

Minutes of Barnwell County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2025
(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

Board Members Present: Becky Huggins, Felicia Devore, Rosey Anderson, Catrena Hughes-Parker, John Melton

I. Opening Business

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

Becky Huggins called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. John Melton led the Reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Becky Huggins confirmed the FOI Notice at the closing of the meeting, as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

B. Approval of Agenda – Becky Huggins

A motion was made by Rosey Anderson to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Becky Huggins

1. Approval of the January 28, 2025 Board Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of February Personnel Report
3. Approval of November and December Financial Reports

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the Consent Agenda Items. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. There was no public participation.

II. Superintendent Report – Superintendent and

A. Update related to the BCSD Facility Plan

Dr. Stapleton provided the following updates:

- The Design and Development Team met to begin shaping vision and mission for the construction of the new high school.
- Debra McCord, Becky Huggins, David Augustine, and Crissie Stapleton visited CTE-focused high schools in Colorado with the district's SSOE design team.
- The Design and Development Team will meet again February 26, 2025 to finalize the mission statement and complete additional design exercises.
- Barnwell County School District has received approval from OSF for two of the three parcels of land for the construction of the new high school/career center.

- Design focus groups consisting of staff, students, coaches, community members, county leaders, business and industry representatives, and more will begin meeting in March and April.
- FEMA Safe Room and Gymnasium:
Dr. Stapleton shared that the groundbreaking ceremony was today, February 25, 2025. She also stated that the district was grateful to have many people present to help celebrate the start of construction of the new FEMA Safe Room and Gymnasium. She then shared photos from the event earlier that day.

B. School and District Updates

Human Resources Update

- Our Human Resources team has been actively recruiting new teachers at major university career fairs across South Carolina. In February, BCSD represented our district at:
 - Clemson University Career Fair - showcasing opportunities for upcoming education graduates and engaging with potential teaching candidates
 - University of South Carolina Career Fair - connecting with future educators and highlighting the benefits of teaching in Barnwell County
 - Winthrop University Career Fair - meeting with prospective teachers and sharing BCSD's commitment to educational excellence
- At each event, the BCSD recruitment table featured professional BCSD branding and informational materials about our district.

IT Update

- Avast antivirus has now been completely rolled out countywide.
- Training has been completed in Final Forms for our new online registration.
- IT has rolled out a new phishing campaign across the district. (This helps our cost in regards to cyber security insurance). This will help our users learn when to recognize phishing emails, and such.
- The IT department held an all day PD training recently in the PD room, and it was described as extremely informative and helpful. This is an extremely helpful step moving forward as the entire department works on being consistent with all policies and procedures across the county.

Finance Updates

- The final financial processes for BSD45, BCCSD, and BCCC, such as the audit, W-2s, 1099s, and state and federal reports, have now been completed. Now that this work is done, Finance is completing the final stages of transferring all of the financial data from each accounting system into the Barnwell County School District accounting system.
- The district has begun the FY 25-26 Budget by scheduling and holding collaborative budget meetings of the CFO and Superintendent with each Principal and Chief. This will take place through the second week in March.
- CFO Holly Hutto is staying informed of the state budget by listening to most of the live audio stream of the House and the Senate.

Curriculum and Instruction Updates

- Each primary school hosted intercession for third grade students to address gaps in reading associated with the Read to Succeed requirements. Overall, the district hosted 68 third grade students across the county.
- The Curriculum Department is gearing up for the new math adoption. BCSD has a team of teachers attending training on the new math standards and the textbook caravan. This team will assist with facilitating training across the district for the implementation of new standards.
- BCSD schools are actively utilizing their data through PLC (Professional Learning Communities) to ensure instruction is focused on standards and meeting student needs. The goal is to provide rigorous Tier I instruction across the district. The Curriculum Team has observed PLC sessions at all locations and provided support to principals for implementation.
- The elementary and middle school directors will be presenting to teachers and principals about the 2025 SC Ready ELA Blueprint and Assessment Specifications in preparation for state assessments and new standards.
- Family engagement sessions for early learners are taking place in all three locations for March.
- In addition, 3K and 4K enrollment is in full swing with community outreach taking place across the district.
- Montessori Open House is taking place at BPS tonight (Tuesday, February 25) from 5:00pm-6:00pm to showcase the Montessori program to incoming students.
- We are entering assessment season. Currently we have ACCESS for ML students wrapping up, Performance Task Assessment is beginning next week, and SC ALT kicking off the first week of March.
- We are in the midst of course registration for all high schools with a few changes taking place in Power School as we move through this process.
- This week, the BHS Personal Finance classes are collaborating with SC State University with the Youth Entrepreneurship program as a district pilot. If all goes well, the district will hopefully branch out to all high schools next year.
- Dr. Stapleton also referenced the plans she shared with the board members earlier that day during the work session regarding Palmetto Math, Turnaround Plans, and Tier One Instruction.

