

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2023

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

PRESENT:

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

District Office: Crissie Stapleton, Superintendent; Rachel Wall, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director; Tina Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kelley Shealy, Curriculum Support Coach; John Moody, IT Director; Holly Hutto, CFO

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

OPENING BUSINESS

1. Rosey Anderson, Chair, called the meeting to order. SGM Abraham Sexton 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 Becky Huggins and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.
3. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda items. Motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Recognition

1. Superintendent Stapleton recognized January as being School Board Appreciation Month with the theme being “Forward Together” which reminds us of the leadership roles and responsibilities of school board members, while also acknowledging the need for the collective – parents, teachers, students and administrators, particularly as public schools continue to deal with the challenges of the past few years. She expressed gratitude to the school board for all they do and moving forward together, emphasizing the great impact the board members have on the future of our students and thanking them for always keeping focus on what is best for our district. The schools in the district provided gifts for each board member as small tokens of appreciation.
2. Rosey Anderson, Chair, read the Ethical Principles aloud which serves as a symbolic gesture by the board, publicly saying that they will uphold these effective governance principles. Each board member was asked to sign and pose for a picture with the Ethical Principles poster before going into Executive Session.

B. Information

1. District Updates

Superintendent Stapleton gave the following updates:

- a. An archeological study is being conducted on the future site of the safe house gym. Once the archaeologist (Specialist) for the project has been contracted, communication between the sub-recipient, the recipient, the Specialist and FEMA EHP, FEMA HMA, the South Carolina Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the sub-recipient to clarify the project SOW, timeframes, and expected deliverables. The Specialist will perform a Phase 1 Archaeological Survey that is conducted in accordance with the standards for archaeology outlined in South Carolina Standards for Archaeological processes.
- b. ESSER updates include bid acceptance for the following projects:
 - BPS and GBMS Gym HVAC Systems with Adam Jackson at Wade’s Repair. GBMS includes lobby area and an addendum will be made regarding additional aged rooftop and

- stand-alone units. BPS includes other HVAC needs around campus, including replacement of older units. BHS includes HVAC replacements of current units.
- BHS fire alarm system with Carver Security (still awaiting approval of GBMS fire alarm system)
 - The next projects to bid that are awaiting OSF approval include window and door project replacement of windows and doors at BPS, GBMS, and BHS, new intercom system at BPS, and roofing repairs.
- c. Our two new activity buses are completed at the Thomas production facility. Barnwell and Warhorse lettering are being completed, then the buses will undergo final inspection. Estimated delivery is two weeks.
 - d. For the new BHS Star Academy, furniture and classroom renovations occurred prior to the holiday. Classes started yesterday. We are meeting next week to plan a ribbon cutting.
 - e. Phase 1 of the BHS Cafeteria Project is complete. We are working now to plan a ribbon cutting to include SRNS and American Heart Association. BHS Summer Feeding Program will be held at BPS as Phase 2 is completed.
 - f. The annual Jenna Bodiford Toy Drive that is overseen by BHS alumni Emma Hodge was a huge success again this year. Jenna's mother, Becky Bodiford now works for the district and it makes the toy drive even more exciting with her being a part of the toy collection.
 - g. We are honored to be recognized as one of the first Lighthouse School Districts by Van Robotics for our strong STEM efforts across the district. We believe science and technology are two main foundational elements of any education, and strong STEM educational programs. Superintendent Stapleton played the Lighthouse District video.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

A. Actions

1. Approval of Second Reading of Policy ECAG. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Approval of Second Reading of Policy GBEBB. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Approval of Second Reading of Revisions to EEAEC. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Second Reading of Revisions to GBEB. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.
5. Approval of Second Reading of Revisions to JRA. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. Approval of Naming Facilities Application A. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Becky Huggins that GBMS Gym will be renamed in honor of Mr. Donald L. Kitt. The motion was approved unanimously.

Prior to discussion of the Naming of Facilities Application B, Becky Huggins stated that she would like for it to be reflected in the minutes that she will be recusing herself from the discussion and voting because of a conflict of interest.

Approval of Naming Facilities Application B. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore that the BHS Football Stadium will be renamed in honor of Coach Mac Wier. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. A modified draft of the 2023-2024 proposed county wide school calendar was presented. The SC State Department of Education will be required to submit approval. There will be additional breaks to increase staff and student morale. The calendar will consist of two additional days for Fall Break in October and a Winter break in February. There will also be additional days scheduled in February for Intercession Days for students who need additional instructional help.

Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson for the 2023-2024 school calendar to be presented to the State Board of Education for final approval. The motion was seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Devore- We are excited to be back after the Christmas Break. Everyone did an awesome job on the ABii video. Ms. Shealy, you did a wonderful job. Thank you for all you do. Mrs. Grubbs, we are so thankful for you and your dedication to our school district.

Huggins- Awesome ABii video! It's fun to see the new technology that the district has incorporated into learning. Thank you to the district for recognizing the school board members this month and thank you for the gifts, but you are the superheroes. I appreciate you all.

Sexton- Thanks to our leader, Superintendent Stapleton. There are very few schools who have the backing of such a wonderful leader who keeps the district moving ahead. Thank you for all you do. Thank you for pushing ABii and thanks to the district for the bags of gifts. Thanks to this school board because I have sat on quite a few boards and it's not about one of us but all of us working together. Thanks again to everyone in the district for your hard work.

Richardson- Thank you Mr. Sexton for those words of wisdom and I agree. Thank you to Abii and Lighthouse. It nearly brings tears to your eyes just seeing the progress of the district. Thank you Dr. Stapleton and Dr. Wall. John Moody, I can't wait to see you in your next acting roll. Mr. Donald Kitt is well deserving for the naming of a facility after him. I remember him being a disciplinary and demanded respect. He possessed a unique ability to get you to do what he asked. It's amazing that he was on the school board for 22 years. I never played for Coach Wier, but I would have loved the state championship experience that he brought to our football program. I feel the proposed calendar is good for students and teachers. Having the 90th day before Christmas break is a very good idea.


Anderson- Thank you for the generous gifts, but it was not necessary. It is an honor to serve this school district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to go into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. Motion made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Felicia Devore.

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to come out of Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. Motion made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson. No action taken.

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 8:18 p.m. The motion was made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair 

Clerk 