

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 12, 2021

PLACE: Barnwell Schools Administration Building, 770 Hagood 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

Other: Jonathan Vickery, Barnwell 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. Felicia Devore 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 Dr. Rhett Richardson.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Becky Huggins.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Recognition

1. Rosey Anderson began with a welcome back recognition and thanked the staff in advance for the new school year.
2. Superintendent Stapleton presented Rosey Anderson, Chair and Felicia Devore, Vice-chair with their SCSBA Boardmanship certificates and pins. Rosey Anderson was recognized for Level 5, Felicia Devore was recognized for Level 4, and SGM Abraham Sexton was acknowledged for already having reached Level 6.

B. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton presented district updates including Reopening
 - a. The staff was welcomed back with a free meal from Frye Baby's Food Truck, a Warhorse Deluxe Treat from the Artic Circle in Barnwell, and a district t-shirt. A "Warhorse Pride" photo winner will be presented with a special surprise.
 - b. FEMA Grant Update for Safe House and Gym: We are in the final approval phase with OSF. The submission for final approval will be made to FEMA.
 - c. Kristin Huber began her role in June as a SRNS Loaned Professional that will work in the district and focus on nutrition programs, our partnership with the American Heart Association, and assist us in expanding and improving health-related programs within our schools.
 - d. Several summer projects are underway including but not limited to HVAC update and cafeteria lights at Barnwell Primary School, pressure washing and extending fences at Barnwell Elementary School, new scoreboards and window blind replacement at Guinyard Butler Middle School, and landscaping and tree removal and pothole repair at Barnwell High School.
 - e. ESSER II and ESSER III Funding Plans include but is not limited to Interventions and Summer Programs, Instructional Technology, STAR Academy, sanitation and cleaning supplies, Social Emotional Screener, Early grades reduced class size, supplies for students, outdoor classroom space, and allocation of funding to the Barnwell County Career Center.

- f. Barnwell School District 45 will have a sealed bid auction beginning Monday, August 23, 2021 and ending Friday, September 3, 2021.
- g. We are cohosting an Education and Business/Industry Summit at the Barnwell County Career Center at 9:00 a.m. on August 13, 2021. Light refreshments will be provided. Our goal countywide is to build stronger educational partnerships with our local businesses and industries.
- h. Barnwell Warhorse Club are currently seeking memberships and will be selling discount cards beginning Saturday, August 21st.
- i. Our implementation team begins training this month for the pilot program we are doing with the State Department of Education and Traversa.
- j. We will undergo a Cognia (AdvanceED) review during the 2021-2022 school year. Accreditation "Virtual Visit": November 1-4, 2021
- k. We will be advertising with our staff members, specifically our non-certified staff, opportunities to work with the district to get their teaching certification if this has been a goal of theirs. We currently work with Carolina CAP, and we are expanding to include a partnership with Voorhees College.
- l. Teacher supply checks were delivered to teachers their first day back, on Tuesday, August 10th.
- m. Multiple stakeholder representatives met virtually Wednesday, August 11th for our cyclical review of the district's vision and mission statements. A survey seeks input from all stakeholders.
- n. Each school was awarded a Wellness Award for their accomplishments on completing school-based wellness initiatives during the 2021-2022 school year. Each school was awarded \$1000 for meeting the wellness qualifications. Congratulations to BPS for being the Grand Prize Winner and receiving an additional \$2000!
- o. School supplies were provided for all students in PreK through 8th grades.
- p. We are expanding ABii to all 1st, 3rd, and 4th grade classrooms.
- q. COVID-19 Guidelines will include following DHEC's protocols and recommendations regarding any illness or positive COVID-19 test.
- r. We were notified in July that districts may not create or enforce any policy, which would require the wearing of face coverings. Should a district decide to act contrary to this law, state funding may be withheld. While legislation has prohibited schools from mandating the wearing of masks, the use of masks remains a recommendation of state and federal public health officials, and we highly encourage our families' adherence to this recommendation.
- s. Virtual Learning for the Fiscal Year 2021-22, school districts shall be permitted to offer a virtual education program for up to five percent of its student population based on the most recent 135-day ADM count without impacting state funding. Superintendent reviewed the proviso in detail.
- t. We are partnering with MUSC or another healthcare provider to hold a vaccination clinic for any staff members who are not vaccinated, as well as any students 12 and older who would like to be vaccinated.
- u. COVID safety measures include daily screenings, isolation rooms, visitation guidelines, touchless water filling stations, hand sanitizing stations, handheld disinfectant sprayers, transportation guidelines, and arrival and dismissal procedures. Superintendent emphasized this was not an all-inclusive list and shared photos from the schools showing the safety measures in place. Student and Staff facial coverings- Highly Encouraged, not mandated.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

1. Approval of Out of District Students A, B, and C will be discussed in Executive Session.
2. Approval of Board Meeting Dates for 2021-2022. Motion for approval made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Becky Huggins.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richardson— I never realized how busy everyone is during the summer working hard for preparations for the new school year. Thanks for all the safety measures that have been put in place and appreciate the effort. Thanks to Jonathan Vickery on the outstanding job on keeping the public informed and encouraged people to use the People Sentinel resource. It keeps you

abreast on everything that is going on locally.

Huggins- Awesome Meet & Greet at Barnwell Elementary School and Guinyard Butler Middle School. I am very excited about the upcoming school year and pray that we are able to face the upcoming challenges.

Sexton- Thanks to everyone for the great job that they are doing. I have not been able to get inside the schools, but the leadership is doing an outstanding job. I am looking forward to meeting teachers that I haven't met yet. Thank you Jonathan Vickery for keeping everything up and going. I hope and pray for a better year.

Devore- I am excited to be back. Welcome to the administrators, students and staff. I commend you for all the challenges you face, and thank you for all you do. I pray for a healthy and successful school term.

Anderson- Welcome Back!! Welcome to all the new teachers and employees. Welcome to the best district in the state. I am hoping for a safe and successful school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter into executive session at 6:49 p.m. Motion approved by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. Out of Executive session at 7:51 p.m.

Motion to approve Out of District Student A. Motion approved by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Felicia Devore.

Motion to approve Out of District Student B. Motion approved by Becky Huggins and seconded by Felicia Devore.

Motion to approve Out of District Student C. Motion approved by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.

The Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson at 7:53 p.m.

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Sexton