III. Old Business – There was no Old Business.

IV. New Business

- A. Approval of Barnwell School District 45, Barnwell School District 48, and Barnwell County Career Center Audits for Information

Dr. Stapleton shared that David Enzastiga virtually presented the audits for Barnwell School District 45 and Barnwell County Consolidated School District at the board work session this morning. CFO Holly Hutto then gave a summary of the audit for Barnwell County Career Center. She shared that CFO Holly Hutto would give a brief overview of the audits again this evening before they are approved as information.

CFO Holly Hutto shared highlights from the information shared during the work session earlier that day.

- The final audits for Barnwell School District 45, Barnwell County Consolidated School District (Williston/Blackville), and Barnwell County Career Center, were presented to the Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees during their Board Workshop on February 25, 2025. BSD45 and BCCSD (Williston/Blackville) audits were presented to the board by David Enzastiga with Rish &

Enzastiga and the Chief Financial Officer Holly Hutto shared the Career Center audit performed by Rod Dooley with Dooley and Company. Each district received an unmodified audit, which is the best audit result that you can receive. During the Board Meeting on February 25, 2025, the audits for the FY 2023-2024 were received by the board as information after a recap was given by Holly Hutto.

- Barnwell School District 45 and Barnwell County Career Center showed no financial statement findings. Barnwell County Consolidated School District (Williston/Blackville) was cited for four items. These citations were that the board approved balanced budget was not loaded into the general ledger software, the bank accounts were not reconciled in a timely manner, the ending balances from 22-23 were not rolled over as the beginning 23-24 balances, and grant reimbursement claims needed to be made more consistently. These items were discovered during the audit process and they were rectified with the Finance team that is currently in place at Barnwell County School District. Mr. Enzastiga assured the board that, with the transition to the new district, there was a strong financial standing of all the combined Districts. Also, because the findings from Barnwell County Consolidated School District (Williston/Blackville) were addressed, he feels that these findings are not representative of the new school district.
- At the close of all three former districts in Barnwell County on June 30, 2024, the financial standing of each district was strong. As David Enzastiga told the board Tuesday in the work session, this strong financial position puts the new district, Barnwell County School District, at a great starting point. The ending fund balances were \$1,324,694 for the Barnwell County Career Center, \$9,687,632 for Barnwell School District 45 and \$10,166,146 for Barnwell County Consolidated School District (Williston/Blackville).

Dr. Stapleton state that we would like a motion to approve these audits as information. Rosey Anderson made a motion for approval, and Catrena Hughes-Parker seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. Second Reading and Approval of Policy – Action Item

1. BE – Board Meetings

Dr. Stapleton reviewed the policy change for Policy BE – Board Meetings:

- The only change to the policy is the day of regular board meetings changing to the 3rd Tuesday of the month.
- Please note:
 - In February, we will still meet the 4th Tuesday, February 25th. (because of Winter Break)
 - In April, we will still meet the 4th Tuesday, April 22nd. (because of Spring Break)

Dr. Stapleton said the district was seeking Second Reading and Final Approval. Felicia Devore made a motion for approval, and John Melton seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

V. Executive Session

Dr. Stapleton stated that there was no longer a need for Executive Session.

VI. Adjournment

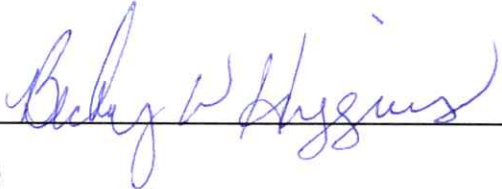
Chair Huggins thanked everyone for everything today. Rosey Anderson was recognized by the Chair and publicly state well wishes for Tina Smith who is currently on medical leave.

A. Announcement of Next Meeting – Chair Huggins shared that March 18, 2025 would be the next meeting date.

B. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by John Melton. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Chair



Clerk

