

Minutes of Special-Called Meeting of the Barnwell School District 45 Board of Trustees

TIME: 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 30, 2022

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: Crystal Stapleton, Superintendent; Tina Smith, Administrative Assistant

Other: Connie Jackson, Partner; Halligan, Mahoney & Williams

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. Dr. Rhett Richardson 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 SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Felicia Devore.
3. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton discussed suspending Policy FF- Naming Facilities.

During our October board work session, the board members discussed the current Policy FF and how there have been some requests for naming facilities in recent years. Part of that discussion led to wanting to provide stakeholders the opportunity to complete a Naming Facilities application, even if they did not meet every criteria outlined in the policy.

Today we would determine if the board agrees to suspend Policy FF to consider applications where the proposed nominee should have special significance and/or the person has made an outstanding contribution to the school system, but does not meet the criteria of being deceased at least three years.

As part of the policy, the superintendent will prepare and the board will approve a procedure for the Board to follow when naming school properties or portions thereof. So, I come to you today with the revisions discussed in the work session and seek approval for the suspension of Policy FF Naming Facilities.

The board unanimously approved the motion. The motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. Dr. Rhett Richardson proposed the possibility of reverting back to the original policy in the future.

BASIC STRUCTURE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was a motion made to go into executive session for the superintendent's job performance evaluation

Motion to go into executive session made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Becky Huggins at 8:08 a.m.

Motion to exit executive session made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson at 9:51 a.m.

Rosey Anderson, Chair read the Barnwell School District 45 Board of Trustees public statement for the annual job performance evaluation for Superintendent Crystal Stapleton.

- This morning the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session to conduct the annual job performance of Superintendent Dr. Crystal Stapleton.
- As Chairperson, on behalf of my fellow Board Members, I wish to announce that Ms. Stapleton received an overall “Exemplary” performance evaluation. The Board continues to be impressed with the Superintendent’s outstanding leadership and dedication to the children of this District.
- Ms. Stapleton is committed to student achievement and addressing the academic learning loss caused by learning challenges during the pandemic by meeting the needs of the whole-child. The District has increased program offerings throughout every level in the District, to include but not limited to, an expanded Montessori Program at Barnwell Primary School and fully operational STAR Academy. Our students now have specialized opportunities leading to various Diploma Pathways and increased apprenticeship options. In addition, the District has received recognition and is celebrated as a Lighthouse District to spotlight the STEM opportunities across our District.
- Ms. Stapleton is actively involved in promoting positive relationships with the community at-large. She has worked tirelessly to create partnerships with a number of local agencies and organizations to support students and their needs. The Superintendent also actively solicits the involvement of staff members in decision making, and she continues to plan appreciation events and tokens of gratitude for our staff members to increase morale.
- My colleagues and I also want to commend Dr. Stapleton for seeking innovative funding ideas and promoting fiscal responsibility in this District. During the 2021-22 school year, the district received \$800,000 in grant awards to support innovation and career focused learning, a grant for new cafeteria equipment at BES, a multi-million dollar FEMA grant for a new county wide Safe House with dual purpose as high school gym, as well as grants to combat childhood obesity, and a grant to create a virtual lab at BHS.
- As a result of an “exemplary” performance evaluation, is there a motion regarding the Superintendent’s employment agreement?

Becky Huggins made a motion to approve Superintendent Stapleton’s overall exemplary performance evaluation which includes an annual contribution to an annuity made December of each year, and a monthly automobile allowance increase of \$100 per month. The motion was seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Becky Huggins at 10:53 a.m.

Chair Rosey Anderson
Clerk Abraham Sifton