

Minutes of Barnwell County School District

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

Board Members Present: Becky Huggins, Felicia Devore, Rosey Anderson, Catrena Hughes-Parker, John Melton, Jr. (not in attendance)

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 Catrena Parker-Hughes. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Consent Agenda Items- Becky Huggins

- Approval of the June 24, 2025 Board Regular Meeting Minutes – Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the June 24, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of August Personnel Report – Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the August Personnel Report. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of May and June Financial Report – Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve May and June Financial Reports. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. There was no public participation.

II. Superintendent Report- Superintendent

A. SCSBA Welcome Back Recognition

Dr. Stapleton stated that every year the SCSBA creates a welcome back theme and shares a poster to voice that theme. This year's theme is "Welcome Back, Let's Do This!" Dr. Stapleton shared the poster and asked the board members to take a photo of the school board holding the poster prior to Executive Session. She explained that the district will share the photo on the district website and with the SCSBA.

B. Updates related to the BCSD Facility Plan

Dr. Stapleton presented the following updates:

- SSOE is working on the final revisions to the plans for the new high school. They will be presenting those to the district's Design and Development Team and the School Board in September.
- ECS (geotechnical firm) started brush clearing today on-site at the property for the new high school to prepare for the soil borings and soil testing.
- The FEMA Safe House is making great progress. (Dr. Stapleton showed a brief video of the inside progress.)
- Discussion of the Safe Room led to discussion of the eLearning plan. The state put in more safeguards with eLearning this year. It has been set that eLearning cannot be done the first 30 days of school. She explained guidelines with how eLearning days must be utilized this year and shared that the Curriculum Department has been working to make sure all of the schools are prepared with their eLearning assignments.

C. District Updates

Dr. Stapleton presented the following updates:

- WJBF recognized KEES PE Teacher Dalton Mundy with the Golden Apple Award on Friday, August 8th. His segment will air August 26, 2025.
- Dr. Stapleton read a "Thank You" message from David Edwards in reference to the London Trip this past summer with students, staff and parents from all three high schools.
"Please give my appreciation to the school board for their blessing in allowing us to travel to London this past summer. Several of our students along with their adults had many firsts. First time flying in an airplane. First time in another country. First time in a professional Theatre Workshop. First time seeing a musical. First time experiencing British cuisine. First time being away from home. The trip was not all sunshine, as London is known for its rain. However, everyone had a great experience overall. We are looking forward to traveling a little closer to home this coming summer to New York City. Thank you again, Dr. Stapleton and school board members for your continued support of our students and the arts!"
- Barnwell County School District Pre-K update:
There are 13 classes in our school district that serve preschool students in some way.
 - 3K Montessori- 21 students
 - 9 on the waitlist
 - 4K Montessori- 21 students
 - 3 on the waitlist but they are currently in 4K CERDEP classes
 - 4K CERDEP- 118 students
 - Williston currently has 2 open spots
 - Blackville has 3 on the waiting list
 - Barnwell has 3 on the waiting list
 - Barnwell Primary School and Kelly Edwards Elementary have Pre-K Self-Contained classes.

- **Policy Update**

The State Board of Education (SBE) has adopted a Model Policy Requiring Livestreaming of School Board Meetings, pursuant to S.C. Code §59-19-85 as enacted by the General Assembly during the 2025 legislative session.

The policy adopted by the SBE includes several key provisions that must be followed to ensure full compliance:

1. This policy refers to all meetings of a public school governing body, including the governing bodies of charter schools and special schools, as defined under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.
2. Each school district must adopt a policy that requires the livestreaming of school board meetings that includes, at a minimum, the SBE model policy.
3. Each local school district must adopt a policy requiring the livestreaming of school board meetings within three months of the adoption of the SBE model policy, which is no later than November 5th, 2025.
4. School districts are required to submit a copy of their local policy to the Superintendent of Education for SBE approval.

(We will present the first reading in September and second reading and approval in October.)

The State Board of Education (SBE) updated the statewide policy regarding unencumbered time to include school nurses on August 5, 2025. This change was made due to the requirements of proviso 1.111 (SDE: School Nurses Unencumbered Time) in this year's General Appropriations Act, below.

1.105. (SDE: School Nurse Unencumbered Time) Of the funds appropriated through the Department of Education for school districts, the department shall work with school districts to incorporate, where practical, school nurses into the statewide policy outlining penalties and exceptions to the encumbered time requirements pursuant to Section 59-5-63.

Section 59-5-63(B) requires that the local school board adopt any revisions of the statewide policy on unencumbered time into their local unencumbered time policy at a regular scheduled meeting within three months.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

- A. Approval of the GBMS Field Experience to Washington, D.C. March 3, 2026 through March 6, 2026– Action Item

(Action) Motion made for the Approval of the GBMS Field Experience to Washington, D.C. March 3, 2026 through March 6, 2026.

Motion made by Rosey Anderson to approve the GBMS Field Experience to Washington, D.C. March 3, 2026 through March 6, 2026. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Approval of 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates – Action Item

Dr. Stapleton explained the board meetings would be the 3rd Tuesday each month except for:

- February 24, 2026 – scheduled for the 4th Tuesday due to Winter Break
- No regular scheduled meeting in December or July

(Action) Motion made for the Approval of 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates

Motion made Felicia Devore for the Approval of 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Second Reading and Final Approval of Policies –Action Item

Dr. Stapleton gave an overview of the following policies being considered for final approval.

- KF – Community Use of Facilities
This policy outlines acceptable community use of school facilities.
- GCCAAA – Sick Leave Bank
This is the model policy for a Sick Leave Donation Program. Following approval of this policy, we will begin setting up the Sick Leave Bank and share those details at a future work session.

(Action) Motion made for the Second Reading and Final Approval of Policies

1. Policy KF- Community Use of School Facilities

Motion was made by Rosey Anderson for the approval of the Second Reading and Final Approval of Policy KF- Community Use of School Facilities. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Policy GCCAAA- Sick Leave Bank

Motion was made by Catrena Hughes-Parker for the Second Reading and Final Approval of Policy GCCAAA- Sick Leave Bank. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Executive Session

Motion made to go into Executive Session by Rosey Anderson at 6:24 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.

- *School Choice Request: Student A-S*
- *Non-Resident Student Out of District Requests to Attend School in BCSD: Student A-J*
- *Employees A, B, and C*

Discussion of negotiations incident to contractual arrangements, specifically *contractual agreements with outside organizations*.

- *First Steps of Barnwell County*

The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Motion made by Rosey Anderson for the approval of School of Choice Requests: Students A-S. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Catrena Hughes-Parker for the approval of Non-Resident Student Out of District Requests to Attend School in BCSD for Students A-J. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

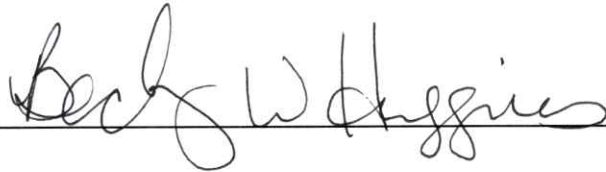
A. Announcement of Next Meeting

B. Work Session scheduled for September 9, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. at Barnwell Schools Administration Building.

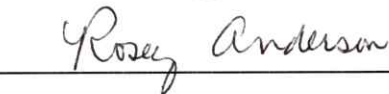
C. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beck W. Huggins", written over a horizontal line.

Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rosey Anderson", written over a horizontal line.