

**Minutes**  
**Anson County Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, April 27, 2020, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Anson County Schools' Administrative Conference Room/Board Room**  
**Virtual Go To Meeting**

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 2020. All members were present via Virtual Go To Meeting. Others in attendance were Michael Freeman (Superintendent), Howard McLean (Associate Superintendent), Marty Godwin (Assistant Superintendent – virtual attendance), Holly Berry (Finance Officer), Mike Flake (Board Attorney), Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk) and Pete Swails (Administrator: Technology).

**I. Call to Order**

Dr. George Truman opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**II. Invocation**

Beulah Pratt gave the Invocation.

**III. Conflict of Interest Statement**

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chair George Truman reminded Board Members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. Dr. Truman mentioned that he has a conflict with the Personnel Report on Attachment A. There were no other conflicts of interest communicated by the members. Chair Truman then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to his attention. He further explained it would then be the member's duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

**IV. Adopt Agenda**

Lisa Davis made a motion to approve the agenda. Frank Liles seconded the agenda it was unanimously adopted by the Board. Motion carried.

**V. Approve Minutes**

**(Regular Meeting 03/30/20)**

A motion was made by Gay Lookabill to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board (Mike Turner did not vote due to stepping away from the meeting during this portion of the meeting). Motion carried.

**I. Public Comment**

This was no one present to speak during public comment.

**II. Chair's Report**

Public Engagement: There were no public engagement information shared due to COVID-19.

Dr. Truman asked if there had been any updates from the Masonboro Group. Mr. Freeman said he will get an update from Mr. Eddie West on progress of the search.

Gay Lookabill asked if sports awards, scholarship night and those type of events could be on a webinar. Mr. Freeman said a plan is being developed. Mr. Freeman further stated he is working on a communication to parents about graduation and they will do everything they can to honor our students.

Based on Eddie West's last correspondence, Ms. Bennett asked how the board planned to approach the questions he gave the board in preparation for the interview. Mr. Freeman said that question could be posed to Mr. West and an update could also be requested. Mr. Freeman explained that some sprucing up is being done to the Anson High School Highway 74 side of that campus. Ms. Bennett said her main concern was the interview questions that the board must prepare. Mr. Freeman told Ms. Bennett that he thought a special meeting could be scheduled to address that topic in a closed session. Dr. Truman asked Mr. Freeman to make contact with Eddie West to discuss this information with him for an update. Mr. Freeman said once he makes contact with Mr. West, he will update Dr. Truman on the next steps.

Mr. Liles asked about the grading scale and parents' concerns about their child failing. Mr. Freeman stated the State Board of Education released the grading policy on Friday and administration plans to communicate the definite information with social media, newspapers and parents soon.

In section four of revenues in the budget (state allocations grant and county appropriations of a new middle school), Mr. Turner asked if we are requesting that money in this budget. Mr. Freeman said yes and that is what has been requested in the past. Mr. Turner asked about the \$21 million dollars for the high school. Mr. Freeman explained that would be for gym improvements or expenses for issues with H building. He said based on two studies/documents, we have the needs on the high school's campus. Mr. Turner asked if demolition of H building was still on the table. Mr. Freeman stated that is something that could be discussed and it would definitely improve the image of the school from highway 74. Mr. Freeman said it could be the most cost-saving approach. He said demolition is a decision that has not been made but it is something the board of education could discuss. Mr. Turner asked for clarification if we are requesting around \$161 million from the budget. Mr. Freeman said the only thing that will be submitted to commissioners is the local request. Mr. Turner asked if there is a \$659,000 increase in local request. Mr. Freeman confirmed the \$659,000 increase for local was correct. Mr. Freeman said some of those requests have been made in the past (example would be JROTC). Mr. Turner asked about Walmart sales tax revenue and supplements. Mr. Freeman said we should be good with supplements this year but there is a concern with Walmart closing and sales tax regarding the supplement for future years starting with 2021.

Dr. Truman asked if we are giving pass/fail for the year or letter grades for the year. Mr. Freeman said K-5 has one set of guidelines, grades 6-8 have guidelines and grades 9-12 have another set of guidelines. He said there is still a lot of interpreting to be done and administration will be reviewing information this week. Mr. Freeman mentioned there is a

task force recommending that public schools start school earlier and there may be a focus on the work students have missed during COVID-19.

