among South Carolina high schools, its highest ranking to date. Superintendent Hipp also discussed areas where additional growth is needed, particularly in third-grade and eighth-grade performance, and reiterated the district's goal of reaching 75% Meets or Exceeds in both ELA and Mathematics.

Action Items

Policy BE Board Meetings - 2nd Reading

The Board considered the Board Meetings Policy on second reading. The revision adds December as a month in which the Board will not hold a regular meeting unless otherwise posted.

Mr. Holbrook moved to approve the policy on second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bouknight. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy JFAB Admission of Nonresident Students - 2nd Reading

The Board considered Policy JFAB, Admission of Non-Resident Students, on second reading. Superintendent Hipp reported that no changes had been made since first reading.

Mr. Bouknight made a motion to approve Policy JFAB on second reading. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burdette. The motion was carried unanimously.

Policy JFAB-R Admission of Nonresident Students - 2nd Reading

The Board considered Administrative Rule JFAB-R, Admission of Non-Resident Students. The administrative rule outlines procedures associated with the district's implementation of the state's requirements for non-resident student enrollment, including capacity studies and the application process.

Mr. Burdette moved to approve Administrative Rule JFAB-R. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Arnold. The rule was passed unanimously.

Policy EBCA Cardiac Emergencies - 1st Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented a new Cardiac Emergency Policy for first reading. The policy was developed in response to new state requirements and addresses AED availability, cardiac emergency response procedures, and training. Superintendent Hipp noted that the district already has the required practices in place.

Mr. Burdette made a motion to approve the Cardiac Emergency Policy on first reading. Mr. Bouknight seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Policy GCCAC/GDCC Paid Parental Leave - 1st Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented revisions to the district's Paid Parental Leave Policy for first reading. Changes were made in response to revisions in state law and include an increase in paid parental leave for an eligible parent who did not give birth from two weeks to four weeks, as well as provisions related to stillbirth.

The Board discussed how paid parental leave interacts with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act and provisions related to situations in which both parents are district employees. Administration agreed to further review the language regarding concurrent leave prior to second reading.

Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the Paid Parental Leave Policy on first reading. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2027-2028 Anderson County School Calendar

Superintendent Hipp presented the proposed 2027-2028 Anderson County School Calendar, developed collaboratively by Anderson County school districts.

Mr. Bouknight made a motion to approve the 2027-2028 school calendar as presented. Mr. Holbrook seconded the motion, and passed unanimously.

FY 2025-2026 Building Fund Transfer Request

Mr. Moore presented a proposed FY 2025-2026 General Fund transfer to the Building Fund. The district's FY 2026-2027 budgeted expenditures total $33,495,000, establishing a 25% fund balance target of $8,373,750. Following the closeout of FY 2025-2026, General Fund revenues exceeded expenditures by an unaudited $379,765.85.

To maintain the district's 25% General Fund balance goal, administration recommended transferring $53,678.35 to the Building Fund. The transfer will increase the restricted Building Fund balance from $1,267,577.12 to approximately $1,321,255.47.

Mr. Moore also reviewed the district's June 30 year-end financial analysis and discussed revenue and expenditure variances, including property tax revenue, state funding, special

education contracted services, substitute costs, utilities, federal funding reductions, and CERDEP funding.

Mr. Burdette moved to approve the transfer of $53,678.35 from the General Fund to the Building Fund. Mr. Holbrook seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Appendix Items

Superintendent Hipp noted that the Board's packet included the August Crescent Middle School construction update, additional state assessment information, and correspondence confirming approval of the district and school strategic plans.

Board members who had recently toured the Crescent Middle School construction site commented on the significant progress underway and the number of contractors working simultaneously on the project.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Chairman reported that no action was required as a result of the Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Mrs. Arnold moved, and Mr. Burdette seconded, and the motion passed 5–0 to adjourn the meeting.

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Chairman Secretary