

Minutes

Anson County Board of Education
Monday, August 25, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room

The Anson County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, August 25, 2025. Board leaders present were Marilynn Bennett (Virtual), Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little (Virtual), Judy Little, Beulah Pratt, Kelly Sheppard, and George Truman. Others in attendance were Dr. Brian Ratliff (Superintendent), Dr. Josh McLaurin (Executive Administrator), and Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk).

Call to Order

Dr. George Truman called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Invocation

Lisa Davis gave the Invocation.

Adopt Agenda

The board voted to adopt the agenda as presented with a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Judy Little. The motion carried.

Approve Minutes

Carol Gibson moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 28, 2025. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board and carried.

Closed Session

Chair Truman asked for a motion to go into a closed session 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). Frank Liles made the motion to go into closed session at 5:05 p.m. 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 Lisa Davis. Frank Liles seconded the motion, which was approved by the board and carried.

Amend Agenda

Upon a motion by Lisa Davis, seconded by Frank Liles, the board approved an amendment to the agenda to add closed session after the action items. Motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no one to speak during this section.

Chair's Report

Dr. Truman recognized County Commissioner Jamie Caudle and thanked him for attending the meeting. He then led a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Jim Sims and Richard Allen, honoring their service to our schools.

- Dr. Jim Sims – former administrator, associate superintendent, superintendent, and board member.
- Richard Allen – former board member.

Board Members shared school visit updates, attendance at employee convocation and chalk the walk at Peachland-Polkton Elementary School. Reports were positive with smooth openings and enthusiastic students with noted areas for continued improvement.

Superintendent's Report

Audit Presentation: Mr. Nick Wicker (Director of Governmental Services with Strickland Hardee PLLC) was present to share the 2023-2024 audit presentation. Mr. Wicker thanked the Board and staff for their cooperation. The Board expressed appreciation for his service and professionalism.

Opening of School: Dr. Ratliff said he had meaningful conversations with our students today and highlighted student excitement, staff dedication, and areas for continued improvement. Dr. Ratliff expressed appreciation for staff and board members who attended convocation, open houses, and opening events. He emphasized the theme: "Public School Communities are Priceless" and shared plans for continued strategic planning and school improvement efforts, with a focus on actionable goals and professional learning communities (PLCs).

Dr. Ratliff introduced Dr. Tharp (Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment). Dr. Ratliff highlighted his experience in professional learning communities, school improvement, and leadership as a high school principal. Dr. Tharp shared observations from visiting Anson High School, Anson Early College and the Transportation Department and praised their leadership and student engagement. He emphasized the role of Curriculum and Instruction staff in supporting (not burdening) principals.

Consent Items

A motion to approve the consent items (Personnel Report and Sole Source Justification Form (RealityWorks, Inc) was made by Lisa Davis, and the motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Closed Session

Chair Truman asked for a motion to go into a closed session 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). Lisa Davis made the motion to go into closed session at 6:42 p.m. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board. Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

Reconvene Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 7:24 p.m. upon a motion by Frank Liles. Beulah Pratt seconded the motion, which was approved by the board and carried.

Adjournment

Frank Liles moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m., Kelly Sheppard 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