

Minutes of Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees
Work Session
Monday, May 6, 2024
(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, South Carolina 29812)

Board Members Present: Chairperson Terry Richardson, Ronnie Brown, Becky Huggins, SGM Abraham Sexton (not present at the start of the meeting), 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 8:00 am. Dr. Andy Sandifer 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 Dr. Andy Sandifer to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Becky Huggins. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved. SGM Abraham Sexton was not present during the approval of the agenda.

II. Information Items

Dr. Stapleton announced the presentation of the General Fund 2024-2025 Budget First Reading

A. Discussion of General Fund Budget Highlights- CFO Holly Hutto

- DOR has set the millage at 243.1 mills. The millage rate takes into consideration the mills needed to produce revenue for all the county schools and the Career Center.

Chair Richardson asked if this would be an increase in mills from last year? Holly Hutto stated that it was originally 219.1 mills with the two school districts, but when the 24 mills from the career center was added that's how we got to 243.1 mills. Dr. Stapleton stated that it was not an increase, but it was just reorganized.

- This Millage set by DOR does not include the increase limitation allowed by local governing bodies. The school district is allowed to increase the millage rate based on the consumer price index (CPI) increase. The increase allowed is 4.12%. That increase for the district equates to 10 mills. Operating millage

does not affect owner occupied homes- only non-owner occupied, commercial and industrial properties. We can go from 243 mills to 253 mills based on growth within the county.

Dr. Andy Sandifer asked if you foresee asking for that increase? Holly Hutto stated that most school districts ask for the increase to help with any shortfalls from state projections and local tax revenue.

- Operating millage does not affect owner occupied homes – only non-owner occupied, commercial, and industrial properties.
- State revenue projections were given based on the Senate version of the budget
 - Retiree Insurance- \$1,510,958.93
 - State to Aid Classrooms- \$19,378,637.30
 - Health Insurance \$390,464.09
 - Transportation- no projection- based on previous year
- School Operating Reimbursements from the State as projected by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA)
 - Tier 1- Reimbursement for the first \$100k residential school operation exemption. This reimbursement is capped by the state- \$1,013,536
 - Tier II- Reimbursement for homeowners 65 and older or disabled. This amount is capped by the state- \$588,557
 - Tier III- Reimbursement for remaining owner occupied tax credit on their local tax bill. It is required by law that the amount received is increased or decreased based on growth in the CPI Southeast Region
 - The estimate for Barnwell County School District is an increase of \$282,805 from the previous year. The total estimate is \$3,606,909.
- Other revenues that are estimates based on previous year collections for the three districts.
 - Merchants Inventory- Business owners calculate and pay a tax on unsold inventory
 - Manufacturing Exemption tax- property tax calculation for all manufacturing property except property subject to a FILOT arrangement
 - Motor Carrier- Road use fee administered through the SCDMV
 - FILOT- County authorized and negotiated tax
 - DOE Federal Reimbursement PILT
 - Federal Indirect Cost Transfer- Amount the school district can take for operating expenses within Federal grants
- Consolidation funds- State consolidation funds to equalize salaries, technology, and infrastructure along with any shortfalls from initial revenue sources

- Salaries - The state minimum salary schedule draft and the bus driver recommendation has been used with setting teacher and certified salaries and bus driver pay. These salary schedules will be presented for approval once the state budget is adopted. All other salaries are based on the BCSD Board approved salary schedules
- Benefits - The employer portion of retirement is increasing by 1%. The employer portion of health insurance increase will be finalized and announced in August. That increase will be effective in January 2025.
- Purchase Services & Supplies - During the collaborative budget process, each department and school was given the opportunity to discuss their individual needs for supplies. Those needs have been assessed and have been distributed appropriately based on student population, programs offered, special considerations, and overall needs.

FY 2024-25

Recommended General Fund Budget

Local Taxes (Taxes, etc.)	\$12,185,201.00	27%
State Funding and State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes	\$27,696,089.50	62%
Federal and Transfers (DOE and Indirect Cost)	\$ 2,486,467.00	5.5%
Consolidation Funds	\$ 2,500,000.00	5.5%
Total Revenue	\$44,867,757.50	100%
Salary & Benefits	\$39,483,626.60	88%
Purchased Services	\$3,140,743.02	7%
Supplies & Other	\$2,243,387.88	5%
Total Expenditures	\$44,867,757.50	100%

B. Dr. Stapleton presented Budget Considerations and Supplemental Budgets

- The subrecipient change request has been sent to FEMA for approval with grant for the FEMA safehouse/gymnasium.
- Revisit salary schedules for assistant principals and principals.
- We have worked with Axis 1 to get a new quote for the District's Truancy Services. The updated cost is \$17,500.
- We met last week with Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health. We will continue with a combined contract to employ 5 mental health counselors. Our portion is \$12,000 per counselor, so we are allocating \$60,000.
- Investment Update

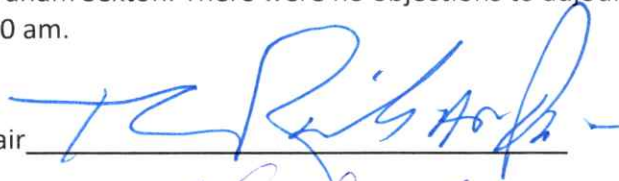
- Throughout the fall and winter quarters, the district leadership, athletic directors, and principals met multiple times to review the athletic supplements for the 2024-2025 school year.
 - For all coaching positions, other than football, we equalized the scales by adjusting to the higher paid position.
- C. Dr. Stapleton presented district updates including discussions of the following:
- Update with SSOE and HG Reynolds
 - Approvals for Staff
 - Approval for Field Experience for Blackville-Hilda High School- Future Business Leaders of America trip
 - Question Regarding Election Office
 - Historic Committees

III. Adjournment

A. Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Andy Sandifer made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Chair



Clerk

