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Monday, August 10, 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, August 10, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance was led virtually by Mrs. Vaughn's 1st-grade students from Flat Rock Elementary. An invocation was provided by Mr. Bouknight.

AGENDA & MINUTES

Mr. Holbrook moved to approve the August board agenda as written. Mrs. Arnold seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Bouknight moved to approve the June 8, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Burdette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Commendations and Recognitions

Exceptional Citizenship and Heroism in Life-Saving Action

Superintendent Hipp recognized Paxton Hatcher and Colt Fulton for exceptional citizenship and heroism in recent life-saving action. The students were commended for their bravery, quick thinking, and actions during an emergency situation. Mrs. Hipp expressed the district's pride in both students, noted the significance of the life-saving skills they demonstrated, and acknowledged the board's gratitude that Kyle Hatcher was able to attend the board meeting.

Bus Driver of the Month

Superintendent Hipp recognized Christine Burdette as the August Bus Driver of the Month. Mrs. Burdette was commended for her dependability, positive attitude, and commitment to student safety and well-being. She was also recognized for consistently maintaining her bus, being willing to assist wherever needed, and treating students with kindness, patience, and respect.

Superintendent Hipp also announced that recently released state assessment results ranked Anderson School District 3 5th in South Carolina. Additional information regarding district and school performance will be shared as complete results become available.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

There were no Citizens' Comments this evening.

REPORTS

Financial Reports

Chief Financial Officer Matthew Moore presented the general fund financial report for the first month of FY 2026-2027. Mr. Moore reported that revenues exceeded expenditures by $314,962 through July 31, 2026. He explained several differences in timing and classification across categories of purchased services, supplies, and other expenditures and reported that the district's financial position was consistent with expectations for the first month of the fiscal year.

Mr. Moore also presented additional charts illustrating general fund cash flow and fund balance throughout the fiscal year. The information demonstrated the district's typical cash flow cycle, including lower fund balance percentages during the fall months before property tax collections begin arriving and increases following significant collections later in the year.

Mr. Moore provided an update on the South Carolina state budget. He reported that the state was operating under a continuing resolution, but the conference committee had reached a compromise budget in July. K-12 education items remained intact, including teacher compensation, school safety funding, reading camp funding, and strategic

compensation funding. The compromise also included $75 million in rural school capital funding.

Mr. Moore reported that the proposed increase in the state's homestead exemption from $50,000 to $75,000 remained included in the compromise budget.

Mr. Moore also updated the board on the closeout of the FY 2025-2026 general fund. He stated that the district remained on track to meet the additional $326,087.50 needed to maintain its goal of a 25% fund balance. Final figures will be presented once all revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year have been recorded.

Sales Tax Report

Mr. Moore reported that the district received a local option sales tax allocation of $330,938.35 in June and $304,334.37 in July. Fiscal Year 2025-2026 collections reflected 6.12% growth over the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Moore also reviewed the impact of local option sales tax collections on property tax relief. During FY 2025-2026, approximately $735,999 from the district's sales tax allocation was applied directly to property tax relief. The district also contributed an additional $450,000 from its remaining allocation toward debt service, further reducing the millage required from property owners.

Operations Report

Dr. David Nixon provided an overview of the district's school improvement process and summer facility projects. He discussed the role of School Improvement Councils in providing input from parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and business leaders.

Dr. Nixon reviewed facility improvements completed or underway throughout the district. Projects included grounds and erosion improvements at Flat Rock Elementary; HVAC improvements; a new playground and security fencing for special education and preschool students at Starr Elementary; security hallway color-coding improvements at Starr-Iva Middle School; and pond maintenance and other facility improvements at Crescent High School.

Dr. Nixon provided an update on ongoing school safety initiatives. Through state school safety grant funding, the district continued replacing exterior doors, locks, hinges, and access control systems to strengthen building security.

Dr. Nixon also discussed recent Stop the Bleed training provided to district school nurses and School Resource Officers. The training followed a train-the-trainer model, providing the district with the capacity to offer additional hands-on training to staff and community groups. The district maintains tourniquet kits throughout its schools for use during emergencies.

The Board also received an update on emergency evacuation and unified command training conducted in partnership with local and county emergency response agencies.

Dr. Nixon reported that the district's latest school security grant totaled approximately $500,000 and is being used to install security film on exterior and interior glass throughout district facilities. The film is intended to increase the amount of time required to gain unauthorized access to school buildings.

Action Items

Policy BE Board Meetings - 1st Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented an amendment to the district's Board Meeting Policy to reflect the Board's current meeting schedule. The proposed change specifies that regular Board meetings will not be held in July or December unless a specific need requires a special called meeting.

Mr. Bouknight moved to approve the updated Board Meeting Policy. Mr. Holbrook seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Policy JFAB Admission of Nonresident Students - 1st Reading

Superintendent Hipp presented Policy JFAB, Admission of Non-Resident Students, for first reading. The updated policy incorporates requirements of South Carolina's new interdistrict transfer law, state model policy recommendations, guidance from the South Carolina School Boards Association, and legal counsel.

The policy establishes a process for determining enrollment capacity, accepting applications, establishing tuition, notifying families, and providing an appeals process. Superintendent Hipp explained that the district will conduct an enrollment capacity study following the 45th and 60th days of school and will present capacity information and a recommended tuition amount to the Board at its November meeting.

Under the proposed timeline, capacity and tuition information will be posted prior to the application period. The application window will open by February 1 and remain open for 90 days. Families will then be notified of acceptance, denial, or placement on a waiting list within the required timeframe.

Superintendent Hipp emphasized that the admission of a non-resident student is a privilege, not a right. Attendance, disciplinary history, available capacity, and other qualifications may be considered as allowed by law. Transportation to the school of choice remains the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Students who are already attending Anderson School District 3 as non-residents will be grandfathered under the existing process and will not be required to begin paying tuition under the new policy.

Mr. Burdette made a motion to approve Policy JFAB, Admission of Non-Resident Students, on first reading. Mrs. Arnold seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Policy JFAB-R Admission of Nonresident Students - 1st Reading

Superintendent Hipp also presented Administrative Rule JFAB-R, which establishes the procedures for implementing the district's updated non-resident student admission policy.

Mrs. Arnold made a motion to approve Administrative Rule JFAB-R, Admission of Non-Resident Students, on first reading. Mr. Burdette made a second, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Appendix Items

Superintendent Hipp provided the August update on construction of the new Crescent Middle School to the board. She reported that concrete slab pours were beginning, with pours scheduled during early morning hours to accommodate traffic, construction logistics, and summer temperatures. Additional pours are expected as work on the building progresses.

The Board discussed scheduling a site visit to view construction progress. Superintendent Hipp indicated that potential dates and times would be coordinated with the construction team and provided to Board members.

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. Holbrook motioned, and Mrs. Arnold seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to come out of executive session.

Mr. Bouknight made a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendation to approve Certified Candidate A. Mr. Burdette seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

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

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Chairman Secretary