

Minutes of Barnwell County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025
(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

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

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. Rosey Anderson led the Reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Becky Huggins confirmed the FOI Notice went out 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

- **Approval of the March 18, 2025 Board Regular Meeting Minutes – Becky Huggins**

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the March 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Approval of the April 8, 2025 Board Work Session Minutes – Becky Huggins**

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the April 8, 2025 Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Approval of April Personnel Report – Becky Huggins**

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the April Personnel Report. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Approval of February Financial Report – Becky Huggins**

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve February Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes- Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. There was no public participation.

II. Special Recognition – Superintendent

Dr. Stapleton announced that the winners of the first Barnwell County Science Fair winners would be recognized. She introduced Guinyard-Butler Middle School Science teacher, Mr. Alex Kinard who coordinated this science fair and the ones in the future to recognize the winners.

A. Barnwell County School District Science Fair Winners

Mr. Kinard stated that it was a pleasure to be present. He said that it is amazing how far the science fair has come in 3 years. On January 31st, Guinyard-Butler Middle School kicked off the first science fair for the school level. There were 245 projects submitted, and we were able to award 62 students with some type of award. On February 7th, we went to Macedonia Elementary/ Middle School who had 6th-8th grade this year, they had 98 projects with 39 awards being presented. One of the biggest moments that made me realize that I'm doing the right thing, is watching how the students cheered on their peers. On February 14th, we went to Williston-Elko Middle School. They did their projects in groups. We had 45 projects submitted, and we presented 26 awards. In March, we had our first county science fair. We had 26 projects, and we awarded 4 students with district awards and 3 are present. Thank you to Mr. Lilly from the State Dept. for coming to judge.

Honorable Mention- J. Baines(GBMS)

3rd Place- Liam Creech (GBMS)

2nd Place- Helen Overton (GBMS)

1st Place- Abigail Smith (MEMS)

Dr. Stapleton presented each student with a certificate and gift from the school district. Mr. Kinard also received a special gift for his dedication and hard work. School board members acknowledged the science fair winners:

Chair Huggins asked each student about their projects and congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

Dr. Stapleton announced the Chief Human Resources Officer, Shawn Williams to recognize the candidates for Future Educators Signing Day.

B. Future Educators Signing Day

Shawn Williams explained that tonight history was being made by the first students in Barnwell County to participate in the Future Educator Signing Day, but before I begin, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Board of Trustees, and our superintendent and administrators for their unwavering support of this initiative. This would allow us to address long time staffing needs while recognizing our future educators who chose teaching as a profession. The event recognizes local students seeking and education degree. Each student has choosing a profession that helps shape our future, change countless lives, and build a foundation to help our community grow stronger. We want to recognize the families whose dedication that you provided to help shape our future educators.

Tymara Donaldson- Francis Marion-Early Childhood education

Lane Evans-USC Aiken- Physical Education

Nideria Mitchell-Kansas State University-Elementary Education

Zania Williams-SC State-Elementary Education

Congratulations!! We look forward to witnessing your growth and success to come. Each school board members congratulated the Future Educators and wished them much success in their future

III. Superintendent's Report – Superintendent

Dr. Stapleton presented the following updates:

A. Update Related to the BCSD Facility Plan

- Our focus groups are scheduled to meet the following dates:
April 30, 2025- School-level focus groups
May 2, 2025- Board Work Session
May 7, 2025- Community-based Focus Groups
- A community-wide survey will be administered to the community during the time the focus group meet.

FEMA Gym

- The HG Reynolds team and subcontractors have been busy working on the construction of the new facility.
- We are planning to have some students from the Career Center to come over and see the progress. We will notify the school board when the dome roof goes up so that you can come see how that process happens.
- The BCSD IT Director, John Moody, is also meeting with HG Reynolds representatives to discuss the Internet and telecommunications for the new gymnasium.
(Dr. Stapleton showed a time-lapse video of the progress of the FEMA Gymnasium.)
- The groundbreaking will be rescheduled in February.

B. School and District Updates (Including updates related to the BCSD Consolidation Plan)

The Chief Officer of Operations has developed a team of administrators/staff from Williston, Blackville, and Barnwell who will analyze the comparative study of BCSD facility usage fees as compared to other surrounding districts and local entities.

- The team will create a chart with recommendations.
- The team will revise the current application.
- The team will make recommendations for the district policy.

Follow-up from Work Session: Finance

At the recent work session, CFO Holly Hutto shared general budgetary information in regard to the finalizing of the 2025-2026 BSD General Fund Budget. This included, but was not limited to, house projections, state revenues and other revenue sources, budget considerations from the General Assembly, salary schedules, and proposed general fund budget information.

She continues to stay informed of the state budget by listening to most of the live audio stream of the House and the Senate.

Curriculum and Instruction Updates

- A district may submit a waiver to the State Department of Education for a staggered start to the school year for the purpose of scheduling readiness assessments for Kindergarten and/or CERDEP students.
- Macedonia Elementary/Middle School, Kelly Edwards Elementary, and Barnwell Primary School all wished to take advantage of the delayed start.

