

**Minutes of Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees**  
**Work Session**  
**Friday, January 19, 2024**  
**(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, South Carolina 29812)**

Board Members Present: Chairperson Terry Richardson, Ronnie Brown, Becky Huggins, SGM Abraham Sexton, Dr. Andy Sandifer

**I. Opening Business**

**A. Call to Order, Reflection, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, FOI Notice**

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. SGM Abraham Sexton led the Reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Chair Richardson confirmed the media was notified.

**B. Approval of Agenda – Chair Terry Richardson**

A motion was made by Ronnie Brown to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Becky Huggins. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**II. Information Items**

**A. Discussion of Facility Study Report from M.B. Kahn and SSOE Group- Dr. Stapleton**

Dr. Stapleton explained that there had been questions in the previous work session about the facility study updates. She provided answers to those questions as reported by the architect and construction management firms. This included discussion on recommended acreage for new construction, estimated costs of athletic fields, and any possible savings that could be incurred from eliminating parts of the projects.

The Board of Trustees revisited the facility study information shared in both the October and December work sessions. This included, but was not limited to, updates to the programs that had been developed based on recommendations regarding both career center and high school programming needs, review of the updated and broken-down costs associated with any new construction and/or renovation of current facilities throughout the county, and additional costs to consider with new construction (land purchase, extending utilities beyond service area, and athletic fields).

Board members discussed next steps for Phase II of the Facility Plan and reviewed both a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architect/engineering services and a Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction management at-risk services.

Dr. Stapleton also presented information regarding the FEMA grant, which is funding a safe house/high school gymnasium, to include cost breakdowns, floorplan, schematic designs, Tetra Tech's role in project management, and next steps for moving forward.

Dr. Stapleton announced that there would be a break taken at this time.

**B. Discussion of South Carolina Department of Transportation Project and Land Donation**  
(Discussion actually occurred following the finance portion of the Consolidation Update Plans.)

Dr. Stapleton explained to the Board that the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) proposes to acquire a portion of BSD45 property for an SCDOT project to create sidewalks and do road upgrades. This includes an offer for \$2,500 for "fee simple title to 6,036 square feet (0.14 acre) of land and all improvements thereon, if any."

**C. District Updates regarding Consolidation Process and Consolidation Plan**

Dr. Stapleton and CFO Holly Hutto presented Phase III of the Salary Schedules, which included district-level staff members, principals, assistant principals, administrative assistants, attendance clerks, facilitators, and substitutes.

CFO Holly Hutto presented the Model School District Procurement Code, which she had completed with edits to submit to the Division of Procurement Services of the State Fiscal Accountability Authority. She explained that, once the District receives the approval letter, the Code will be included with Session DJ of the Policy Manual for the Board's approval.

Dr. Stapleton presented additional Consolidation Plan updates to include: an overview of meetings occurring across the county in preparation for consolidation, the work of the curriculum department and countywide ELA team to determine new ELA instructional materials, an update regarding the upcoming Early Childhood tours, information and discussion regarding two new possible CATE programs (barber and child development).

Dr. Stapleton shared with the Board about a proposed land donation of 15-16 acres behind the baseball field complex in Barnwell that a development company out of Spartanburg would like to donate to the district. The Board gave their blessing to continue with next steps for this donation, including working with OSF regarding all official steps.

Dr. Stapleton updated the board on the School of Choice guidelines and shared a draft of an application for their review. There was discussion regarding the guidelines and possible transportation that may be provided by the state.

Dr. Stapleton reminded the Board of the policy revisions discussed in the November board meeting, including Policy ACE – Service Animals (Public) - example modified, content did not change. She also reminded board members there was a request to revisit Policy BEDF - Voting Method at Board Meetings. The members discussed both policies.

Dr. Stapleton also reminded the board members of the following:

- Policy AC - Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity - There are blanks that will be filled in with the name of HR or person designated.
- Policy ADA; ADA-R - We have included a current mission statement and goals and objectives; however, the district would include an updated mission statement for the newly consolidated district.

Prior to the conclusion of the work session, the Board revisited facility study information discussed during the morning and deliberated on next steps for moving forward with the Phase II of the facility plan to be presented and voted upon at the upcoming board meeting.

### III. **Adjournment**

#### A. Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Andy Sandifer made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Becky Huggins. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 pm.

SGM Abraham Sexton, Clerk was not present in the room during the motion for adjournment.

Chair 

Clerk 