

Minutes of Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees
Special-Called Meeting
Monday, November 10, 2025
12:30pm
(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

Board Members Present: Becky Huggins, Felicia Devore, Rosey Anderson, Catrena Hughes-Parker, John Melton (due to a work obligation, Mr. Melton joined the meeting at the start of Executive Session)

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 12:33pm. Chair Becky Huggins led the Reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Becky Huggins confirmed the media was notified.

B. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Rosey Anderson to approve the agenda with one addition to add a discussion and vote to move the November 18th board meeting.

A motion was made by Rosey Anderson. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The agenda with the one modification was unanimously approved.

II. New Business

A. Approval of March 2026 Field Experience for Blackville-Hilda High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) to South Carolina FBLA State Conference

Superintendent Crissie Stapleton presented the field experience request. A motion for approval was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of School Choice Request – Student A

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve the school choice request. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Executive Session

A motion was made at 12:36pm by Rosey Anderson to enter into Executive Session 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. Specifically, the Superintendent's evaluation.

The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore.

At 1:43pm, Rosey Anderson made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Catrena Hughes-Parker seconded the motion.

Once out of Executive Session, Chair Becky Huggins read the following statement:

This afternoon, the Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees met in Executive Session to conduct the annual job performance evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Crystal Stapleton.

As Chairperson, and on behalf of my fellow Board Members, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Stapleton received an overall Exemplary performance evaluation.

Dr. Stapleton remains deeply committed to the success of this district. Navigating our recent countywide consolidation with integrity, transparency, and efficiency continues to be one of her highest priorities.

The Board would like to highlight the following attainments:

Leadership and Goals

Early on, it was determined that the goals outlined in the Barnwell County School District Consolidation Plan would also serve as the Superintendent's performance goals.

Throughout the year, Dr. Stapleton has worked collaboratively with teams across BCSD to lead and support a successful transition to a countywide school district.

During the evaluation process, Dr. Stapleton emphasized that the successful completion of the Consolidation Plan has not been the work of one person—it represents the collective effort of a dedicated team of professionals whose passion, commitment, and heart for students drive this district forward every day. We, the Board of Trustees, are grateful to all employees of Barnwell County School District for the work they have done throughout the consolidation process with the leadership of Dr. Stapleton

Strategic Focus and Early Childhood Expansion

We applaud Dr. Stapleton for the personal leadership goals she initiates in addition to

the formal Consolidation Plan goals. These focus areas reflect her vision to move BCSD forward and make this countywide transition as strong and sustainable as possible.

Under her leadership, the District has expanded Early Childhood opportunities, a priority shared by both the Superintendent and the Board. These efforts mark important steps toward building a stronger foundation for our youngest learners and ensuring that every child in Barnwell County has the best possible start.

Communication and Transparency

Dr. Stapleton has continued to prioritize clear and open communication with our community. Her weekly newspaper column highlights district processes, policies, and successes—while the launch of the BCSD News Releases has provided families and community members with timely updates and positive stories.

Both initiatives have strengthened connections, enhanced transparency, and helped tell the ongoing story of our district's growth and progress.

Fiscal Responsibility and Partnerships

The Board commends Dr. Stapleton for maintaining a strong focus on fiscal responsibility, especially during a period of significant transition. The consolidation process has brought challenges such as salary equalization, resource alignment, and necessary facility improvements—all of which have been approached thoughtfully and strategically under her leadership.

Dr. Stapleton has overseen the upgrading and standardizing of safety and security equipment across all facilities to ensure consistent protection for all students and staff members in the District. Further, there have been approximately 60 capital projects completed during the 2024-2025 school year, the construction of the FEMA safe room and gymnasium, all the while planning for the new high school.

Dr. Stapleton has also worked to build partnerships that benefit BCSD students and staff. Through her efforts, the district has established new collaborations with organizations such as SC Children's Trust, Old Barnwell, Low Country Health Care

Systems, the STARS College Network, DonorsChoose, and others. These partnerships have introduced valuable resources, opportunities, and support across our schools and community.

Felicia Devore made the following motion,

Madame Chairperson, after reviewing Dr. Stapleton's evidence on the District's progress towards the Superintendent's Goals, and considering the Board members' comments regarding Dr. Stapleton's job performance, I move that we conclude as a Board that Dr. Stapleton receive an overall Exemplary evaluation for the 2024-2025 school year.

I further move that as a result of Dr. Stapleton's overall Exemplary evaluation, that Dr. Stapleton's employment contract with the District be extended by two years, or through June 30, 2029, that Dr. Stapleton be eligible for payment of unused accumulated vacation days of up to five days at the end of each fiscal year, and that the annual annuity payment be made in June as advised in Executive Session.

The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. There was no additional discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Adjournment

A. Additional New Business

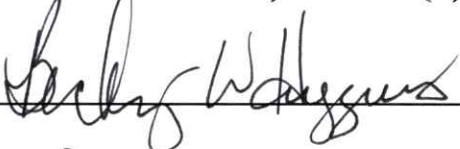
As approved at the beginning of the meeting, the board revisited the request to move the meeting date of November 18th.

The board discussed moving the November 18th board meeting to Monday, November 24th. Rosey Anderson made a motion for this move, and Catrena Hughes-Parker seconded. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Becky Huggins announced the next meeting would be Monday, November 24, 2025.

Rosey Anderson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

Chair 
Clerk 