

Minutes of Barnwell County School District

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

Board Members Present: Becky Huggins, Felicia Devore, Rosey Anderson, John Melton, Jr.,
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. 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 Hughes-Parker. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Becky Huggins

1. Approval of February 24, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of March Personnel Report
3. Approval of the January Financial Report

The motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the Consent Agenda Items. The motion was seconded by John Melton. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. There was no public participation.

II. Recognition

Chair Becky Huggins stated that students from the Junior Beta Clubs would be recognized and it's always exciting when there's an opportunity to recognize our students.

A. Junior Beta Club Awardees from State Convention- Superintendent

The Junior Beta Clubs from Williston-Elko Middle School and Macedonia Elementary/Middle School were recognized. Both clubs recently represented Barnwell County School District at the State Junior Beta Club Convention. Both schools did an amazing job representing their schools.

Dr. Stapleton shared that we are incredibly proud of these students for their leadership and commitment to service. Their participation reflects the strong character and dedication for our students, as well as the support of their sponsors and schools.

Williston-Elko Middle School (were not present at the recognition)

- Sponsors
 - Ms. Katina Brown
 - Mr. Alex Kinard
 - Ms. Emilie Mallett

During the competition, two WEMS students earned special recognition for their outstanding performances.

- Ahmad Washington was recognized for his solo dance performance and won a Golden Ticket.
- Savannah Kinard received honors in the Fiber Arts category.

Macedonia Elementary/Middle School

- Sponsors
 - Ms. Bridget Brown
 - Ms. Wanda Jones
- Imani Jones placed third in the Performing Arts Elementary Solo, Duo, and Trio Instrumentalist category.
- Jakobe Felder earned fourth place in Performing Arts Elementary Solo, Duo, and Trio Instrumentalist category.
- Jaelle Coleman received fourth place for Hand-Drawn Anime in the Visual Arts Competition.

In addition to individual awards, both the elementary and junior (middle) school MEMS teams were named Scavenger Hunt winners, highlighting teamwork, problem-solving, and collaboration.

After the Junior Beta Club recognition, each school board member congratulated each student and expressed being proud of them and to continue to keep up the good work. They also thanked the chaperones and families who were present.

Ms. Bridget Brown also spoke on behalf of the club and expressed her appreciation for everyone involved.

Superintendent Report- Superintendent

A. Updates Related to the BCSD Facility Plan

Dr. Stapleton gave the following update related to the BCSD Facility Plan

Barnwell County High School Update

- The district is still awaiting the land disturbance permit from SC Department of Environmental Services (SCDES). They reached out 3/16/26 and asked for additional information from our engineer team. SCDES has designed some key tasks that H.G. Reynolds can go ahead and begin.
- Groundbreaking may be pushed to April due to this wait time
- In working with the City of Barnwell and GHD, we have finalized the location of the new pump station required for the utilities to be run to the new site.

FEMA Gymnasium and Safe House Update

- We are still awaiting news on our Period of Performance Extension from FEMA.

B. School and District Updates

Dr. Stapleton shared the following school and district updates:

Safety Grant

- BCSD was awarded \$105,000.00 for a safety grant, which is added to additional safety funding we already received.
- We have reviewed the needs districtwide and will be purchasing additional metal detectors like the ones used at sporting events that are mobile and available for the schools to transport more easily. This includes all three high schools and the career center.

Literacy Month at BCSD

- Across the district, celebrations have included special literacy events, engaging Literacy Nights, and creative classroom activities that truly bring reading to life. We have also welcomed guest visitors into our schools, where they have shared the importance of literacy and inspired our students to develop a lifelong love of reading.

BHHS Living Museum

- Blackville-Hilda High School held a Living Museum on Friday, March 13th, providing students with an engaging opportunity to bring history to life.
- Through research and presentation, students embodied historical figures and shared their stories in interactive and meaningful ways.

Regional Civics Bees

- 12 Barnwell County Middle School students were named Top 20 Finalists for Regional Civics Bee.
- Selected through a competitive essay-based civic engagement round
- Part of the National Civics Bee initiative and sponsored locally by the Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce
- Regional Competition: May 16th

BCSD Student Finalists:

- Sanaa Jenkins
- Victoria Tharin
- Aubriel Anderson
- Gabrielle Brown
- Sarah Tadamatla
- Savannah O'Neal
- Mary Reece
- Kyree Hammond

- Brooklyn Still
- Shalayah Badger
- Noah Trujillo
- Andrea Castellanos

Science Fairs

- Across Barnwell County School District, each of our middle schools has hosted a science fair in recent weeks, and we are incredibly proud of the creativity, effort, and scientific thinking demonstrated by our students.
- We extend our sincere appreciation to the many community and business leaders who volunteered as judges.
- We also thank our science teachers and school staff for their leadership and commitment in guiding students through the process and organizing these events. A special recognition goes to Alex Kinard for leading and coordinating science fair efforts across the district.
- We now look forward to the BCSD Science Fair, which will showcase top projects from each middle school on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Williston-Elko Auditorium.

Cognia Accreditation

- As we look ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, Barnwell County School District will be preparing for our upcoming Cognia accreditation. Our leadership teams have already begun unpacking the recently updated standards and aligning our work to ensure we are well-prepared.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

- A. Approval of Bus Transportation for DIG Field Experience to Charlotte, North Carolina in May 2026- Action Item

Motion made by John Melton to approve the Bus Transportation for DIG Field Experience to Charlotte, North Carolina in May 2026. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Approval of Non-Resident Student Request to attend school in BCSD- Action Item

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve Non-Resident Student Request to attend school in BCSD. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

- C. Executive Session

Motion made to go into Executive Session by Felicia Devore at 6:34 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, specifically Employment of Employee A and B, Student Disciplinary Matters

- Discussion of negotiations incident to contractual arrangements, specifically utilities contract negotiations for construction of the new high school
- Receipt of legal advice, as needed, in regard to contractual agreements

Any action that is required by Executive Session discussion will occur following the close of Executive Session.

Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. Motion made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

No Action Taken

D. Adjournment

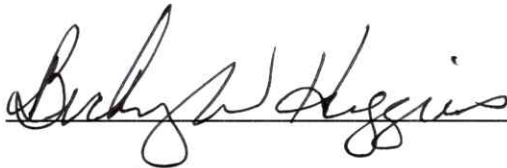
A. Announcement of Next Meeting

Regular Board Meeting scheduled for April 21, 2026 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 Catrena Hughes-Parker and seconded by John Melton. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chair



Clerk

