

## Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Barnwell School District 45 Board of Trustees

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 11, 2021

**PLACE:** Barnwell Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room 10524 Marlboro Avenue., Barnwell, SC 29812 for Board Members;  
virtual for the public

**PRESENT:**

**Board of Trustees:** Rosey Anderson, Chair; Felicia Devore, Vice-chair; SGM Abraham Sexton, Clerk; Becky Huggins, Member;  
Dr. Rhett Richardson: Member

**District Office:** Crissie Stapleton, Superintendent; Rachel Wall, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director; Tina Smith,  
Administrative Assistant, Holly Hutto, Chief Financial Officer, John Moody, IT Director, Franklin McCormack,  
Barnwell High School Principal, Mike Beasley, Barnwell High School Assistant Principal

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

Mrs. Rosey Anderson began with thoughts, condolences, and remembrance of Ms. Jaci Bearden and Mr. Willie Landrum, both long time, dedicated employees with Barnwell School District 45.

### OPENING BUSINESS

1. Mrs. Rosey Anderson, Chairman, called the meeting to order. SGM Abraham Sexton, Clerk, delivered the reflection. Mrs. Becky Huggins led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Superintendent Stapleton announced that local media had received notice of the meeting as required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. The Board unanimously approved the agenda. Motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Felicia Devore.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Mrs. Felicia Devore.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

#### A. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton presented the district updates, including:
  - a. WJBF Golden Apple Award Winners are Paige Black-BPS, Jared Thrasher-BES, and Susan Gardner-BES. The dates of their interviews on WJBF were announced and, after they have aired, they will be accessible on the WJBF website.
  - b. SRP Check Presentation for 2020 - Barnwell School District 45 received \$16,416.55. This money is allocated for Barnwell High School, per the Affinity Debit Card program's guidelines. BHS is currently using these funds to purchase band equipment for our Scarlet Knights.
  - c. Athletic Update - BHS Marcus Robinson signed to play football at Erskine College. BHS Boys' Varsity Basketball player, Russell Branch, joined the 1,000- point club. He accomplished the feat against Pelion High School. BHS Girls' Varsity Basketball player, Maleah Williams, joined the 1000-point club. She accomplished this feat against Edisto.
  - d. The Proposed 2021-2022 Calendar was presented. It was a collaborative effort between Barnwell 45, Williston 29, Blackville 19, and the Barnwell County Career Center. We will be adding 3 makeup days at the end, because it is a state requirement to have makeup days on your calendar. We are an approved eLearning district, so we would be able to utilize eLearning if we had a weather day or unexpected day in the middle of the year. The proposed calendar will be voted on tonight.
  - e. FEMA Update- Geotechnical review underway- 5 weeks (week of March 3<sup>rd</sup>) to completion; the first onsite visit to begin the geotechnical review was this past Friday. Reviewed Schematic Design options- 6 designs, 3 views of each for direction.
  - f. The finance department has notified employees that they will be receiving their direct deposit notifications in a new way. Instead of receiving a paper copy of the notification, most employees will receive it through email. The process will not only save money, but it will also make the payroll process more efficient. The rollout will be done in phases and will begin as follows:  
February 12<sup>th</sup>- District Office, BPS  
February 26<sup>th</sup>- BES, GBMS, BHS



The initial rollout will not include bus drivers, food service, custodians, or substitutes.

- g. South Carolina will receive \$940,420,782 in ESSER II funds, and 90% will flow directly to school districts. Each school district has been given an estimated allocation, but those finalized amounts will be shared soon. Our current expected allocation is a little over 3 million dollars. For the CARES Act funding we have received already, there are guidelines regarding what it can be used for when allocated. The new ESSER funds expand the allowable expenditures to include three new categories: addressing learning loss among students, facility repairs and improvements to reduce the risk of virus transmission and exposure, and improvement of indoor air quality in school facilities. The priority of these funds will be to provide continuity of operations within our schools and address COVID-19 academic impact.
- h. Barnwell School District 45 has been added to Phase 2 of the State Department of Education's Tyler Telematic GPS and Tyler drive tablet for school bus drivers. With implementation of the new software and technologies on our state-owned buses, we will have access to several applications and programs to enhance our capabilities with bus transportation, including GPS, an app for parents, vehicle alerts, bus tracking, and more.
- i. Officer Robbie Gunnells, who has been our SRO at GBMS, has been promoted to an investigator with the Barnwell County Sheriff's Department. We are currently looking for another SRO to fill his position and have been advertising that opening.
- j. State Superintendent Molly Spearman has asked the Governor to prioritize educators in Phase 1b of vaccinations. We have been working on finalizing our vaccination plan. We have made a request to DHEC asking for a strike team to come locally to provide the vaccine for our employees. A Joint Resolution has been debated in the General Assembly that would require full vaccination of educators and staff by March 22<sup>nd</sup> and a return to full face to face instruction within two weeks.
- k. On our COVID-19 Information Page and COVID-19 Dashboard, we have reminders on the page about the guidance used when reporting cases to DHEC, outlining what cases are reported to DHEC. We also provide an overview of safety measures as a reference, as well as additional resources related to COVID-19, including frequently asked questions, school guidelines, live updates, and more.
- l. We have recently purchased additional PPE for all schools, based on any reordering needs expressed by administration. This includes the following items: disinfectant spray, 600 bottles of 16 oz. hand sanitizer, alcohol-based wipes, Clorox wipes, hand sanitizer gallon-size refills, kn95 masks, additional cloth masks, and disposable masks.
- m. A billboard congratulating the Barnwell School District 45 Teacher of the Year, Keri Schneider, is on display downtown.

#### B. Recognition

1. Superintendent Stapleton announced the Warhorse Game Day Cheerleader State Champions
  - a. Barnwell High School Principal Franklin McCormack congratulated the back to back Cheerleading State Champions and coaches. Each cheerleader was presented with a championship ring.
  - b. Superintendent Stapleton and Chairperson Rosey Anderson presented the cheerleaders with a championship banner, and Principal McCormack announced that it would be hung in the BHS Gymnasium.

### ADVOCACY

#### BASIC STRUCTURE

##### A. Actions

1. Motion was made for approval of the 2021-2022 District School Calendar by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Anderson-** Mrs. Anderson expressed how proud she was of the BHS cheerleaders hard work and how hard work pays off.

**Devore-** Mrs. Devore congratulated the BHS Cheerleaders and stated how the competitions have come a long way and for them to win the championship back to back was a great accomplishment and she was proud of them.

**Sexton-** SGM Sexton congratulated the BHS Cheerleaders and expressed how the principal feels that they are his children and the school board members feel the same. He had the opportunity to watch them in the past and it is a great accomplishment. Congratulations.

**Huggins-** Mrs. Huggins congratulated the BHS Cheerleaders and expressed her understanding for how hard it is to compete. She is so proud of you and the hard work that you do.

**Richardson-** Dr. Richardson congratulated the BHS Cheerleaders and how incredible it is to watch them as athletes. He is so proud of you and your family for your hard work and dedication.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for an executive session.

The Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Mrs. Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson at 7:02 p.m.

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Sexton