

Minutes of Barnwell County School District Board of Trustees
Work Session
Tuesday, October 24, 2023
(770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, South Carolina 29812)

Board Members Present: Chairperson Terry Richardson, Ronnie Brown, Becky Huggins, SGM Abraham Sexton, and Dr. Andy Sandifer

I. Opening Business

- A. Call to Order, Reflection, Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, FOI Notice

Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. SGM Abraham Sexton led the Reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Chair Richardson confirmed the media was notified.

- B. Approval of Agenda – Chair Terry Richardson

Chair Richardson asked board members if there were any objections to approving the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Becky Huggins to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Andy Sandifer. Hearing no objections, the agenda was unanimously approved.

II. Information Items

Dr. Crystal Stapleton provided information to the board members and led discussion on the following topics:

- A. Facility Study Report- M.B. Kahn and SSOE Group

Dr. Stapleton recognized Mr. Chuck Saylor from M.B. Khan, who then introduced the engineers and architects there to present current findings. Initial facility study visits in Barnwell, Blackville, and Williston were concluded, and the engineering and architect team presented a report to the board members, which included a presentation of a brief summary of each educational facility within Barnwell County which will be part of Barnwell County School District. The architects also presented defined and in-depth programs that had been developed based on recommendations regarding a possible new career center, as well as current high school programming needs. Finally, the team presented costs associated with any new construction or renovation of current facilities throughout the county. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and request additional information the engineer/architect team will bring to the next work session, before finalizing a final report.

- B. Budget Considerations

Superintendent Stapleton explained the process of the disbursement of the Savannah River Site Settlement Funds as allocated by the FY 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, proviso 118.19(72). Those present (including Senator Brad Hutto and Dr. Lee D'Andrea) discussed what must be determined before moving forward. Determining the board members' priorities and timeline, the new district will complete the SRS Litigation Fund request that must be approved by the Joint Bond Review Committee at the state level before any SRS Settlement funds are released.

Superintendent Stapleton and CFO Holly Hutto explained the process used for Phase I of the Salary Schedule Study, an action item on the regular board meeting agenda. The board members were given the current different district scales (BSD45 and BCCSD) for teachers, nurses, custodians, and bus drivers. They were also provided those scales from other select districts for comparability. Superintendent Stapleton explained the scales presented are preliminary recommendations so the general fund budget for the new district can be built.

C. District Updates regarding Consolidation Process

Superintendent Stapleton provided brief updates regarding discussion from earlier. This included planning meetings that had taken place with different departments or areas, as well as information requested by board members regarding School of Choice for the new district.


D. Data Analysis- High School and Kindergarten Readiness

Superintendent Stapleton presented data in the following areas: longitudinal Kindergarten readiness data for incoming Kindergarten students, high school SAT and ACT data, high school graduation rate data, and high school college and career readiness data.

Adjournment

E. Meeting Adjournment

Dr. Andy Sandifer made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Becky Huggins. There were no objections to adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.

Chair 

Clerk 