

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

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

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

PRESENT:

Board of Trustees: Rosey Anderson, Chair; Felicia Devore, Vice-chair; Dr. Rhett Richardson, Clerk

District Office: Crissie Stapleton, Superintendent; Tina Smith, Administrative Assistant; Kelley Shealy, Curriculum Support Coach; John Moody, IT Director; Holly Hutto, CFO; Kin Hair, Human Resources Coordinator

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

I. Opening Business

- A. Rosey Anderson, Chair, called the meeting to order. Rosey Anderson 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.
- B. Motion was made by Chair Rosey Anderson for approval of the agenda. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. The board unanimously approved the agenda.
- C. Motion was made by Chair Rosey Anderson for approval of the consent agenda items. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda items.
- D. There was no hearing of the public.

II. Superintendent Report

A. Recognition

1. Recognition of New Hires
 - a. Human Resources Coordinator, Kin Hair, recognized the new hires for the 2023-2024 school year that were in attendance and named the ones that were not in attendance. He also thanked the building administrators for their work in helping to fill those positions.
2. Superintendent Stapleton stated that the School Resource Officers were on the agenda to be recognized, but due to staffing changes, they were requested to work at today's athletic events and will be recognized at the November meeting.

B. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton gave the following district updates:

a. Facility Highlights

Barnwell High School

- Windows and Doors Project has started They will be installed based on priority.
- Classroom HVAC Systems have been completed.
- Boys and Girls locker rooms in gym have been painted.

Guinyard-Butler Middle School

- All classroom HVAC systems have been installed.
- Roofing is complete.
- Gym HVAC Project will be complete when units are installed.

Barnwell Primary School

- New playground swings on the kindergarten playground have been installed and are operational.
- Rooftop HVAC units have been installed on Building 1.
- Roofing maintenance is starting on some areas of concern.
- Gym roof is 99% complete.

Transportation Office

- Lights are in the process of being converted to LED. When the LED project was originally completed, the transportation building was not being utilized.

Barnwell Elementary

- Roofing maintenance is starting on some areas of concern.

Athletics

- Concrete is being poured for bleacher pads at soccer field, and bleachers will be installed.
- A new softball scoreboard has been ordered and will be installed soon. These are major things that have been done in the last month.
- The windows overlooking the courtyard at Barnwell High School were installed. It is exciting to see this project finally complete.

- b. In September, Lynn McEwen and Jonathan Vickery from the Barnwell County Rotary Club presented every 3rd grader at Barnwell Primary School with a dictionary. We are appreciative and very thankful to them for their outreach and their support to our school district.
- c. Aerial Baxley, the new Director of the Carolyne S. Williams Early Childhood Learning Center, recently held a family event. We hope to have another 4K Program in the future. There was an increased amount of participation, and there will be other events planned in October so parents are aware of the Early Childhood Programs.
- d. The Guinyard-Butler Middle School Gymnasium was recently renamed to honor the late educator, Donald L. Kitt. Mr. Dwayne Eubanks organized the event and had a wonderful sit down catered meal.
- e. In partnership with SRMC (Savannah River Mission Completion), the district will have a check presentation and program announcement on

October 23, 2023 at Barnwell Elementary School at 11am. We are working to strengthen our partnership with SRMC. Our board members are invited to attend.

- f. The Barnwell County Rotary Club has organized the Scarecrow Village downtown. Barnwell School District 45 had lots of participation this year. They were all wonderful displays, and it's a wonderful way to be a part of the community. Superintendent Stapleton shared photos of the scarecrows.

3. Barnwell County School District Consolidation Update:

a. Consolidation Plan Update

Report from the Barnwell County Career Center Task Force

- We have a task force made up of community and business leaders (stakeholders) across our county with business backgrounds. Their objective is to provide stakeholder input and feedback when considering the priorities for the career center. The business and community members of the task force are:
 - Chad Perry
 - Tommy Boyleston
 - Pickens Williams, Jr.
 - Evelyn Coker
 - Andrew Bush
 - Becky Huggins
 - Dr. Rhett Richardson
- One of the first steps is to look at our priorities for a career center
- Dr. Rhett Richardson expressed that recommendations are being made for a state of the art Career Center funded by the DOE settlement. Barnwell County Career Center Task Force Priorities are:
 - Building a stronger connection between business/industry and education.
 - Having flexible spaces to expand programs and offerings.
 - Expanding the agricultural program to include a fully-functioning farm and arena.
 - Building the Career Center as a community hub and build community connection.
 - Building stronger programs for the adult workforce.
 - Providing more effective and efficient spaces for the current programs at the Barnwell County Career Center.

- It is amazing what the Career Center does with its facility limitations. It currently serves more students than areas much larger than ours.

