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, October 12, 2026

Regular Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

The Anderson School District 3 Board of Trustees met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Anderson 3 Board Room, 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. Petty's Kindergarten class from Iva Elementary. An invocation was provided by Mr. Bouknight.

AGENDA & MINUTES

Mr. Holbrook moved to approve the October 12, 2026 board agenda as written. Mr. Bouknight seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Arnold moved to approve the September 14, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commendations and Recognitions

Crescent High School Baseball

Superintendent Kathy Hipp recognized Crescent High School student-athletes Matt Alessandrini and Jake Vaughter for their outstanding athletic achievements. Both students earned Class AAA All-State Baseball honors, with Jake also receiving recognition as a North-South All-Star selection. Superintendent Hipp congratulated the student-athletes and acknowledged Coach Carson and their families for their dedication and support.

District Employees of the Year

Superintendent Hipp recognized three outstanding Anderson 3 employees for their dedication and service to students. Stephanie Harbert of Starr Elementary School was recognized as the 2026-2027 District Teacher of the Year. Matthew Gibson of Flat Rock Elementary School was recognized as the District Support Staff Employee of the Year. Annie Erbacher of Crescent High School was recognized as the District Rookie Teacher of the Year.

Bus Driver of the Month

Superintendent Hipp recognized Katie Mosley as the October Bus Driver of the Month. Mrs. Mosley was commended for her dedication, positive attitude, and commitment to providing excellent service to students. She consistently goes the extra mile to improve her route and brings encouragement to her coworkers by sharing a daily Bible verse each morning.

2025-2026 South Carolina School Report Cards

Superintendent Hipp recognized district schools and staff for their outstanding performance on the 2025-2026 South Carolina School Report Cards. Anderson School District Three was recognized as one of only seven districts in South Carolina with every school earning a rating of Good or Excellent.

Crescent High School, Starr Elementary School, and Flat Rock Elementary School earned Excellent ratings. Crescent High School achieved a total score of 77 out of 100, received Excellent ratings in five of six report card categories, and maintained an on-time graduation rate of at least 90% for the ninth consecutive year. Starr Elementary School continued its tradition of strong academic achievement, while Flat Rock Elementary School was recognized for its outstanding student growth and continued success in overcoming challenges associated with student poverty.

Iva Elementary School and Starr-Iva Middle School earned Good ratings. Starr-Iva Middle School improved from an Average rating the previous year, demonstrating academic gains in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

The Board also recognized Crescent High School, Starr Elementary School, and Flat Rock Elementary School for earning Palmetto Silver Awards.

Superintendent Hipp congratulated the principals, teachers, and staff members, emphasizing that these accomplishments reflect the collective efforts of employees throughout the district.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no citizens comments.

REPORTS

Financial Reports

Chief Financial Officer Matthew Moore presented the General Fund financial report through September 30, 2026.

Mr. Moore reported that expenditures exceeded revenues by $2,008,104. Although the district was approximately $300,000 to $400,000 behind the previous year's financial position at the same point, he explained that the difference was primarily related to the timing of revenue collections rather than increased spending. General Fund expenditures remained closely aligned with prior-year spending percentages.

Mr. Moore also discussed state aid to classrooms and property tax revenue projections, noting that adjustments to state allocations are anticipated following the reconciliation of the 45th-day enrollment counts.

Preliminary 45th-day enrollment data indicated an average daily membership of approximately 2,613.24 students, compared with 2,600.59 at the previous year's 135th-day count. Mr. Moore reported that special education enrollment had increased, which could positively affect the district's weighted pupil units and future state funding allocations.

Mr. Moore informed the Board of two financial reporting changes being implemented in coordination with the other Anderson County school districts. Beginning with FY 2026-2027, the district will extend its property tax revenue accrual period from 45 days to 60 days. Additionally, Tier I, II, and III property tax relief revenues will be recorded entirely as state revenue rather than being divided between state and local revenue categories. These adjustments will provide more consistent financial reporting among Anderson County school districts without changing the total amount of revenue received.

Sales Tax Report

Mr. Moore reported that the district received a September sales tax allocation of $328,764.67, the largest September allocation to date and the sixth-largest monthly allocation received since the program began.

Of that amount, $65,752.93 was allocated toward debt service, with the remaining $263,011.74 available for capital purposes.

Mr. Moore also noted that $950,000 from the capital portion of sales tax collections is being used to supplement debt service funding, allowing the district to maintain the previously promised debt service millage of 38 mills.

Cybersecurity Update

District technology staff presented an update on cybersecurity initiatives, including the implementation of CyberNut, a new cybersecurity awareness and phishing prevention platform.