- Upon approval of the waiver request, the approved school may allow kindergarten and CERDEP students to be administered the assessments during a shortened school day within the first five days of the academic year.
- Each teacher will divide his/her class into five groups and then send letters to the parents indicating which day the child is to attend during week 1.
- All schools will have summer programming:
 - 4K CERDEP summer expansion (10 students per school)
 - 5K in-house program BPS (20 students) KEES/MEMS (10 students per school)
 - 1st/2nd in-house program BPS (24 students) KEES/MEMS (12 students per school)
 - 3rd R2S program at each school. Numbers TBD based on SC Ready Reading data
 - 4th/5th in-house program BPS (30 students) KEES/MEMS (15 students per school)
 - 6th–8th in-house promotion program GBMS (36-45 students) MEMS/WEMS (30 students each)
 - High school: Credit recovery through APEX (virtual) and initial credit using Virtual SC
 - Third grade R2S will run from June 2nd to June 26th. All others will run from June 9th to June 26th.

IT Updates

- IT purchased 433 additional Chromebooks to be distributed.
- Starting to coordinate the schedule to update all computers to Windows 11. Windows 10 end of life ends October 2025.
- The network switches (75) have arrived, and these will be implemented across the county this summer. They have to each be configured, deployed, and rack mounted in each network closet.
- The equipment that was ordered (shared at last month's Board meeting) has been installed in the classrooms. (Promethean boards, MEMS Lab 30 computers).
- Final forms (online registration) is live.

Dr. Stapleton shared other exciting news to be shared with the Board:

Exciting News

- Funding Impact: Thanks to a generous investment from the South Carolina Children's Fund (SCCF) and Old Barnwell Golf Club, who together committed \$30,000 to fund over 40 classroom projects for more than 30 educators in the CSRA, several of our teachers had projects funded that will provide essential resources for students across our district.
- New Partnership: Our district is now an official partner with DonorsChoose.
- Ongoing Support: This partnership marks the beginning of an exciting collaboration that will continue to support innovative projects and enhance opportunities for our students.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

- A. Approval of Macedonia Elementary/Middle School Field Experience for Beta Club to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida from June 26-29, 2025 – Action Item

(Action) Motion made for the Approval of Macedonia/Middle School Field Experience for Beta Club to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida from June 26-29, 2025.

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve the Macedonia Elementary/Middle School Field Experience for Beta Club to the National Convention in Orlando, Florida from June 26-29, 2025. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Approval of Barnwell High School Technology Student Association Winners to National TSA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee from June 27-July 1, 2025 – Action Item

(Action) Motion made for approval of Barnwell High School Technology Student Association Winners to National TSA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee from June 27-July 1, 2025.

Motion made by Rosey Anderson for the approval of Barnwell High School Technology Student Association Winners to National TSA Conference in Nashville, Tennessee from June 27-July 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Stapleton stated that at the work session on April 8, 2025, board members received a Strategic Planning packet outlining each school within BCSD, their goals for their new strategic plans, and their “highlighted” action steps for how they will work to achieve those goals. The superintendent also reviewed the district strategic plan goals, as well as the action steps to support those goals.

- C. Approval of Five-Year Strategic Plans for all Barnwell County School District Schools and District Five-Year Plan – Action Item

(Action) Motion made for the Approval of Five-Year Strategic Plans for all Barnwell County School District Schools and District Five-Year Plan.

Motion made by Felicia Devore for the Approval of Five-Year Strategic Plans for all of Barnwell County School District Schools and District Five-Year Plan. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Stapleton explained BCSD Vision, Mission and Core Values. The BCSD Proposed Vision is:

Ever Student Matters,
Every Student Counts

There were 9 possible vision statements that were created during the strategic planning process- whether by team members or through discussion in breakout sessions. 93 submitted an online vote.

BCSD Proposed Mission

Our mission is to inspire and empower every student to succeed by providing an inclusive, innovative, and supportive learning environment. We believe that every child is valued, and their potential is limitless. By fostering meaningful relationships, promoting character development, and preparing students for college, career, and global citizenship, we ensure that all students are equipped to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Together, we create opportunities, nurture growth, and build the foundation for lifelong learning.

We achieve this by:

- Empowering every student, every day with personalized learning and the skills needed for success in academics, athletics, the arts, and individual exploration.

- Building strong, supportive relationships between students, families, and the community to create a unified, thriving environment.
- Encouraging a growth mindset and preparing students to navigate and innovate in an ever-evolving world.
- Embracing innovation and opportunity to inspire creativity and prepare students for future challenges.
- Fostering and cultivating a culture of integrity, strong character, collaboration, respect, high expectations and inclusivity where every student's unique story matters.

BCSD Proposed Core Values

Community

A strong, connected community is essential for success. We believe in building partnerships between families, students, educators, and local organizations to create a supportive environment, fostering trust, collaboration, and belonging.

