

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, May 11, 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; Becky Huggins, Member; Dr. Rhett Richardson, 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. 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 Felicia Devore and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.
3. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda items. Motion was made by Becky Huggins and seconded Felicia Devore.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Information

1. District Updates
Superintendent Stapleton gave the following district update:
 - a. The State Department of Education issues an annual risk score based on several sub-recipients. The score is based on 10 areas, including: Required Reporting, Turnover of Key Personnel, Programmatic Compliance, Fiscal Compliance, Performance, Frequency and Need of Technical Assistance, Financial Stability, Quality of Management Systems, Timeliness of Annual Financial Audit Submission, and Other Material Factors (accreditation, confirmed cheating/test security violations, state program violations, other SCDE audits). In this case, the lower the score, the better. The score scale is as follows: 18 and below- Low; 19-28- Medium; 29-above- High. The district received the lowest possible financial score of 9. Thank you to Rachel Wall who oversees Federal Programs and Holly Hutto in Finance for everything that you do. Dr. Stapleton shared that the district has received the lowest possible risk score for several years in a row.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

A. Actions

1. Holly Hutto, CFO, presented the Second Reading of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proposed General Fund Budget for approval. She stated that the reading was repeating the same information from the First Reading due to the Senate not approving the agenda by the date anticipated. The Third and Final Reading will be presented at the June school board meeting for final approval.
 - a. Approval of the Second Reading of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proposed General Fund Budget: Motion made by Becky Huggins and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Prior to approval of the Barnwell High School South Carolina Technology Association Conference Trip, Superintendent Stapleton stated that Coach Andrews has done an amazing job and 7 students placed first at the state conference. They recently attended the STEM Festival and participated in several activities. Mr. Andrews is requesting to take two of them to attend the Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky June 28th through July 2nd.
 - a. Approval of the Barnwell High School South Carolina Technology Student Association Conference Trip: Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton. The motion was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Devore- Thank you, Holly, for getting the budget together. I know what it's like to do that type of work. I appreciate all your hard work. We received the low score because of all the hard work you do. We came up short on the softball season, but I was very excited for them, the baseball team, and our track team going to state.

Huggins- The risk score speaks volumes for the hard work that is done. I appreciate everything that you do. Congratulations to the Baton Twirlers receiving first place. (Superintendent interjected and stated that they will be receiving championship rings that their Coach Jerri Ridgeway helped design and they will be invited to the June board meeting where they will be presented with a banner that will be hung in the BHS gymnasium.) Becky Huggins concluded that she has seen football practice starting and that is very exciting to see.

Sexton- I can't say enough about finance. It is definitely a hard job. I can't put enough emphasis on the things you do. Dr. Wall, thank you for all you do. You and the Superintendent have carried us through. Thank all of you for all you do and I hope our Superintendent continues to do so as we move forward. To the staff, principals, and teachers, hats off to you for the things you go through every day. Teachers have to train everyone that comes through. Teachers are very important. As board members, we need to make sure that teachers have everything that they need. It is a pleasure to meet Attorney Richardson face to face. I am looking forward to working together and carrying Barnwell County to higher heights. John Moody and Tina, thank you for all you do.

Richardson- I would just like to reiterate everything that was said. Holly, thank you for taking care of our finances. Dr. Wall, Coach Andrews, and the Tech department, great job. Congratulations to all the spring sport teams.

Anderson- Thank you to everyone for all you do. This district wouldn't be what it is without your hard work. Congratulations to Jaiden Devore for being named Regional Softball Player of the Year and to Jaiden Devore, Makayla Creech, and Caitlyn Morris for being named to All State. I read somewhere that during the school year, there's months with 28, 30, and 31 days, but there are 6,552 days in the last month of the school year, or at least teachers and everyone else probably think that way....

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to go into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Employee A Personnel Matter. Motion made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Becky Huggins.

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to come out of Executive Session at 6:34 p.m. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

The following motion was made, "Madame Chairperson, I move that the Board accept the Superintendent's request to withdraw her recommendation that Employee A be terminated from employment and accept Employee A's request to withdraw her request for an evidentiary hearing based on the reasons that were provided in Executive Session." Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Taylor