

Minutes

Anson County Board of Education

Monday, January 27, 2025

Regular Meeting 5:00 p.m.

Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room

The Anson County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, January 27, 2025. Board members present were Marilyn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Judy Little, Beulah Pratt, Kelly Sheppard, and George Truman. Others in attendance were Dr. Brian Ratliff (Superintendent), Dr. Josh McLaurin (Executive Administrator), Mike Flake (Board Attorney), and Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk).

Call to Order

Dr. George Truman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Lisa Davis gave the Invocation.

Adopt Agenda

The board voted to adopt the agenda, as presented by a motion by Beulah Pratt, seconded by Frank Liles. The motion carried.

Approve Minutes

Carol Gibson moved to approve the meeting minutes for December 16, 2024. Judy Little seconded the motion, and it was approved by the board. The motion carried.

Closed Session

Chair Truman asked for a motion to go into a closed session. Kelly Sheppard made a motion to go into closed session at 5:20 p.m. to consider a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of the Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(6) and to discuss the acquisition of real estate or to discuss the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property according to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a)(5). The motion was seconded by Judy Little and approved by the board. Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

Reconvene Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 6:00 p.m. upon a motion by Carol Ann Gibson. Lisa Davis seconded the motion, which was approved by the board and carried.

Public Comment

Pastor H. Williams was present to speak about minority participation in Leitner Construction and what is going on regarding his participation in the middle school construction. Dr. Ratliff told Pastor Williams he would be happy to speak with him.

Henrietta Barringer was present to speak as a concerned grandparent of a student at Anson Middle School. She stated that she began raising him on November 10. Ms. Barringer mentioned that her grandson was suspended and that many details were overlooked in his case. She expressed that she is advocating for all children and that action needs to be taken at the middle school. She requested to view the video that allegedly shows her grandson participating in the incident, for which he received an additional 13 days of suspension. Ms. Barringer noted that the charge was changed from robbery to assault. She acknowledged that she only has three minutes to speak and plans to sit down shortly for her representative to address the situation. Once her time was up, she said she would allow her lawyer to take over.

John Barnette attended as a third party and clarified that he is not a lawyer. He stated he is affiliated with an organization focused on genuine healing under God. He expressed that he is present to echo the words of Sidra Patterson, whose son was assaulted at Anson Middle School. Mr. Barnette emphasized that he is working to ensure African American males stay in school. He discussed whether he would need to hire a lawyer for Ms. Patterson as he did for Mr. Wiley. He explained that through his repeated calls and emails, he is making one last effort, whether it be with WSOC or WBTV, to either meet with the superintendent or the Board of Education in Raleigh.

Chair's Report

Dr. Truman recognized Mr. Jamie Caudle and thanked him for attending the meeting.

Lisa Davis motioned to amend the agenda to add new business to discuss the Faison property. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Ratliff recognized Joy Drake for successfully completing the NCASBO School Business Management Academy Director Certification. Dr. Ratliff commented, "Ms. Drake has demonstrated exceptional dedication, perseverance, and a strong commitment to excellence in mastering the curriculum courses, including Accounting, Financial Management, Law and Legal Responsibilities, and Business Office Operations. Her outstanding achievements reflect her passion for professional growth and her unwavering focus on advancing the field of school business management. We commend Ms. Drake for her exemplary efforts and wish her continued success in all her future endeavors". The board shared a round of applause for Ms. Drake, and Dr. Truman thanked her for her work.

Middle School Project

Dr. Ratliff shared an update with the board about the middle school project. He said they are pleased with the progress, and there have been limited change orders.

Student Learning

Dr. Ratliff stated bright spots are being seen in many areas of student learning.

Dr. Ratliff mentioned the Portrait of a Graduate event will be held on February 11, 2025. He explained that this event is for K-12 students and parents but will be geared toward enrollment, employment, and enlisting, as well as discussing pathways.

Consent Items

The board approved the following consent agenda items (Personnel Report and Budget Amendments) on a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Lisa Davis. The motion carried.

New Business

Lisa Davis moved to dispose of the property at Faison School and give it back to the county commissioners so that they can dispose of it as they see fit. Frank Liles seconded the motion, which was approved by the board and carried.

Adjournment

Frank Liles moved to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. Carol Gibson seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

Dr. George Truman, Chairman

Dr. Brian Ratliff, Secretary