

Minutes of Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees
Special-Called Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 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 12:46pm. 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 John Melton. Given no discussion, the agenda was unanimously approved.

II. New Business

A. Approval of First Reading of the 2026-2027 Barnwell County School District General Fund Budget

CFO Holly Hutto presented the BCSD General Fund 2026-2027 First Reading:

Millage Rate:

- The consolidation legislation directed the millage rate for the 24-25 and 25-26 must be determined by the Department of Revenue and set to at the necessary rate to comply with educational mandated regulations imposed by federal or state law.
- The 26-27 school year is the first year since consolidation that the Board has the autonomy to increase the millage rate for Barnwell County School District.
- The current millage rate is 261.1.

House Projections:

- House Finance projections

- Retiree Insurance - \$1,607,545.03
- State to Aid Classrooms - \$16,747,350.09
- Health Insurance \$60,499.36
- Transportation - no projection - based on previous year

State Revenues:

- School Operating Reimbursements
 - Tier I - Reimbursement for the first \$100k residential school operating exemption
 - This reimbursement is capped by the state - \$1,013,520
 - Tier II - Reimbursement for homeowners 65 and older or disabled
 - This amount is capped by the state - \$508,559
 - Tier III - Reimbursement for remaining owner occupied tax credit on their local tax bill
 - It is required by law that the amount received is increased or decreased based on growth in the CPI Southeast Region
 - The total estimate is \$4,026,559

Other Revenues:

- These revenues are estimates based on previous year collections for the three school districts
 - Merchants Inventory - Business Owners calculate and pay a tax on unsold inventory
 - Manufacturing Exemption tax - property tax calculation for all manufacturing property except property subject to a FILOT arrangement
 - Motor Carrier - Road use fee administered through the SCDMV
 - FILOT - County authorized and negotiated tax
 - DOE Federal Reimbursement PILT
 - Federal Indirect Cost Transfer - Amount the school district can take for operating expenses within Federal grants

Budget Considerations:

- Both the Senate and the House have passed versions of the budget. Because there are differences in the two, a Conference Committee is currently working to reconcile the differences into one single version.

- Both versions increase the state minimum teacher salary schedule with a \$2,000 pay increase on all cells.
- One interesting proviso is removing the earnings limitation for retirees who return to work as school bus drivers in a public school district.
- The proposed state minimum bus salary schedule will increase 2% with the current proposed budget. This may not necessarily mean our schedule will increase 2%. We will increase it the actual dollar amount the 2% increase causes on the state schedule.
- Current budget proposals predict that active employees will see no increase in health insurance premiums for the 14th consecutive year.
- The continued increases in salaries and provisos that are not funded make the work to balance the budget increasingly difficult.

Purchase Services/Supplies:

- During the collaborative budget process, each department and school was given the opportunity to discuss their individual needs for supplies.
- Those needs have been assessed and have been distributed appropriately based on student population, programs offered, special considerations, and overall needs.

FY 2026-2027 REQUESTED GENERAL FUND BUDGET

FY 2026-2027 REQUESTED GENERAL FUND BUDGET			
Local (Taxes, etc.)		\$14,443,985.00	31%
State Funding and State Revenue in Lieu of Taxes		\$28,957,835.00	63%
Federal and Transfers (DOE and Indirect Cost)		\$2,870,934.00	6%
TOTAL REVENUE		\$46,272,754.00	100%
Salary & Benefits		\$40,747,347.00	88%
Purchased Services		\$3,369,224.00	7%
Supplies & Other		\$2,156,183.00	5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$46,272,754.00	100%

- B.** Approval of Barnwell High School Field Experience for Technology Student Association (TSA) to attend National TSA Conference June 22nd through 26th

Dr. Stapleton referenced the field experience request she had shared during the work session.

A motion was made by Felicia Devore to approve the Barnwell High School Field Experience for Technology Student Association (TSA). The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. Given no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of BCSD Locally Board Approved Courses

Dr. Stapleton referenced the locally board approved courses that she had shared during the work session.

A motion was made by John Melton to approve the BCSD Locally Board Approved Courses. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. Given no discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

III. Executive Session

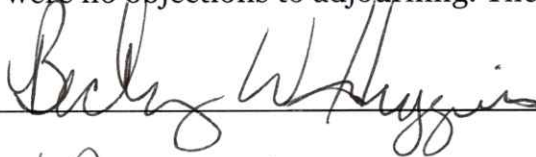
Chair Huggins stated that there was no need for Executive Session.

IV. Adjournment

Chair Becky Huggins announced the next meeting would be Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

Catrena Hughes-Parker made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 12:59pm.

Chair



Clerk

