

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Monday, September 29, 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, September 29, 2025. Board leaders present were Marilynn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Beulah Pratt, Kelly Sheppard, and George Truman. Others in attendance were Dr. Brian Ratliff (Superintendent), Mike Flake (Board Attorney) and Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk). Judy Little was absent.

Call to Order

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

Invocation

Marilynn Bennett gave the Invocation.

Adopt Agenda

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

Approve Minutes

Carol Gibson moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 25, 2025. The motion was seconded by Marilynn Bennett 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). Lisa Davis made the motion to go into closed session at 5:03 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 6:00 p.m. upon a motion by Lisa Davis. Frank Liles seconded the motion, which was approved by the board and carried.

Recognition

Breonna Cox and Lidia Montiel-Villanueva were recognized by the board for their acceptance and participation in Governor's School during the Summer 2025.

Public Comment

There was no one to speak during this section.

Chair's Report

NCSBA Voting Delegates: Upon a motion by Marilyn Bennett, seconded by Frank Liles the board voted to approve the following NCSBA Voting Delegates: Marilyn Bennett, Carol Ann Gibson, Frank Liles and Bobbie Little were approved as primary voting delegates and Judy Little, Beulah Pratt, Kelly Sheppard and George Truman were voted as alternate voting delegates. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

Gold Star Event

- Dr. Ratliff expressed regret for being unable to attend this year's Gold Star event due to prior family commitments but praised Mr. Clint Davis and all organizers for their excellent work and success.

Strategic Planning

- Dr. Ratliff reported the district will begin a strategic planning process focused on intentional, data-driven goals and eliminating unnecessary programs or duplications of effort. The district plans to align its local strategic plan with DPI's new statewide plan.
- Dr. Ratliff said leadership reassignments and new responsibilities are being implemented to strengthen alignment with district priorities.

Academic Performance

- Dr. Ratliff announced that Anson County Schools is officially off the state's low-performing list. He credited the success to the dedication of students, staff, and leadership. Dr. Ratliff emphasized the importance of continued progress, collaboration, and avoiding "working in silos." He highlighted that true school improvement centers on people improvement, the growth and development of individuals each day. He urged the district to maintain its trajectory of growth, focus on student learning, and avoid complacency. Dr. Ratliff encouraged everyone to celebrate achievements while continuing to strive toward becoming a model, high-performing district.

Middle School Construction Project

- Dr. Ratliff provided an update on the new middle school construction project:
 - A site tour was recently conducted with board leadership and district staff.
 - Discussions were held about design features and funding needs.
 - Dr. Steagall, Director of Operations, is leading coordination efforts and pursuing furniture procurement and logistics planning.
 - The project remains on schedule for completion by the end of January 2026, with occupancy targeted for August 2026.
 - Dr. Ratliff emphasized the project's importance not only as a facility but as a vibrant learning environment that will serve students and families for decades.

Consent Items

A motion to approve the consent items (Personnel Report, Board Meeting Date Change to November 24 and December 15 and Board Policy updates listed below) was made by Frank Liles, and the motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board. Motion carried.

- 1310-4002 Parental Involvement
- 3210 Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials
- 3320 School Trips
- 3510 Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs
- 3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations

- 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements
- 4318 (Option A) Use of Wireless Communication Devices
- 5024-6127-7266 Emergency Epinephrine Delivery Systems
- 5070-7350 Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition
- 6125 Administering Medicines to Students
- 6340 Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts
- 7100 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
- 7820 Personnel Files

Adjournment

Lisa Davis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m., Frank Liles 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