

Minutes of Barnwell County School District

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

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

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 June 16, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes- Becky Huggins
2. Approval of August Personnel Report- Becky Huggins
3. Approval of May Financial Report- Becky Huggins

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

D. There was no public participation.

E. Recognition of South Carolina School Board Association Welcome Back Message

Dr. Stapleton shared that every year the South Carolina School Board Association sends out a “Welcome Back” sign from school boards across the state to the students and staff that have started the new school year. (Later in the meeting, the School Board took a picture to be shared with the South Carolina School Board Association as well as being shared on our website.) Dr. Stapleton also noted that there are over 800,000 South Carolina students.

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 & Safe Room

- Our team is preparing for the final inspection step with the Fire Marshal.
- Staff are trained and systems are in place. We're ready to move forward with the ribbon cutting upon approval. We conducted trainings on how to operate different aspects of the gym from the large curtain coming down in the center to the fire suppression system. We are still waiting for the fire marshal visit. When we have the dedication ceremony or ribbon cutting, we will be able to explain those different aspects of the gym, as well as the safety aspect.

Barnwell High School

- We had the groundbreaking for the new high school, which was very exciting, and I think what made the day more special was the student involvement. It was wonderful for them to honor the legacy of our current schools as we get excited for the future.

B. District Updates

Dr. Stapleton shared the following district updates:

- Our district opening brought us together to celebrate and connect. Fellowship, BBQ, and prizes set the tone for an incredible year. Guest speaker, Liz Huntley inspired and energized our team. United as a community, we're ready for what's ahead. I had several staff members reach out to me just on the impact that the speaker had on them.
- We were so excited to welcome everyone back for the new school year. Our teachers and students are prepared, and the year ahead is full of opportunity. We were excited to see the staff and students fill our hallways. We are looking forward to this school year.
- ParentSquare is our district communication platform for news, updates, and important messages. It is important that people sign up for emergency notifications like weather updates, but also news releases that used to only go out in emails to certain stakeholders. It allows communication about events that are going on in the schools like information going out later this week about student badges. Director of Communications Kay Gooding is leading efforts to expand and strengthen our communication with families and staff.
- Another priority has been updating and enhancing our websites to make them more engaging. Ms. Gooding has been meeting with each school.

IV. Old Business

V. New Business

A. Approval of Student Transfer Requests- Students A-II - Action Item

Dr. Stapleton brought before the School Board several school choice requests. She shared: I have spoken with you about these requests. Please note that each of these students has already been allowed to enroll in the school of their choice due to there being no July Board meeting and the timing of our August meeting. Tonight, I'm asking the Board to formally approve those requests for students A through II.

Dr. Stapleton also clarified something that may have caused some confusion on the agenda. She explained that we have already worked our way through the alphabet through Student Z, so we have started the alphabet over again with Student AA.

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve Student Transfer Requests- Students A-II. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Approval of Nonresident Students A-E (Following Executive Session)

Dr. Stapleton asked that, for our nonresident student requests on the agenda, the Board defer action on this item until after Executive Session. She said this will allow her to share additional information regarding the requests that is appropriate for discussion in Executive Session.

C. Approval of 2026-2027 Board Meeting Dates -Action Item

Dr. Stapleton explained that, at this time, the only adjustment needed to our regular Board meeting schedule is for the February meeting due to Winter Break. All other regular Board meetings will continue to be held on the third Tuesday of each month.

Motion made by Rosey Anderson to approve 2026-2027 Board Meeting Dates. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Approval of Barnwell County School District Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Committee- Action Item

Dr. Stapleton explained that the Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Team provides input and guidance to help ensure our district's health education program meets South Carolina requirements while addressing the needs of our students and families. The team brings together educators, parents, community members, and other stakeholders to review health education topics and materials and provide recommendations to the district.

Before we consider approval of the Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Team, she noted, and asked that it be reflected in the minutes, that Board Member Catrena Hughes-Parker will abstain from voting on this item because her father is one of the proposed members of the advisory team.