Compassion

We prioritize empathy, kindness, and understanding. Compassion drives us to care for the well-being of others, ensuring that students and staff feel supported, valued, and respected in a safe and inclusive environment. Heart is what drives us at BCSD.

Innovation

Embracing creativity and continuous improvement is key to preparing students for the future. We encourage new ideas, explore cutting-edge practices, and adapt to changing needs, empowering both students and educators to grow and thrive.

Integrity

We uphold high ethical standards, acting honestly and transparently. Integrity means being accountable for our actions, fostering trust, and teaching students the value of fairness, responsibility, and doing what is right.

- D. Approval of the Barnwell County School District Vision, Mission, and Core Values – Action Item

Motion was made by Catrena Hughes-Parker for the approval of the Barnwell County School District Vision, Mission, and Core Values. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Stapleton explained that the board members reviewed locally board approved courses at the April 8th work session. The only change to the current locally board approved courses was one change to a math offering caused by the new course progression for Mathematics.

- E. Approval of the Barnwell County School District Locally Board Approved Courses – Action Item

Motion was made by Felicia Devore for the approval of Barnwell County School District Locally Board Approved Courses. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Math Textbook Adoption

As discussed at the board work session, throughout the month of March several groups evaluated the state selections for a new math textbook. The Curriculum Department evaluated all selections, and then a teacher team attended the math caravan. Following the caravan, representatives met to determine the selections for new math instructional materials.

Math Textbook Selections for Elementary & Middle School

Elementary (K-5) Curriculum Associates iReady

Middle (6-8) Curriculum Associates iReady

Math Textbook Selections for High School Courses

<u>Course</u>	<u>CP Level</u>	<u>Honors Level</u>
Geometry with Statistics	Savvas Learning Company enVision	Kiddom South Carolina Math
Algebra 1	Savvas Learning Company enVision	Kiddom South Carolina Math
Algebra 2 with Probability	Savvas Learning Company enVision	Kiddom South Carolina Math
Reasoning in Mathematics	Savvas Learning Company: Blitzer, Thinking Mathematically	
Applications & Modeling	BW Walch: Mathematics Standards- Applications & Modeling	

Statistical Modeling (for both CP & Honors) Savvas Learning Company: Bock, Stats in Your Word

Precalculus (for both CP & Honors) Savvas Learning Company: Sullivan, Precalculus Enhanced with Graphing Utilities

Calculus (for both Honors & AP) Savvas Learning Company: Demana, Calculus: Graphical, Numerical, Algebraic

F. Approval of Math Instructional Materials related to the Textbook Adoption for Elementary, Middle, and High School Courses for the 2025-2026 School Year – Action Item

Motion was made by Rosey Anderson for approval of Math Instructional Materials related to the Textbook Adoption for Elementary, Middle, and High School Courses for the 2025-2026 School Year. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Stapleton explained that in the last work session, Mike Beasley will be leading the Mascot/Colors Committee for our new high school. This committee will be composed of a diverse group of community members representing all parts of Barnwell County. There will also be a student group, as well as administrators and/or school representatives who will provide valuable feedback and ideas throughout the process.

The goal of the committee is to bring forward three potential recommendations for mascots and colors for the new high school, which will then be presented to the Board for consideration. We are excited to move forward with this collaborative process, and we are confident that the input from all involved will result in a strong, representative choice for our new school's identity.

G. Approval of Formation of Mascot/Colors Committee for the New High School – Action Item

Motion was made by Felicia Devore for approval of Formation of Mascot/Colors Committee for the New High School. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Stapleton presented the First Reading and Approval of the following policy:

Policy JKE-Expulsion of Students

This policy establishes the framework for the expulsion of students in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

H. Approval of First Reading of Policy JKE – Action Item

Motion was made by Rosey Anderson for the Approval of the First Reading of Policy JKE. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Executive Session

Motion made to go into Executive Session by Rosey Anderson at 7:03 p.m. and seconded by Felicia Devore for the purpose of:

- Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body.
- *Contractual Matters related to Employee A*
- Discussions of negotiations incident to contractual arrangements, specifically receipt of advice from OSF and legal counsel.
- Receipt of other legal advice, as needed, in regard to contractual agreements.

Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 7:26 p.m. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion made by Rosey Anderson "Madame Chairperson, I move that the Board accept the Superintendent's recommendation for the suspension of employment and conditionally accept her recommendation for the termination of employment of a **Continuing Contract** teacher, Employee A, subject to the Board's duty to review the matter on the merits pursuant to State Law should the individual request a hearing." The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Adjournment

A. Announcement of Next Meeting

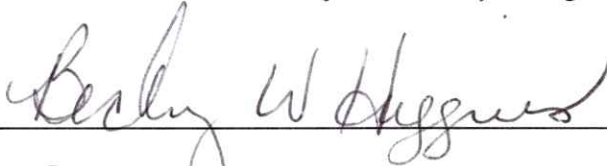
Regular Board Meeting on May 20, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Work Session scheduled for May 2, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at Barnwell Schools Administration Building.

B. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Rosey Anderson. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:28p.m.

Chair



Clerk

