

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 11, 2021

PLACE: Barnwell Schools Administrative Building Board Room, 770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29182

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; Holly Hutto, CFO; Tina Smith; Administrative Assistant, John Moody; IT Director

Other: Jonathan Vickery, The People Sentinel

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

OPENING BUSINESS

1. Rosey Anderson, Chair, called the meeting to order. SGM Abraham Sexton, Clerk, delivered the Reflection. Dr. Rhett Richardson, Member, 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 Becky Huggins and seconded by Felicia Devore.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Recognition

1. South Carolina Junior Scholars were recognized through Google Meet. GBMS students Isabella Ayer: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Amolik Sinha: Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Math
2. Amolik Sinha was also recognized by the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) for his exceptional score on the ACT.

B. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton provided district information.

a. Vaccinations Update

1. DHEC/ Barnwell School District 45 Vaccination Clinic will be on-site on March 15, 2021. The second dose will be on April 12, 2021. 175 staff members are scheduled to be vaccinated. Even with the vaccine, we still continue to practice all safety measures including masks, social distancing, etc. We have reminders on the COVID-19 Information Page about the guidance used when reporting cases to DHEC and 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.

b. District Updates

1. Walmart donated hundreds of school supplies to the district. 37 boxes of school supplies were donated. The district thanks to them for their continued support.
2. The Cheerleading Championship banner has been hung in the BHS Gym.
3. Facility Improvement Updates at the baseball field include the painting of the press box and dugouts, and the concrete has been poured for new bleacher installation in about 2-3 weeks.
4. At the softball and soccer complex, the press box and dugouts were painted, old railroad ties were removed and will be replaced with 4x4 poles with rope barrier, concrete pads were poured to secure bleachers, pine straw removed to prevent slip hazard, and the roadway fence will be fixed with a new pole that was damaged.
5. A FEMA update was discussed to show an adjustment to the front portion of the safe house based on the school board's feedback.

6. A meeting with the engineer through Tetra Tech was held to discuss the building automation system, AV needs, IT needs, fire alarms, mechanical equipment systems, and more. From those meetings, the engineer is creating a more detailed proposal for our review.
7. The first documents have been submitted to OSF for approval.
8. We are continuing our Intergovernmental Service Agreement between our school districts, Barnwell County Emergency Management, and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) in Beaufort, South Carolina. The Parties undertake this agreement in order to provide support to MCAS Beaufort during a category III or higher hurricane projected to impact MCAS Beaufort. The District's responsibilities are to work together with Barnwell County Emergency Management to provide the need of the Marine Corps in the event of an emergency. The District allows the use of Guinyard-Butler Middle School. Emergency Management and the school district are reimbursed for services and supplies rendered in accordance with the requirements.
9. We have begun the collaborative budget planning process to prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Hutto and Superintendent Stapleton have met with every director and principal regarding each department's and or/school's budget for next year. Mrs. Hutto is now using that information to build next year's budget, and a closer look at some of those steps will take place in the upcoming work session.
10. We have begun the strategic planning process for the 2021-2022 school year. The schools are in the midst of holding their School Improvement Council Meetings and finalizing input from their staff members. We will have an overview of the district strategic plan at the upcoming work session from Dr. Wall, who is leading the strategic planning process. The district and school-level plans will be presented in April for Board approval.
11. Work Session will be held on March 25, 2021. There will be a review of Re-Elect Lists for 2021-2022 School Year, updates on the budget process, review of District Strategic Plan and updates on strategic planning process, review of capital projects and facility updates, ESSER funding overview, and general district updates will be discussed.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rosey Anderson- thanked the community for their support such as Walmart for their school supply donation. She also thanked everyone in the school district for their support and dedication. She congratulated Superintendent Stapleton for being nominated for Superintendent of the Year. She was nominated by three different people which speaks volumes for her. It is a well deserved nomination.

Felicia Devore- thanked Walmart for the supply donation. Improvements to the softball field is such a great thing and congratulation. Thanks to everyone for your hard work and dedication.

SGM Abraham Sexton- Echoed what everyone else said and so proud of the students, staff, and teachers. Thank God for all of you and for making this board look great.

Dr. Rhett Richardson- stated that one year ago today, COVID 19 became a global pandemic and proud of the district's hard work. Thank God for being with us and, Superintendent Stapleton, Assistant Superintendent Wall for being able to pivot at the drop of a hat. Thanks for your leadership.

Becky Huggins- expressed the importance of community involvement. The school improvements make everyone proud. Thanks to everyone for your hard work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for executive session.

The Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Becky Huggins and seconded by

Dr. Rhett Richardson at 7:25 p.m.

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Seyton