

Minutes of Barnwell County School District

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

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

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 John Melton. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Becky Huggins

1. Approval of May 19, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes- Becky Huggins
2. Approval of June Personnel Report- Becky Huggins
3. Approval of April Financial Report- Becky Huggins

The motion was made by Felicia Devore 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. 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 currently in the final stages of the FEMA gymnasium project.
- The principals and some of the department heads were able to visit the FEMA Gym and see the progress, as well as learn more about the emergency management aspects of the building.

Barnwell High School

- There has been quite a bit of movement at the new high school site. We are also moving forward with planning for programming and equipment. We have a CTE Equipment meeting scheduled for later this week.
- Our groundbreaking ceremony was originally scheduled for tomorrow June 17th, but has been postponed due to the weather forecast with rain predicted for tonight and tomorrow morning. We will determine another date to reschedule. We have plans to have students involved which is very exciting.

B. District Updates

Dr. Stapleton shared the following district updates:

- Our summer programs are underway and everyone who works the summer schedule is busy preparing for next school year. So much happens across the district in the summertime, and we are so grateful for what our staff members do each and every day.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. Approval of Third and Final Reading of the 2026-2027 Barnwell County School District General Fund Budget-Action Item

CFO Holly Hutto gave an overview of information shared at the May regular school board meeting and presented the third and final reading of the budget.

FY 2026–2027 General Fund Budget – Third and Final Reading of the 2026-2027 Barnwell County School

District General Fund Budget

- Holly Hutto, CFO, presented the proposed FY 2026–2027 General Fund Budget for Third and Final reading.
- The Board was reminded that the 2026–2027 school year is the first year since district consolidation that Barnwell County School District has the authority to increase the millage rate. The current millage rate is 261.1 mills. **No mileage increase is needed for 2026-2027.**
- The Board was reminded that the current debt service millage is set at 32 mills. The debt service millage is set annually by the County Auditor to generate sufficient revenue to repay bonds issued for capital improvement projects that maintain and improve district facilities. The Board was informed that the bond resolution approved in March 2026 was structured so that the current 32-mill rate is expected to generate adequate funding to meet the district's debt obligations.
- State revenue projections presented included:
 - Retiree Insurance: \$1,607,545
 - State Aid to Classrooms: \$16,747,350
 - Health Insurance: \$60,499
 - Transportation funding to be determined based on prior-year allocations.
- Budget considerations included:
 - Ongoing state budget negotiations between the House and Senate.
 - Proposed state-funded teacher salary increases of \$2,000 across all salary schedule cells.
 - A proposed 2% increase to the state bus driver salary schedule.

- No projected increase in employee health insurance premiums for the fourteenth consecutive year although the employer portion is likely to increase in January 2027.
- Continued challenges in balancing the budget due to unfunded mandates and salary increases.
- Departments and school principals participated in a collaborative budget process with the Superintendent and CFO to identify needs for supplies and services. Funding recommendations were based on student enrollment, program offerings, special considerations, and overall district needs.
- All eligible employees will receive a step increase on their approved salary schedule.
- The budget includes all supplemental contracts the district has in place for the 26-27 school year.
- Included are the revisions to the salary schedules that we up for review and discussed in our May workshop.
- A retention bonus for all eligible employees in good standing with the district will be considered and, if the district's budget outlook remains favorable, an amount will be determined and distributed mid-year.
- The FY 2026–2027 General Fund Budget totals \$46,272,754, with revenue sources consisting of:
 - Local Revenue: \$14,443,985 (31%)
 - State Funding and Revenue in Lieu of Taxes: \$28,957,835 (63%)
 - Federal Funding and Transfers: \$2,870,934 (6%)
- Expenditures are budgeted as follows:
 - Salaries and Benefits: \$40,747,347 (88%)
 - Purchased Services: \$3,369,224 (7%)
 - Supplies and Other Expenses: \$2,156,183 (5%)
- Mrs. Hutto recommended the approval of the Third and Final reading of the FY 2026–2027 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$46,272,754.

Motion made by John Melton to approve the Third and Final Reading of the 2026-2027 Barnwell County School District General Fund Budget. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Approval of the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) to attend the 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference from July 6th to July 10th in Washington, DC.

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) to attend the 2026 FCCLA National Leadership Conference from July 6th to July 10th in Washington, DC. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

- C. Approval of Non-Resident and School Choice Requests (following Executive Session.)

- D. Approval of First Reading of Policies

1. Policy JFAB and JFAB-R- Admission of Nonresident Students (Interdistrict Transfers)

Motion made by John Melton to approve the First Reading of Policy JFAB and JFAB-R- Admission of Nonresident Students (Interdistrict Transfers.) The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There was no additional discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Executive Session

Motion made to go into Executive Session by Rosey Anderson at 6:19 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.
 - Student Non-Resident and School Choice Requests- Student A, B, and C
 - Employee Matter
- Discussion of negotiations incident to contractual arrangements, specifically contractual agreements regarding BCSD Facility Plan.
- Receipt of legal advice, as needed.

Any action as required by Executive Session discussion.

Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 6:43 p.m. Motion made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Non-Resident and School Of Choice Students A, B, and C -Action Item

Motion made by Felicia Devore to approve Non-Resident and School of Choice Students A, B, and C pending proof of residence. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Adjournment

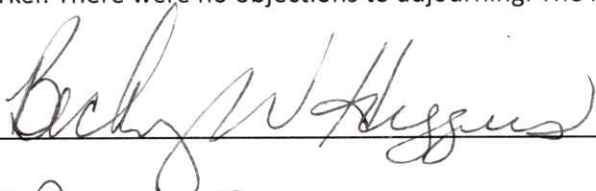
A. Announcement of Next Meeting

No Regular Board Meeting scheduled for July 2026. Next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for August 18, 2026 at Barnwell Schools Administration Building.

B. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by John Melton and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Chair



Clerk

