

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

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 13, 2022

**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 (not in attendance)

**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; Franklin McCormack, Barnwell High School Principal, Michael Beasley, Guinyard Butler Middle School Principal, Kay Gooding, Barnwell Elementary School Principal, Donna Selvey, Barnwell Primary School Principal

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. 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 Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore.
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. Dr. Rachel Wall recognized the following 2022-2023 New Employees that were in attendance:
  - Alyson Collins- BPS Art
  - Anna Duarte- BHS Math
  - Maeshell Gordon- BPS Special Services
  - Asnette Nelson- GBMS ELA

#### B. Information

1. District Updates  
Superintendent Stapleton gave the following updates:
  - a. The following ESSER updates were presented:
    - BPS and GBMS HVAC Systems
    - BHS HVAC replacements of current units
    - BHS Fire Alarm (still awaiting approval of GBMS fire alarm system)
  - b. The next projects to bid are:
    - Window and Door Project (replacement of windows and doors at BPS, GBMS, and BHS)
    - New intercom system at BPS
    - Roofing repairs
  - c. Other facility updates included:
    - New digital signs across the district
    - BPS and BHS Dominion Energy LED projects completed
    - BES playground equipment currently being installed
    - Additional painting at BHS stadium
    - BHS cafeteria floor has been completed, painting is scheduled and furniture install is scheduled
  - d. "Litter Trashes Everyone" marionette show came to BPS and BES. Thanks go out to the regional Beautification Marketing Coordinator Graci Hiers and Councilman Ben Kinlaw for bringing the shows

from the Columbia Marionette Theatre to our schools.

- e. Volleyball Donations:  
Hooper's Lawn and Grounds Maintenance paid for the new long sleeve Adidas jerseys for the varsity volleyball team this season. Hansel and Gretel's has donated meals for each away game for varsity and junior varsity teams.  
Lee Richardson bought pizza after a home game recently for varsity and junior varsity teams. All of these individuals are alumni who are supporting our students and programs.
- f. Our local Health and Human Services Department's Medicaid office recently held a month-long school supply drive to collect items to support our schools.
- g. The Rotary Club of Barnwell county visited our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms, telling our third graders about service to others, and gave each student a new dictionary.
- h. BSD45 has 7 groups participating in the downtown scarecrow village representing the district.
- i. Sheriff Steve Griffith and the Barnwell County Sheriff's Department arranged for Dr. AV Strong to visit GBMS and BHS.

2. Dr. Rachel Wall presented the Instructional Data Review:

a. Academic Achievement:

- SC READY
  - Overall percentage of students exceeding expectation districtwide increased in both ELA and Math.
  - Overall increase of 5% of students meeting and exceeding expectations and a decrease in students approaching and not meeting expectations when comparing 2021 to 2022 in ELA.
  - ELA growth from previous year in students meeting or exceeding standard in 4 out of 5 grade levels With gain as large as 13% when 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students compared as 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- EOCEP- 2022 Graduating Cohort
  - 1% increase in students scoring an A in English, other scores remained about the same and aligned to state averages.
  - In Biology, growth of 7% of students obtaining a C or higher
  - In U.S. History, growth of almost 14% of students obtaining a C or higher
- EOCEP- 2022 Testing Data
  - BHS students increased in each End-of-Course subject area with most substantial increase in English 2 With a 14% increase (will not be a part of the accountability model until these students are graduating)
- KRA
  - Our students' overall Kindergarten Readiness scores increased 7%, from 16.8% to 23.8%.
  - This assessment is administered the week before students begin kindergarten, and less than ¼ of our kindergartens are starting school deemed "ready for the Kindergarten standards."  
Dr. Wall highlighted current partnerships with First Steps and Save the Children, the home visiting programs and expansion 3-5 multiage Montessori.
- Multilingual Learners
  - An increase of about 17% more of multilingual learners met the proficiency goal.
  - In both 2021 and 2022 data, our multilingual learners exceeded the state average by an average of 10%.
- College and Career Readiness
  - Expect our graduation rate to decrease slightly based on our dropout data which will likely impact our College and Career Readiness data because of the changing formulas with accountability.

b. Dr. Wall gave an updated overview of the district's Academic Recovery Plan and focus areas across the district.

- Working with a coach from Education Elements to refine our academic recovery plans. This is voluntary effort to gain valuable feedback to increase student achievement, student engagement, and teacher innovation & effectiveness
- Expansion of Summer Learning Programs with further possibilities coming this summer to include more enrichment and remediation opportunities for all students in Kindergarten through high school.
- Collaborating with the District Learning Network, a national professional development network supported by the Wallace Foundation.

- Expanded the number of interventionists working with students in K-8 grade levels, including a new middle level math interventionist this year.
  - Implemented STAR Academy in the middle grades with expansions for the high school underway.
  - Continuing use of various research based programs to personalize instruction including ABii, WIN, LLI, pullout programs, balanced instructional framework, two reading coaches, and two curriculum coaches.
  - Embedding a mastery concept in a foundational high school math course offering.
  - Increasing focus on meeting the needs of the whole child and fully implementing a social emotional screener and utilizing the data to better meet the needs of our students.
  - Regular Education and Special Services are partnering to implement a refined MTSS process and support structures for our students; this includes leads at each school, providing professional development, and academic and behavioral intervention support.
- c. Dr. Stapleton shared that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a great impact on schools across our nation and across the world. She shared that the district never imagined the 2021-2022 school year would be even more challenging than the previous year of COVID-19 as the district faced quarantines, isolations, increased absences, and modifications to our regular procedures and practices. She also explained that concerns have been expressed statewide about the recovery we need to do to help our students recover academically from the challenges they have faced. She expressed thanks to the staff and stated, “Considering everything our staff, students, and families have faced, it is wonderful to see the data increasing. We can’t thank our curriculum and instructional department enough for the work they do to help our schools be successful and recover from the impact the pandemic has had on education. Rachel Wall, Kelly Shealy, and Daphne Still are all phenomenal and we couldn’t ask for a better team.”

## ADVOCACY

### BASIC STRUCTURE

#### A. Actions

1. Approval of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Field Experience. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Approval of the Spanish Costa Rica Student Field Experience. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton. The motion was approved unanimously.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Richardson-** I would like to welcome the new employees. You will be working with a great staff. This is a wonderful place with a great superintendent and assistant superintendent. Thank you to the individuals and clubs for their donations and to the Rotary Club for the dictionary donation.

**Devore-** Welcome new teachers. The district office staff and the school board are glad that you chose our district. Thank you to the groups and organizations for the donations. District office, thank you for all you do. I am glad to be a part of this wonderful group of people.

**Sexton-** Dr. Stapleton, Dr. Wall, Ms. Tina and all staff, thank you for the great work. We are aware of all the things that you do. Welcome new employees. You will be working with some great leaders and thanks to them for selecting you. They had to see something special in you to select you. Principals play an important part in the daily operation of the district and thank you for all you do and thank the teachers. To Sheriff Griffith, we appreciate what you do because there is a lot of things being done that people don’t get to see. Thanks to everyone for selecting this school board. We all really work well together and thanks for your cooperation for working together. We are one big lovely family! Thank you to our visitors for supporting our district.

**Anderson-** I would like to welcome the new employees. We definitely have the best district in the state. Thanks to the principals, we really do appreciate you. To the district office staff, your hard work does not go unnoticed. Glad to once again see people in the audience. We are definitely a family here.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for Executive Session

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 6:51 p.m. The motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore..

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Sexton