

**Minutes**  
**Anson County Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, May 22, 2023, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Anson County Schools' Administrative Conference Room/Board Room**

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 22, 2023. Board members present in-person were Marilynn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Judy Little, Beulah Pratt, George Truman and Mike Turner. Others in attendance were Howard McLean (Superintendent), Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk), Mike Flake (Board Attorney) and Pete Swails (Technology).

**Call to Order**

George Truman opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Invocation**

Lisa Davis gave the Invocation.

**Adopt Agenda**

Lisa Davis requested to pull the Personnel Report from Consent to New Business. Carol Gibson requested to move Budget Amendments from Consent to New Business. Dr. Truman asked to add Anson Middle School Athletic Conference Change to New Business. Dr. Truman also asked for the Superintendent's Evaluation to be added to New Business. Lisa Davis made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendments listed above. Carol Gibson seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes**

**Special Meeting 04/20/23**

**Regular Meeting 04/24/23**

A motion was made by Carol Gibson to approve the special meeting minutes of April 20, 2023 and the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 24, 2023. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board. Motion carried.

**Closed Session**

Chair Truman asked for a motion to go into closed session. Frank Liles made a motion to go into closed session at 4:08 p.m. for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of the Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(6) and for the purpose of discussing 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 pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(5). The motion was seconded by Mike Turner and approved by the board. Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

**Reconvene Open Session**

The Board returned to open session at 5:17 p.m. upon a motion by Marilynn Bennett. The motion was seconded by Judy Little and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Lisa Davis made a motion to add a Closed Session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of the Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(6). This Closed Session agenda item will go after the New Business Budget Amendments agenda item. Mrs. Davis also requested moving the New Business Personnel Report item to after Closed Session toward the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Carol Gibson and approved by the board. Motion carried.

### **Recognition**

The board recognized Anson Middle School and Anson High School Athletic Teams and individuals for athletic achievements during the Spring Season.

Hazel Lemus-Ramirez was recognized as the 2023 Captain UniSon Costume Design Contest winner and for representing Anson County Schools in the next round of competition with Union County.

### **Public Comment**

There was no one that signed up to speak during this section of the meeting.

### **Chair's Report**

Several members commented on events and programs they recently attended.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. McLean gave reports on the Budget, Current Job Postings, Instructional/Operational Programs, Discipline Report and Community Use of Facilities.

Mr. McLean invited Denise Stevens (Career & Technical Education) to share clarification on some of the questions raised from the previous board meeting regarding the Virtual Realty Goggles. She stated there was a typo on the year and it should have been 2023-2024 school year instead of 2022-2023 school year. She explained the goggles are loaded with software and they are interactive that are designed by people in the profession to teach critical skills of in-demand jobs. She explained it's not just for trades but it can be for nursing and any pathway that has any realty work-based learning to them. Ms. Stevens stated there are over 200 simulations. She said there are also learning modules that teach mathematics and this could be used to help with reinforcing those skills. She further explained the skills taught are aligned with the credentials they offer like automotive and construction.

### **Instructional/Curriculum Update**

Ms. Collard discussed the work and implementation work that will start this summer on meeting strategic goals and action steps that go along with that work. She explained they started out with an ELA adoption that was approved last month. Ms. Collard said they also saw a need for support in mathematics. She explained they are looking to adopt a math program for the district. Angela Adams said for the ELA adoption, schools are already receiving resources. She stated that training will begin in the summer for the new curriculum. She also said a representative will come in the district on early release days to offer training. Ms. McLendon gave an update on the new math adoption information. She explained they talked to neighboring school districts and allowed schools to review the information and materials as well as principals and other stakeholders. Ms. McLendon explained teachers

chose (overwhelmingly) one of the programs at 85% over the other program. She stated that parents were allowed to come in to review the program. Ms. Collard shared about other school systems that use the program as well. She explained that the program is what we need to move our district forward.

Ms. Collard discussed the Discovery Education renewal and said it's what is used for Science and Social Studies Techbook and serves as a streaming option. She said for summer, they are adding 17 professional development sessions to include unit planning and pacing in hopes of helping to retain teachers and to help beginning teachers feel like they have what they need to start the school year feeling prepared.

