Minutes of Barnwell County School District

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

Board Members Present: Becky Huggins, Rosey Anderson, Catrena Hughes-Parker, Felicia Devore, (not in attendance) John Melton Jr., (not in attendance)

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. Rosey Anderson 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 March 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes- Becky Huggins
2. Approval of March 25, 2026 Board Work Session Minutes- Becky Huggins
3. Approval of March 25, 2026 Board Special-Called Meeting Minutes- Becky Huggins
4. Approval of April Personnel Report- Becky Huggins
5. Approval of February Financial Report- Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Rosey Anderson to approve the Consent Agenda Items. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. There was no public participation.

II. Recognition

A. Award Presentation from Tri-County Community Grant Program- Superintendent

Dr. Stapleton shared that the Tri-County Community Foundation has an amazing impact on our school district. There are many grants and programs in our classrooms and throughout our schools that are funded through their efforts and it's such a wonderful opportunity for the school district. There's so many organizations that they serve, and it's not just Barnwell, but they serve Allendale and Bamberg counties also.

Dr. Susan Moskow, Chairperson for the Tri-County Community Foundation was introduced.

Dr. Moskow explained that this foundation represents three counties, and there is representation on the board from all three counties. The foundation has been in operation for over 20 years, and provides a variety of services for all three counties. Some of the services include scholarships, grant awards, and early childhood initiatives. Each year the foundation receives and reviews over forty grant proposals.

She then announced that this year Barnwell Primary School is being recognized as one of the three recipients for the Tim Moore Outstanding Curriculum Award. The plaque was presented to Barnwell Primary School's second grade teacher Rachel Hair and Principal Jared Thrasher for Ms. Hair's creative views on classroom management through math and reading centers created for peer interaction and hands on learning.

Dr. Stapleton presented Dr. Moskow with a Certificate of Appreciation and a basket for the Tri-County Community Foundation as a thank you for their partnership with Barnwell County School District and everything that they do to support Barnwell County and the surrounding counties.

B. Future Educator Signing Day- Superintendent

Dr. Stapleton shared that this is the 2nd Annual Future Educator Signing Day and it's always so wonderful to recognize our students. A career in education is truly a calling, and there is always an opportunity to change a child's life in ways that you could never imagine. It is so exciting when we see our students planning to go in to the field of education. Dr. Stapleton asked Barnwell County School District staff that was in attendance to stand and be recognized.

Dr. Stapleton asked Shawn Williams, Chief Human Resource Officer, to come forward to recognize the students, and she expressed to the students how proud the district is of them and the choices that they are making for their futures.

Shawn Williams thanked Dr. Stapleton and the School Board and expressed how truly exciting this day is and as we look around the room, there are educators that have been in the profession over 40 years. Thank you to the parents for your support as these students begin their career in education. It is a journey, but not a lonely journey because we all are here with you. The Future Educators who are current seniors were asked to come to the designated area to introduce themselves, share the college they will attending, and their education major. The following students were Future Educators:

- Trinity Washington- BHS Early Childhood Education- SC State University
- Jakhya Smith- BHS- Elementary Education- USC Aiken
- Joey Lynn Evans- BHS- Social Education- USC Aiken
- Teron Johnson- BHS- Secondary Level English- Lander University
- Kameron Brown- WEHS- Middle Level Education w/ Concentration in English- Columbia College
- Xian Daniel- BHHS- Early Childhood Education- SC State University

Shawn Williams read Barnwell County School District's commitment to the future educators and asked each student to sign the commitment. Each student was presented with a graduation basket and a Barnwell County School District t-shirt.

The school board members individually recognized and congratulated the students.

Superintendent Report- Superintendent

A. Updates Related to the BCSD Facility Plan

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

FEMA Gymnasium and Safe House Update

- We are still waiting for the extension request from FEMA. In the meantime, we have been doing as much work as possible for ineligible costs. The parking lot work has begun. (Dr. Stapleton also shared photos of the progress.)

Barnwell High School

- HG Reynolds cannot start the earthwork until the SCDES has given a permit.
- SCDES sent additional questions last week and SSOE submitted those answers within a day. The review time for the resubmittal is 30 days, but we hope that this review will not take that long. Once approved, HG Reynolds will schedule an on-site Pre-Construction meeting with DES and SSOE engineers and 3rd party inspection group.
- HG Reynolds currently suggests we have ground breaking a week or two after the pre-construction meeting. Based on best guess about the permit, it could be middle of May.

School and District Updates

Dr. Stapleton shared the following school and district updates:

SRP Check Presentation

- We are grateful to SRP for our continued partnership. In 2025, Barnwell County School District, across all four schools, received a total of $71,095.30 from SRP affinity funds.

Howard University Spring Break Outreach Program

- The visiting students volunteered at KEES and WEMS during the school day. After school, they volunteered in the DIG afterschool programs at WEMS, BPS, BES, and GBMS. It was exciting having the students here and being able to discuss their future plans.

Barnwell County Student Justin Kinard Honored at Statehouse for Statewide Art Achievement

- Justin Kinard, a student at Kelly Edwards Elementary School, was recognized at the South Carolina Statehouse on April 2, 2026 for his outstanding achievement in the statewide Governor's Art Contest on Litter Prevention.
- Justin Kinard was honored by Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette during a special ceremony highlighting student finalists from across the state.

Health Fairs

- We have had several different health fairs throughout the district when different groups come. USC had one this past weekend in Blackville. We have a group called MedElem. It's a group of students at the University

of South Carolina in Columbia that has reached out to Senator Hutto's office and the Governor's office and had asked about hosting a health fair in Barnwell. They have chosen Barnwell Elementary School as the site for their health fair on April 28th from 10:30am-12:30am. It will be open to the public, and there will be several vendors there as well.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. Approval of Golf Team from Williston-Elko High School and Barnwell High School to attend State Tournament (multi-days)- Action Item

Motion made by Rosey Anderson to approve the Golf Team from Williston-Elko High School and Barnwell High School to attend State Tournament (multi-days) The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Approval of MEMS Junior Beta Club (Elementary and Middle) to attend the National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee June 20th through 27th- Action Item

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve MEMS Junior Beta Club (Elementary and Middle) to attend the National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee June 20th through 27th. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Approval of Puerto Rico International Field Experience for Summer 2027- Action Item

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve the Puerto Rico International Field Experience for Summer 2027. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Approval of Strategic Plans for all Barnwell County School District Schools and the District- Action Item

Motion made by Rosey Anderson to approve Strategic Plans for all Barnwell County School District Schools and the District. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Approval of Employee Letters of Agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year- Action Item
(Action will be taken following Executive Session)

F. **Executive Session**

Motion made to go into Executive Session by Rosey Anderson at 6:43 p.m. and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker 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 Employee Letters of Agreement for 2026-2027
- Discussion of negotiations incident to contractual arrangements, specifically early site, construction, and 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 7:55 p.m. Motion made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Employee Letters of Agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year-Action Item

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve the Employee Letters of Agreement for the 2026-2027 School Year. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. Adjournment

A. Announcement of Next Meeting
Chair Huggins announced the next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

B. Meeting Adjournment
Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Catrena Hughes-Parker and seconded by Rosey Anderson. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Chair Becky W Huggins

Clerk Rosey Anderson