The program provides employees with simulated phishing emails, individualized training, and opportunities to report suspicious messages. The platform adapts to employee performance and provides additional training when potentially harmful links are accessed.

During the first nine weeks, approximately 5,400 simulated phishing emails were distributed, with approximately 6% resulting in clicks. Staff also reported that 212 employees had submitted 652 suspicious emails for review during the previous 90 days, allowing the technology department to identify and remove potential threats.

The Board was also updated on a data security incident involving Frontline, a third-party vendor utilized by the district for human resources and student health-related services.

Mrs. Aimee Gray, Chief Information Officer, emphasized that Anderson School District Three's internal network had not experienced a security breach. However, information maintained by Frontline was affected by the vendor's security incident.

According to information received by the district, the incident affected records associated with approximately 4,983 students and 383 employees. The employee information included names, addresses, email addresses, and Social Security numbers. Student information included names, addresses, Medicaid identification numbers, or other identifying information, depending on the record. Staff reported that student Social Security numbers were not included. Mrs. Gray stressed that student Social Security numbers are not housed in any Anderson 3 systems.

District administration outlined its response, including communication with families and staff, coordination with law enforcement and state agencies, and ongoing communication with Frontline. The district elected to have Frontline coordinate direct notifications and remediation services for affected individuals. Board members expressed concerns regarding the vendor's communication timeline, data retention practices, and the protection of sensitive information. Administration reported that it was reviewing data retention procedures and vendor contracts, including potential additional cybersecurity and data protection requirements. The Board requested continued updates regarding the incident and any recommended policy, contractual, or operational changes.

Action Items

SCSBA Delegate Assembly

Superintendent Hipp discussed the upcoming South Carolina School Boards Association Delegate Assembly scheduled for December 5, 2026.

Board members discussed the selection of a district delegate and alternate for the assembly. Mr. Burdette was selected as delegate, with Mrs. Arnold to serve as alternate. The necessary certification paperwork was prepared for the Board Chairman's signature.

Policy EBCA: Cardiac Emergencies, Second Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented Policy EBCA, Cardiac Emergencies, for second reading. The new policy addresses requirements related to automated external defibrillators, emergency response procedures, and CPR and AED training for school personnel.

A motion was made by Mr. Bouknight and seconded by Mr. Burdette to approve Policy EBCA on second reading as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Policy GCCAC/GDCC: Paid Parental Leave, Second Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented Policy GCCAC/GDCC, Paid Parental Leave, for second reading.

She explained that, following consultation with legal counsel, an optional provision allowing the district to deny concurrent parental leave under certain circumstances had been removed from the proposed policy.

Mrs. Arnold made a motion and Mr. Holbrook seconded to approve Policy GCCAC/GDCC on second reading with the recommended revision. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy JH: Student Absences and Excuses, First Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented revisions to Policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses, for first reading. The revisions update language regarding student attendance, excused absences, attendance interventions, and procedures related to chronic absenteeism.

Superintendent Hipp explained that the revisions had been reviewed with district and county attendance personnel to ensure consistency with applicable requirements.

A motion was made by Mr. Burdette and seconded by Mr. Bouknight to approve Policy JH on first reading as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Policy JHE: Excused Absences for Career and Technical Student Organization Experiences or Interscholastic Activities, First Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented a new Policy JHE for first reading. The policy establishes provisions for excused absences associated with career and technical student organization experiences and interscholastic activities.

The policy also defines academic good standing as maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, having no failing grades in current classes, and meeting school attendance requirements.

A motion was made by Mrs. Arnold and seconded by Mr. Budette to approve Policy JHE on first reading as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Policy JLCG: Seizure Safe Schools, First Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented Policy JLCG, Seizure Safe Schools, for first reading in accordance with the Safe Seizure Safe Schools Act.

The policy addresses staff training and the posting of seizure response information in appropriate locations throughout district schools.

Mr. Bouknight made a motion and Mr. Budette seconded to approve Policy JLCG on first reading as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Appendix Items

Superintendent Hipp reviewed updates to the administrative rule associated with student attendance, including clarification regarding family vacations and excused absences for career and technical student organization activities.

She also informed the Board of additional policies anticipated for review in November, including board member training and development, removal from office, relations with parent organizations, and cybersecurity.

Board members discussed proposed statewide requirements regarding board member ethics and professional development. Mr. Holbrook provided an update on discussions with members of the South Carolina State Board of Education regarding the proposed requirements, which had been tabled for further consideration.

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 and wanted to remark how well all of Anderson 3's schools did on their school report cards.

ADJOURN

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

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Chairman Secretary