Motion made by Felicia Devore to approve the Barnwell County School District Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Rosey Anderson. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously. Note: Board Member Catrena Hughes-Parker abstained from voting because her father is one of the committee members.

E. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Proclaiming Nuclear Science Week- October 19-23, 2026- Action Item

Dr. Stapleton explained that the district received a request for the Barnwell County Board of Education to recognize the third week of October 2026 as Nuclear Science Week. Chair Becky Huggins explained details of the proclamation prior to approval.

This proclamation recognizes the third week of October as Nuclear Science Week. Nuclear Science Week provides an opportunity to increase awareness of the many ways nuclear science impacts our lives—from energy and healthcare to technology, research, and space exploration. It is especially meaningful to our area because of the Savannah River Site and the educational and career opportunities the nuclear industry provides for our students and our community. We are pleased to recognize Nuclear Science Week and encourage our students and staff to learn more about the many opportunities within this important field.

This proclamation, in its entirety, will be shared with all BCSD staff tomorrow to help bring greater awareness to Nuclear Science Week and the opportunities it represents for our students.

Motion made by Rosey Anderson for Consideration and Approval of Resolution Proclaiming Nuclear Science Week- October 19-23, 2026. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

F. Approval of Second Reading of Policy and Adoption of Administrative Rules

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

Dr. Stapleton explained that, in June, the Board completed the first reading of Policy JFAB and Administrative Rule JFAB-R. *As we discussed at that time, following extensive review and refinement, the South Carolina School Boards Association released an updated model Interdistrict Transfer Policy and Administrative Rule for districts to consider.*

The model policy and administrative rule align with state requirements and best practices and are intended to provide consistent and sound procedures for handling interdistrict transfer requests. Tonight, I am bringing Policy JFAB and Administrative Rule JFAB-R back before the Board for second reading and approval.

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Administrative Rules of Policy JFAB and JFAB-R- Admission of Nonresident Students (Interdistrict Transfers.) The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Policy JFABD-R- Admission of Homeless Students

Dr. Stapleton explained:

We currently have Policy JFABD, Admission of Homeless Students, in place. During our policy review this past spring, it was recommended that we formally add Administrative Rule JFABD-R to accompany the policy and ensure our policies and procedures are fully aligned with applicable requirements.

I do want to emphasize that the district is already following the procedures and guidelines outlined in JFABD-R. Tonight's action simply formalizes those existing practices by adopting the administrative rule as part of our Board policy framework.

Motion made by Felicia Devore to approve the Second Reading and Adoption of Administrative Rules of Policy JFABD-R. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Park. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

G. **Executive Session**

Motion made to go into Executive Session by Catrena-Hughes Parker at 6:19 p.m. and seconded by Felicia Devore 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.
 - *Non-Resident Student Requests- Student A-E*
 - *Discussion of Employee Matters*
 - *Employment of Employee A*
- Discussion of negotiations incident to contractual arrangements, specifically *contractual agreements in regard to the construction of Barnwell County High School*.
- Receipt of legal advice, as needed.

Any action as required by Executive Session discussion.

Motion made to come out of Executive Session at 7:18 p.m. Motion made by Rosey Anderson and seconded by Felicia Devore. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Nonresident Student A-C- Action Item: Motion made by Felicia Devore to approve Nonresident Students A-C. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

No Action Taken for Nonresident Student Requests- Students D-E- The Board noted that additional Information was needed.

Motion made by Rosey Anderson for the approval of Employment of Employee A. The motion was seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. The motion was approved unanimously.

H. Adjournment

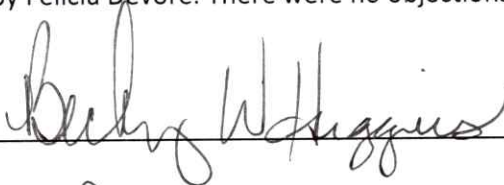
A. Announcement of Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for September 15, 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 Felicia Devore. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Chair



Clerk

