

Minutes of Barnwell County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 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. Catrena Hughes-Parker 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 August 19, 2025 Board Regular Meeting Minutes – Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of the September 9, 2025 Board Work Session Minutes – Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the September 9, 2025 Board Work Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of the September Personnel Report- Becky Huggins

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

- Approval of July Financial Report – Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve July Financial Report. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. There was no public participation.

II. Superintendent Report- Superintendent

A. Update related to the BCSD Facility Plan

Dr. Stapleton gave the following update related to facilities, as well as shared photos from around the district:

- SSOE presented the following at the work session:
 - Values/Goals/Mission Statement Recap
 - Design Development Site Plan- looking at the overall master plan and the land that they will be working with
 - Conceptual Diagram- The Big Idea
 - Design Development Floor Plans (not final) currently working to make plans final
 - Design development Renderings (not final) currently working to make plans final
 - Next Steps/Project Schedule
- SSOE's Design Team recently presented revised plans to the district's design and Development team, as well.
- The district leadership has been conducting DD feedback meetings in regard to the revised plans.
- The district is setting up the new high school project in OSF.
- Next Steps:
 - 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
 - What is "early site"? *In a construction project, "early site" refers to the initial phase of work that takes place on the construction site before the main building construction begins. The phase is critical for preparing the site to ensure that full-scale construction can proceed safely, efficiently, and on schedule.*
- 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.
 - SSOE will try to make up some of the time in the construction document phase if possible.
- Awning Project
 - Currently seeking quotes for the following locations:
 - Barnwell High School- Bus drop-off area
 - Macedonia Elementary/Middle School- Front of school and primary building
 - Guinyard-Butler Middle School-TBD
 - Kelly Edwards Elementary School- Remove and replace awning on back of kindergarten classroom
 - Williston-Elko High School- Extend existing awning on the side of WEHS to the next entrance; connect awnings from WEHS to WEMS
 - Williston-Elko Middle School- Awning at back of cafeteria
- Window Project
 - Actively seeking quotes for:

- Kelly Edwards Elementary School
- Barnwell Primary School
- Guinyard Butler Middle School
- Blackville-Hilda High School
- Camera Project
 - New camera installs completed at:
 - Macedonia Elementary/Middle School
 - Williston-Elko Middle School
 - Barnwell Primary School
- Completed Painting Projects
 - Classrooms painted at:
 - Barnwell High School
 - Guinyard-Butler Middle School
 - Barnwell Elementary School
 - Barnwell Primary School
 - Completed Branding Projects
 - Guinyard Butler Middle School
 - Barnwell Primary School
 - Williston-Elko Middle School
 - Blackville-Hilda High School

All received updated branding.

In Progress: Macedonia Elementary/Middle School

B. District Updates

Dr. Stapleton shared the following district updates:

- New BCSD Minibus at BCCC (photo included in presentation)
- New Partnership with STARS College Network
 - What is the STARS College Network?
 - A consortium of 30+ leading universities
 - Focused on supporting rural and small-town students
 - Partners include: Yale, USC, University of Chicago, Vanderbilt, and more

What Our Students Get:

- On demand college advising (grades 8-12)
- Virtual & in-person university experiences
- Mentorship with rural college grads
- Academic prep with Khan Academy & Schoolhouse.world

Our liaison will be onsite September 24th for Blackville's Senior/Junior College Night and will be helping with college workshops on September 25th.

- Barnwell County School District is proud to announce that Mrs. Desiree Still, agriculture teacher at the

Barnwell County Career Center, has been selected as one of only 65 educators across the country to serve as a National Teacher Ambassador for the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization for the 2025-2026 school year.

- BCSD Teacher Advisory Council
 - The first meeting of the 2025-2026 BCSD Teacher Advisory Council took place on Thursday, September 11th at 3:30pm.
 - BCSD truly values the time and effort of our staff who are a part of this team. The purpose of this team is to gain valuable insight and perspective from district staff, helping the district better support both teachers and students. The council talks about strengths and challenges. When there is a challenge, the team will help brainstorm solutions.
 - It was wonderful discussion as the Superintendent shared districtwide priorities with the team, and they worked collaboratively to address concerns and gather input, feedback, and suggestions.
- BCSD News Email List and News Releases
 - The district has started a single distribution list for BCSD News Releases.
 - This will be one of the avenues we use to share some of the exciting things happening across our schools in Barnwell County.
 - If you know someone who would like to begin receiving the news releases, please direct them to our district website. There is a link there to all news releases and the link to subscribe.

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

A. Approval of Delegate and Alternate to SCSBA Assembly – Action Item

(Action) Motion made for the Approval of Delegate and Alternate to SCSBA Assembly- Becky Huggins

Motion made by Felicia Devore to approve Becky Huggins as the Delegate to SCSBA Assembly. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion made by Rosey Anderson to approve Felicia Devore as the Alternate to SCSBA Assembly. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. First Reading of Policies

1. First Reading of Policy BEA- Livestreaming of Board Meetings

(Action) Motion made for Approval of First Reading of Policies

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker for the approval of the First Reading of Policy BEA- Livestreaming of Board Meetings. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. First Reading of Policy GCLE- Unencumbered Time- Action Item

Motion made by Felicia Devore for the approval of the First Reading of Policy GCLE- Unencumbered Time. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Approval of Exhibit to Current Policy

1. Policy KF Exhibit – Community Use of School Facilities Application

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

V. **Executive Session**

Motion made to go into Executive Session by Catrena Hughes-Parker at 6:33 p.m. and seconded by Rosey Anderson 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 Requests: Students A-D*
- *Employee Contractual Matters- Alternative Pathways to Teacher Certification*

Discussion of negotiations incident to contractual agreements.

- *Specifically related to current BCSD facilities*

Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. Motion made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion made by Felicia Devore for the approval of School Choice Requests: Students A-D. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. **Adjournment**

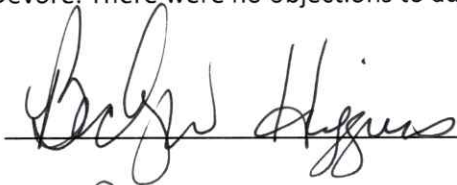
A. Announcement of Next Meeting

Regular Board Meeting scheduled for October 21, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Barnwell Schools Administration Building.

B. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Felicia Devore. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Chair



Clerk