Mr. Turner said a lot of people have the impression that schools are saving money right now. Mr. Freeman said the schools are not saving any money; he explained they are probably spending more money due to investing in protective and cleaning supplies, upgrades with technology, etc. He said school facilities are closed but school is still operating and we are still getting the same bills that we were getting prior to March 13. Mr. Freeman said transportation expenses have decreased but that money does not come back to Anson County.

Dr. Little asked if the printed packets required internet access. Mr. Freeman said the printed packets take the place of online packets and they do not need the internet. Mr. Freeman said we are on a list with the Governor's office where (if approved) we will receive donated WiFi services from Verizon for school buses and we can park those buses where internet is a need. He stated if students can get close enough to those locations, they can gain access to the internet that way. Mr. Freeman told board members to let him know if they hear of concerns with packets and he will help with the issue.

Mr. Liles asked if another packet would be sent out to students before school ends. Mr. Freeman reminded the board our school year ends May 15 and the work that was previously compiled covered the year-end. Mr. Freeman told the board if they know of students that have not received packets to let him know and he will get a packet to the child to help them continue their learning.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Freeman gave a report on Budget, Human Resources, Current Job Postings, Current Projects, Facility Construction Update and Instructional Programs.

#### Current Projects Update:

- Taking another effort to address needs of highway 74 side of the campus
- Repair in process for damage to Morven Elementary due to recent storms.
- Wadesboro Elementary entrance ceiling repaired and ceiling tiles replaced.
- Lighting has been improved/fixed at numerous schools.
- Working on repairs to driveway of the Science Center.
- Working on completing the Shelton Ballfield project.
- Continuing with extensive sanitizing efforts and trying to get more information from the Governor's orders on what it will take to reopen schools in August.

Gay Lookabill said Lilesville Elementary School needs pressure washing on the highway 74 side. Mr. Freeman agreed and said all schools are currently being assessed for this type of work. He stated that once funds can be found to cover these projects, maintenance will address those issues. She said curb appeal is very important.

#### Community Use of Facilities

Mr. Freeman explained effective July 1, 2020, we will not allow facility use of Anson High School outdoor athletic facilities and the new Anson Middle School athletic facilities when it

opens. He suggested that future superintendents do not rent out those facilities. Ms. Gibson mentioned the parenthesis should be corrected on the fee structure page of the application.

#### New Anson Middle School

Mr. Freeman said the commissioners will receive information tomorrow on additional ways to save funds with the new Anson Middle School project. He said he realizes there will be sticker shock with the price line and he will highly respect that reaction. Mr. Freeman encouraged board members to continue having conversations with legislatures about school construction funding.

#### Child Nutrition

- Currently reviewing waivers that could continue to help feed children.
- Numbers are increasing for the number of meals served.
- Emergency Meals-to-go information was submitted to parents and community for parents to enroll online to get emergency meals delivered directly to the child's home. Carol Gibson asked who would deliver the meals. Mr. Freeman explained the United States Postal Service will deliver the meals.
- Working with DSS on a new program where families will be given a card that can be used to buy groceries and the amount of the card is based on the number of children in the home.

Carol Ann Gibson asked if we were setting up a day where students can turn in school items to the school. Mr. Freeman said they are currently working on a plan for this. He mentioned a date was set up for returning athletic items a few weeks ago and that went well.

#### III. **Consent Items**

Upon a motion by Frank Liles seconded by Lisa Davis, the following consent items were approved by the board: Personnel Report, Proposed Budget, Budget Amendments, SHI International Corp Anti-Virus Software Renewal Proposal/Quote and Policies 2302, 4230, 5050, 7503, 7560 and 7620. Motion carried.

#### IV. **New Business**

Upon a motion by Carol Gibson, seconded by Frank Liles, the board approved the Cyberschool Webhosting and Support 3 Year Renewal and the BridgeTek Solutions, LLC 3 Year Barracuda Renewal as presented. Motion carried.

Gay Lookabill mentioned the Naval Academy graduation and how they had graduates six feet apart and parents had to watch virtually. She explained how well the graduation went and wanted to mention it to the board and administration.

#### V. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:39 a.m. by Carol Ann Gibson, seconded by Gay Lookabill and approved by the board. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

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Dr. George Truman, Chairperson

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Mr. Michael Freeman, Secretary