

Minutes of Barnwell County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812)

Board Members Becky Huggins, Rosey Anderson, Catrena Hughes-Parker,
Present: 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 Catrena-Hughes Parker. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Becky Huggins

1. Approval of August 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of September Personnel Report
3. Approval of June and July 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. Superintendent Report- Superintendent

A. Updates Related to the BCSD Facility Plan

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

Facilities Update

FEMA Gymnasium & Safe Room

- We have received the certificate of occupancy.

- The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new FEMA Safe Room and Gymnasium (Warhorse Arena) is scheduled for September 28th on the Barnwell High School Campus. Invitations will go out to stakeholders after tonight's meeting.

Barnwell High School

- The Barnwell County High School Project- September 2026 Community Update will be released this week.

Progress Toward Completion

- Construction Progress & Site Preparation: Mass grading continues as material is moved to establish future parking and drive areas. The completed building pad is maintained. The first foundation was poured today.
- Drainage and Site Stabilization: Storm drainage installation continues toward the future bus loop. Sediment basin construction is nearing completion, and erosion controls remain in place.
- Utilities & Site Access: Waterline and sanitary sewer work has begun along the main access corridor. Temporary utility coordination continues, and the construction entrance is being maintained. Seeing the work that is happening is very exciting.
Chair Huggins asked if we are still on schedule, and Dr. Stapleton replied that that we are still on schedule in spite of the rain and weather challenges.

B. District Updates

Dr. Stapleton shared the following district updates:

- September 11th- 25 Years Later
Barnwell County School District observed a moment of silence at 8:46a.m on September 11th, 2026 which marked the impact of Flight 11 on the North Tower. Schools planned age-appropriate activities to remember the day and honor the heroes. As adults, we lived it, but for our students, it's a part of history and we are now trying to explain it to them and what it meant to our country.
 - Barnwell County Multiagency Training will be held on September 16th at Barnwell Elementary School.
 - Required participants include all BES staff, all school and district level administrators, and staff who have never participated in this training.
 - Principals and Department Heads have determined individuals who need to attend.
 - Administrators will serve in assigned roles as observers.
- Order of Training:
- Information Session
 - Active Drill
 - Debriefing
 - Clearing of Classrooms
 - Final Debrief
- Barnwell County Sheriff's Department will hold a Law Enforcement Expo on Saturday, September 26, 2026 from 10:00 A.M.-2:00 A.M. at the Barnwell County Airport. Barnwell County School District will have a table on site that day. Any other schools or departments may host informational tables featuring programs, services, and student opportunities.
 - The Rotary Club of Barnwell County has a strong partnership with Barnwell County School District.
 - Quarterly Student Recognition which includes recognizing high school students who exemplify *Service Above Self*.

- Today, Rotary Members delivered dictionaries to 3rd graders at BPS and KEES. Thursday, dictionaries will be delivered to MEMS.

III. Old Business
IV. New Business

A. Approval of School Choice Requests- Students A-E - Action Item

Motion made by John Melton to approve Student School Choice Requests- Students A-E. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Approval of BCCC Request to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana October 20, 2026 through October 24, 2026- Action Item

Motion made by Catrena Hughes-Parker to approve BCCC request to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana October 20, 2026 through October 24, 2026. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Certification of Delegates for the 2026 SCSBA Delegate Assembly- Action Item

Motion made by Rosey Anderson to approve Becky Huggins as the Delegate to SCSBA Assembly. The motion was seconded by John Melton. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Rosey Anderson to approve Felicia Devore as the Alternate to the SCSBA Assembly. The motion was seconded by John Melton. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Executive Session
No Need for Executive Session

VI. Adjournment

A. Announcement of Next Meeting

Next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for October 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Barnwell County School District Administration Building.

B. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Huggins asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Catrena Hughes-Parker. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Chair Becky W Huggins

Clerk Rosey Anderson