

Minutes of Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees
Special-Called Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
12:30pm
(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

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

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 12:36pm. 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. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. Given no discussion, the agenda was unanimously approved.

II. New Business

A. Approval of Barnwell County School District 2026-2027 Re-Elect List for Non-Certified Staff

Dr. Stapleton reminded the Board that the Re-Elect Lists were discussed during the work session. Motion made by Felicia Devore to approve the Barnwell County School District 2026-2027 Re-Elect List for Non-Certified Staff. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Approval of Barnwell County School District 2026-2027 Re-Elect List for Certified Staff

Dr. Stapleton reminded the Board that the Re-Elect Lists were discussed during the work session. Motion made by John Melton to approve the Barnwell County School District 2026-2027 Re-Elect List for Certified Staff. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Approval of Resolution for the Annual Capital Bond Issue Not to Exceed 2.4 Million

Dr. Stapleton information regarding the bond resolution, which had also been shared during the

work session.

The information included:

- South Carolina's constitution allows bonds such as this to fund capital projects such as new schools and facility upgrades up to 8% of assessed property values within the district.
- Without a voter approved referendum which would substantially increase taxes, this 8% limit is the only recurring source of funding for district facility needs.
- By staying at this annual 8% limit, the bond advisors and bond attorney work with the district to determine the annual amount to issue so it doesn't increase taxes for the citizens within the school district but instead calculates it to keep the current millage for the bond funds at a steady rate. This is how the bond funds operated in the separate districts previously, as well as how they were calculated for Barnwell County School District.
- The district seeks approval of a resolution authorizing a not to exceed \$2,400,000 general obligation bond through the 2025 SCAGO Spring GO Program.
- This is the annual bond that funds capital improvements at all schools and athletic facilities. Approval of this bond resolution will also approve the capital improvement priorities.
- CFO Holly Hutto and I have been meeting with every principal to determine their top facility priorities for the 2026-2027 school year.
- This bond will not increase taxes, because the debt millage will remain the same.
- The amount we may issue is determined by the available 8% debt capacity the school district is allowed.

Catrena Hughes-Parker made a motion for approval of the Resolution for the Annual Capital Bond Issue Not to Exceed 2.4 Million to fund approved capital priorities for Barnwell County School District. This motion was seconded by John Melton. There was no additional discussion, and it was unanimously approved.

III. **Executive Session**

Chair Huggins stated that there was no need for Executive Session.

IV. **Adjournment**

Chair Becky Huggins announced the next meeting would be Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

John Melton made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 12:42pm.

Chair Becky W. Huggins

Clerk Rosey Anderson