Dr. Truman asked if the new math program will be more parent-friendly and Ms. McLendon said it absolutely will allow parents to have a portal, a login and helps walk them through the work as well. He also asked if there is a program that can be generated for provisional teachers to help them start the new year strong. Ms. Collard said they are rebranding the new teacher program and will also train substitutes. Ms. Gibson asked if the new program can do K-6. Ms. Collard said they did purchase the K-8 program. Ms. Davis asked if it allows for individualized lessons for students that may not catch on as easily. Ms. McLendon said there will be intervention time to provide to students that need extra help. Ms. Davis asked about the 17 days and Ms. Collard said those dates will be released tomorrow to all staff pending contract approval. Ms. Davis asked about the three-year contracts and will money be used from this current fiscal year to fund the program. Joy Drake said it will start from July 1, 2023 for three years.

### **Consent Items**

Chair Truman asked for a motion to approve the consent items. The motion was made by Mike Turner to approve the Consent Items (Current Policy Updates) as shown below due to changes in the law and updates to the current policies listed that reflect the revisions necessary to comply with current federal and state law, State Board of Education policy, etc., as applicable. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

- 1610/7800 Professional and Staff Development
- 3101 Dual Enrollment
- 4023/7233 Pregnant and Parenting Students and Employees
- 4310 Integrity and Civility
- 5008 Automated Phone and Text Messaging
- 5040 News Media Relations
- 6315 Drivers
- 6330 Insurance for Student Transportation Services
- 6402 Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses
- 6430 Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials, and Supplies
- 7503 Teleworking
- 7810 Evaluation of Licensed Employees
- 7815 Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees
- 4130 Discretionary Admission
- 4155 Assignment to Classes
- 4334/5035/7345 Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)

- 5028/6130/7267 Automated External Defibrillator
- 6410 Organization of the Purchasing Function
- 7340 Employee Dress and Appearance
- 7650 Employee Travel and Other Expense Reimbursement

## **New Business**

### Mathematics Core Curriculum Adoption K-12

Upon a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Mike Turner, the board approved the Mathematics Core Curriculum Adoption K-12 as presented. Motion carried.

### Discovery Education K-12 Sole Source Renewal

Upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Carol Gibson, the board approved the Discovery Education K-12 Sole Source Renewal as presented. Motion carried.

### Anson Middle School Athletic Conference Change Request

Mr. Harward was present to share talking points regarding the request. Mr. Harward said they have been in the current conference for many decades. He explained they have been trying to look at joining the same conference as the high school Rocky River Conference. In the beginning, he said the conversations went smooth. Since the initial conversation, he stated there will require more discussion from the conference representatives about Anson having multiple teams in one sport. He explained the new conference has not adopted track yet but the current conference has allowed Anson to stay in the current conference for track. Mr. Harward said golf has not been adopted by the new conference and they are looking at staying in the current conference or playing in a Union County conference. Mr. Harward said soccer would be a co-ed concept. Dr. Truman said there is unfinished conversation about 6<sup>th</sup> graders being able to participate in middle school sports with parents providing transportation. Ms. Davis said she likes the new conference so that students don't have to travel so far away. Mike Turner made a motion to allow Anson Middle School to participate in the same conference as the high school Rocky River Conference and to allow 6<sup>th</sup> graders to participate in athletics at the middle school but parents must provide transportation. Lisa Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the board. Motion carried.

### Budget Amendments

Lisa Davis made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Carol Gibson seconded the motion. Ms. Gibson asked questions about the Anson High School gym of \$106,842 and the Anson High School project of \$35,000. Ms. Drake said this is for the gym floor at Anson High School and the \$35,000 was grant money the high school received. Mr. Turner said the visitor locker rooms are not a good situation. Mr. McLean said they are looking at funds for renovations to the gym. The board approved the amendments. Motion carried.

## **Closed Session**

Upon a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Judy Little, the board approved going into closed session at 6:56 p.m. for matters related to personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(6). Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

**Reconvene Open Session**

Upon a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Carol Ann Gibson, the board approved returning to open session at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried.

**Personnel Report**

Frank Liles made a motion to approve the personnel report. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and the report was approved by the board with a 6-3 vote. Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson and Mike Turner opposed the motion. Motion carried.

**Superintendent Evaluation**

A motion was made by Mike Turner to accept the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee rating of 85% for the Superintendent's evaluation to be used for establishing the amount of the Superintendent's annual performance incentive. The motion was seconded by Carol Gibson and approved by the board. George Truman, Frank Liles and Judy Little opposed the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was given by Frank Liles at 7:40 p.m. Beulah Pratt seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

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Dr. George Truman, Chairman

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Mr. Howard McLean, Secretary