

Minutes of the Work Session of the Barnwell School District 45 Board of Trustees

TIME: 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 21, 2021

PLACE: Barnwell Schools Administration Building, 770 Hagood Avenue, Barnwell, SC 29812 for Board Members

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

Other:

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. 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 Felicia Devore.
3. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Information

1. Dr. Wall presented the 2021 Data Review which included the district report card overview, a thorough test data overview, and the results of Teacher, Student, and Parent Opinion Surveys. The U.S. Department of Education waived federal accountability requirements on March 26, 2021 and granted flexibility in administering assessments due to COVID-19.
2. Superintendent Stapleton led the Board through the discussion of the next agenda items.
 - a. Budget Considerations
 - i. The Superintendent reviewed the current amounts in the district's reserve accounts: \$4,779,522.71 Current Total Saved in Capital Improvement Bonds and \$5,164,153 Current Total in General Fund Reserve.
 - ii. The Board discussed the current FEMA Gym/Safehouse project and reviewed current money saved in the Capital Reserve for the district match for that grant.
 - iii. The Board reviewed the 2021-2022 improvement projects.
 - iv. The Board discussed a possible investment in the YMCA pool. As the Board discussed, this would be an investment into a future swim team, because the district would not have the funding to build a regulation swimming pool within our district.
 - b. Cognia Review Discussion
 - i. The Superintendent reviewed the Cognia accreditation process and the three domains, levels of impact and the i3 rubric.
 - ii. The Superintendent led the Board in a self-assessment for Cognia standards.
 - c. Review of Board Policies
 - i. The Board reviewed the policies with approved first readings.
 1. Policy EBCB Safety Drills
 2. Policy IHAC Social Studies Education
 3. Policy GBGA Staff Health
 - ii. The Board reviewed updated Administrative Rules.
 1. JJ/JJA-R Student Activities
 2. BG-R/BGD-R School Board Policy Review
 3. Policy IKA-R and IKF-R Grading and Graduation
 - iii. The Board discussed upcoming policies that will be up for approval in the next several weeks.

1. Policy JLDBB Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention (and Administrative Rule)
 2. Policy GBEE Internet and Electronic Communication
 3. Policy DDA Federal Fiscal Compliance
 4. Policy ECAG Video Monitoring/School Buses
- d. Revisiting the District Strategic Plan
- i. The Superintendent shared district updates in regard to the district strategic plan. The Board discussed progress toward the completion of the goals.
 - a. Barnwell School District 45 received a \$400,000 grant for STAR Academy which is an all-inclusive “school- within-a-school” intervention program. STAR Academy Intervention is possible during the last half of the year with hope of reducing dropouts and increasing graduation rate.
 - b. The front and back of student identification cards will include the telephone number for the national Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Each school year, the superintendent will confirm and report to the board that the contact information being printed on the student identification cards are up to date and reflects the contact information for crisis resources posted on the SC Department of Mental Health’s website.
2. Superintendent Stapleton provided additional district updates.
- a. The district is currently working with principals concerning hazardous bus pick-ups and drop-offs for middle and high school students within a 1.5 mile radius of their designated school. We are looking for the best way to communicate that to families prior to the change. The Board discussed a requirement for a parent, guardian, or babysitter at the stops to allow the child to depart the bus. This will be for primary students and consideration for elementary.
3. Superintendent Stapleton provided a COVID-19 Update.
- a. With the K-12 COVID testing options, we have been analyzing the options for testing and screeners with the outside vendors provided through DHEC. Information was provided to the Board.
 - b. There was discussion about some districts around the state providing payment to staff members and students who prove they have been vaccinated. We do not currently have a plan to pay for vaccinations, for students or staff. The incentives provided for student vaccinations are not paid for by our school district.

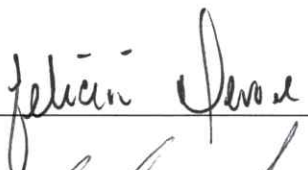
ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for Executive Session.

The Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson at 11:04 a.m.

Vic Chair 

Clerk 