There has been discussion of expanding the Agricultural Program with a fully function farm with livestock and a horse arena. There was talk before and COVID hit and all conversations were paused.

- Some of the options for a new career center would be:
 - Flexible Classroom Spaces to be able to expand when needed
 - Larger Lab Spaces with up-to-date equipment
 - Multiple spaces dedicated to Health Science Program
 - Storage for program equipment
 - Demonstration Kitchen as part of a Culinary Arts Program

Dr. Rhett Richardson feels that having the units on wheels makes it more flexible and allows the programs to be larger. More flexibility is allowed when the units are made to order. He shared a personal love for food and thinks that a state of the art kitchen will not just be for students, but also the community. A professional chef could come in for instruction. The Garden Club would love to come for one night a week.

- Auditorium with retractable seating

The state of the art auditorium would have a stage that folds up retractable seating, and flexibility. The space would be able to be utilized in different ways.

- Business Incubator Space

Superintendent Stapleton stated that local businesses have rented space from the district. This would allow a connection with businesses and possible apprenticeships.

- Dr. Rhett Richardson stated that people don't realize that it's hard to get industries to come here with no interstate and no rail system. He shared ways other career centers they have visited impact economic development. We want it to be more appealing to come to Barnwell County. If industries come in, we can provide an educated workforce, tax breaks, and natural resources. We would be able to provide education to adults wanting to learn a trade. Hopefully, Barnwell County School District will decide where the DOE settlement money will be spent. Hopefully this state of the art Career Center is one area that's being looked at. We recently visited Lake City, Spartanburg, Anderson, Florence, and North Charleston. Superintendent Stapleton expressed that it is very exciting to look at the possibilities that are before us.

- b. Superintendent Stapleton met with all district administrators and school administrators across the county and begun having collaborative work sessions with leaders of different departments.
- c. CFO Holly Hutto is currently working with the State Fiscal Accountability Authority (SFAA) to modify current procurement practices and prepare for the new district adopting the State Procurement Code.
- d. We have completed the facility study visits across the county. The engineering and architect team are now working on the final reports of their findings. We will review these findings in a work session in October.
- e. We are in the process of creating the layout for the new district website. We have been working on the new district's Application Web Portal through the State Department of Education.
- f. Holly Hutto has also been working on completing Request for Proposal's (RFPs) for the following services:
 - Banking
 - Insurance
- g. We have received an employer identification number from the IRS, and we have now received our unique identification number from SAM.gov. Therefore, we have completed the validation process and registration process to be eligible for the new district to receive federal funds.
- h. We are currently in the midst of the internal salary study that will be completed in Fall 2023 and will include job descriptions, contract days, daily hours, etc.
 - This includes creating new proposed salary schedules based on comparability studies to other districts across the state.
 - Please note consolidation funding can be used to help offset salary schedule costs in year 1, but our ultimate priority will be allocating funding for the new salaries in the general fund budget immediately. The district will be allocated 3.125 million for cost in the consolidation process.

III. New Business

A. Actions

- 1. Out of District Student Request- Student A
Discussion of Employment and Appointment- Employee A
(following Executive Session)

Announcements

Richardson- Thank you, Mr. Hair. This is the best, youngest looking group of new hires. I'm proud of the dedication to Coach Kitt. I was in one of his first classes and I admired him. P.E. was fun until Fridays when we had PT. Tina, thanks for all your creativity. I don't know if anyone noticed, but one of the cheerleaders (scarecrow) is doing a split.

Devore- Mr. Hair, thank you for helping our district hire these talented teachers. Thank you to the new hires for choosing our district for your career. Barnwell School District 45 is the best district. Holly, your hard work does not go unnoticed. To the Career Center Board, thank you for your hard work. I was not able to make the gym dedication to Mr. Kitt, but it was well deserved. Crissie, thank you for all you do and you do it well. We are so glad to have you here with us.

Anderson- I am excited about community partnerships. Career Center, you have my vote. It will help the community the most and be the backbone for businesses coming in. I was talking to a parent about their son being in the welding program. When he was a junior, he was in 3rd, senior, 2nd place, and 1st place to do the welding test. When his son asked him if he should go to tech school, the dad said, "I can't tell you what to do, but I would go to work." Faculty and staff, thank you for all you do. It's a job and it's not an easy job. New hires, I hope to keep you 30 more years. Continue to do what you do, and we appreciate your effort and it's not for everybody.

Executive Session

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to go into Executive Session at 6:56 p.m. to discuss Out of District Request- Student A and Discussion of employment and appointment- Employee A. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to come out of Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore.

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson for approval of Out of District Request Student A. Motion for approval made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. No other action was taken.

V. Adjournment

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 7:31 p.m. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.

Chair Rosy Anderson

Clerk Nita Anderson