

Minutes of Barnwell County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
(10524 Marlboro Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

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

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. Becky Huggins 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 April 22, 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 22, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

- **Approval of the May 2, 2025 Board Work Session Minutes- Becky Huggins**

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the May 2, 2025 Board Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Catrena Parker-Hughes. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

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

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve March 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

A. Barnwell County School District Retirees

Dr. Stapleton expressed the excitement and the bitter sweetness of coming together to recognize our retirees. She announced Shawn Williams, Human Resource Coordinator who will lead the recognition of tonight's Barnwell County School District Retirees.

Shawn Williams expressed that we are gathered to recognize extra-ordinary educators and staff who have impacted countless lives throughout their careers. As they turn the page to their next chapter, we honor them tonight. We are excited to have you here tonight, and you principals of supervisor will share some wonderful words about you tonight.

- Toby Singletary- recognized by Dr. Stapleton on behalf of his supervisor, Mike Beasley, Director of Operations
- Mary Still- recognized by Teresa Zorn, Director of Food Service
- Annette Frederick- recognized by Adrian Robinson, Transportation Coordinator
- Angela Williams- recognized by Kay Gooding, Barnwell Elementary School Principal
- Ron Still- recognized by David Augustine, Barnwell County Career Center Director Dawn Wilbanks
- Lynette Corder- recognized by Christina Snider, Blackville-Hilda High School Principal
- George Snider- recognized by Henrietta Williams, Guinyard-Butler Middle School Principal
- Clinton Stephens- recognized by Krystle Speller, Kelly Edwards Elementary School Principal
- Doris Sanders- recognized by Chelsea Calhoun, Macedonia Elementary/Middle School Principal
- Vicki Shockley- recognized by Patricia Ulmer, Williston-Elko Middle School Principal
- Jacqueline Houde- recognized by Anthony Flowers, Williston-Elko High School Principal

Each retiree was presented with a rocking chair from the school district. The families of the retirees were recognized and thanked for their support as well. Dr. Stapleton once again expressed how fortunate we were to be a part of your story. We are so grateful for the impact that you had in so many ways. We are in an amazing field because we can be life changers in so many ways.

III. Superintendent Report

A. Update related to the BCSD Facility Plan

Dr. Stapleton presented the following updates:

- Focus groups met and multiple follow-up meetings with these groups were held since the original meeting.
- Data sheets for all programs are being submitted to the superintendent by Wednesday, May 21st. Those will then be sent collectively to the SSOE design team, who will then make revisions to the preliminary plans- as needed and as appropriate.
- A community-wide survey has been administered to the community and to students in 7th through 12th grades.
Current feedback totals:
 - 284 student surveys submitted

- 201 community/staff surveys submitted
- Mascot Committees
 - The student Mascot Committee has met multiple times. Dr. Stapleton presented the preliminary high school plans to this group for feedback.
 - The community-based Mascot Committee met on today and will have another meeting later in the week.
- The FEMA Gym is still in progress.

B. District Updates

- Earth Day was an active and engaging event across Barnwell County School District. Each of our schools participated in meaningful ways, and together, our students and staff collected a total of **152 bags of trash** throughout the district- a strong showing of our commitment to keeping our communities clean and beautiful.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

Dr. Stapleton announced the presentation of the First Reading of the 2025-2026 General Fund Budget.

Discussion of the General Fund Budget- Holly Hutto, Chief Financial Officer

Budget Highlights

- During the collaborative budget process, each department and school was given the opportunity to discuss their individual needs for purchase services and supplies. Those needs have been assessed and have been distributed appropriately based on student population, programs offered, special considerations, and overall needs.

Millage Rate

- The millage rate for the 24-25 school year was calculated and determined by the Department of Revenue based on the consolidation legislation. That rate was set at 253.1 mills once the allowed CPI rate was added.
- The consolidation legislation also states that the millage rate for the 2025-2026 school year must be the same as the 24-25 school year with exception of any millage determined by the Department of Revenue necessary to comply with educational mandated imposed by federal or state law.
- Barnwell County real estate reassessment will be implemented this year, which means that property values will be increasing.
- Holly Hutto will be attending a Millage Workshop on May 22nd that will explain further how taxes will be affected by the changes. She will report this information during the Second Reading of the budget and explain any changes needed to the budget.
- The teachers state minimum salary schedule with a \$2500 increase in each cell and the state's bus driver salary increase have been used setting teacher and bus driver pay.
- An increase of 4.6% on the employer portion of insurance will be effective January 1, 2026. There will be no increase to the employee portion.

