

Minutes of Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees

Work Session

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

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

Also Present: SSOE Design Team (for beginning of meeting)

I. Opening Business

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

Chair Becky Huggins called the meeting to order at 8:17am. Chair 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

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.

II. Information Items

A. Discussion with SSOE regarding Updates

Dr. Stapleton introduced the SSOE Team. The Team presented *Barnwell County School District CATE Focused High School* presentation outlining the new revisions to the Design and Development Plans. They shared information on the following:

- Values / Goals / Mission Statement Recap
- Design Development Site Plan
- Conceptual Diagram – The Big Idea
- Design Development Floor Plans
- Design Development Renderings
- Next Steps / Project Schedule

B. Discussion of Consolidation Plan and Facility Plan Updates

Dr. Stapleton shared the district's next steps in the new high school project, which consists of having follow-up meetings with high school principals, athletic directors, specific departments/areas to determine any feedback for the design team moving forward. The district is setting up the project in the OSF Portal.

She also reviewed the next steps in the timeline which include:

- Once the Design and Development is approved, SSOE will be creating construction documents over the next 3 months to be submitted for approval.
- Schedule for Early Site:
 - Advertise for Bids 12/28/25
 - Receive Bids 1/27/26
 - Start Construction 3/2/26
- Schedule for Building:
 - Advertise for Bids 2/15/26
 - Receive Bids 3/17/26
 - Start Construction 5/1/26
- Substantial Completion 5/1/28
 - Owner Occupy date is June 1, 2028.

C. Discussion of BCSD Policy Updates

Dr. Stapleton led discussion on the following:

- Livestreaming of Board Meetings
- School Nurses Unencumbered Time
- BCSD Facility Use Application (to be approved as an exhibit)

D. Discussion of District Updates (This was concluded following Executive Session.)

III. Executive Session

Motion made to go into Executive Session by John Melton at 10:05am and seconded by Felicia Devore for the purpose of:

As needed to discuss any contractual agreements currently in place for the district or discussion of negotiations incident to contractual arrangements in regard to agenda items.

As needed to discuss any confidential employee or student matter in regard to agenda items.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 12:03pm. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Stapleton complete the District Updates portion of the agenda as she led discussion on the following:

- Future board meetings
- Plans for sharing information regarding the new high school in the coming months, as more specific renderings are available
- Facility updates
- Update from BSN regarding branding and new logo

IV. **Adjournment**

A. Meeting Adjournment

John Melton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 12:40pm

Please Note: The group did take two breaks during the work session – one at 9:22am (lasting 14 minutes in the transition of the Design Team leaving the meeting) and one at 11:15am (lasting 10 minutes). Lunch was served at the close of Executive Session and the group continued meeting until adjournment.

Chair Berk W. Higgins

Clerk Rosey Anderson