- All eligible employees will receive a step increase on their approved salary schedule.

State Revenues

- Budget projections from the state are based on the FY26 Appropriation Bill as adopted by the Senate.
- The projections are based on the 135th day student counts.
- As we discussed in the May 9th work session, these projections are based on the funding formula that began in the FY22-23 school year.
- Any adjustments to this formula may be taken up this week in the Conference committee.

FY 26 Appropriation Bill

- Projections based on FY25 135th day student counts
 - Retiree Insurance- \$1,546,894.18
 - State to Aid Classrooms- \$19,376,971.08
 - Health Insurance \$571,263.37

Requested Revenues

Local Taxes (Taxes, etc.)	\$14,242,675.00- 32%
State Funding	\$28, 274,008.00- 63%
Federal and Transfers	\$2,486,467.00- 5%
Total Revenues	\$45,003,150.00- 100%

Requested Expenditures

Salary & Benefits	\$39,546,891.00- 88%
Purchased Services	\$ 3,322,776.00- 7%
Supplies & Other	\$ 2,143,483.00- 5%
Total Expenditures	\$45,003,150.00- 100%

A. Approval of 2025-2026 Barnwell County School District General Fund Budget – Action Item

(Action) Motion made for the Approval of the 2025-2026 Barnwell County School District General Fund Budget.

Motion made by Felicia Devore to approve the First Reading of the 2025-2026 Barnwell County School District General Fund Budget. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Dr. Stapleton explained that discussion will occur in Executive Session for the Approval of Out of District-Student A and action will be taken at the end of the meeting.

- C. Dr. Stapleton explained that discussion will occur in Executive Session for the Approval for School Choice Applications- Student A, B, C and D and action will be taken at the end of the meeting.
- D. Approval of BHHS Future Business Leaders of America Trip to Convention in California- June 28, 2025-July 3, 2025 – Action Item

(Action) Motion made for the Approval of BHHS Future Business Leaders of America Trip to Convention in California- June 28, 2025- July 3, 2025.

Motion made by Catrena Hughes Parker for the Approval of BHHS Future Business Leaders of America Trip to Convention in California- June 28, 2025- July 3, 2025. The motion was seconded by John Melton, Jr. The motion was approved unanimously.

- E. Second Reading and Approval of Policy JKE- Expulsion of Students - Action Item

(Action) Motion made for the approval of the Second Reading of Policy JKE- Expulsion of Students

Motion was made by John Melton, Jr. for the approval of the Second Reading of Policy JKE- Expulsion of Students. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Executive Session

Motion made to go into Executive Session by John Melton, Jr. at 7:18 p.m. and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker 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.

- *Out of District Application- Student A*
- *School Choice Applications- Students A, B, C, and D*
- *Separation- Employee A*

Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. Motion made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

(Action) Motion made for the approval of Out of District- Student A

Motion made by Felicia Devore for the approval of Out of District Application- Student A. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

(Action) Motion made for the approval of School Choice Applications for Students A, B, C and D.

Motion was made by John Melton, Jr. for the approval of School Choice Applications for Students A, B, C and D. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

(Action) Motion made for the approval of Separation- Employee A

Motion made by Rosey Anderson *"I move that we authorize the board chairperson to execute an order on behalf of the Board of Trustees affirming the termination from employment of a professional employee-Employee A. Based on such order being prepared by legal counsel and having been reviewed by the board."* The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker.

VII. Adjournment

A. Announcement of Next Meeting

Work Session scheduled for May 28, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. at Barnwell Schools Administration Building.
There will be a Special-Called Meeting to follow for the Second Reading of the Budget.

B. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by John Melton, Jr. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Chair

Beth W. Huggins

Clerk

Rosey Anderson