

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 8, 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; 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 Rhett Richardson.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Information

1. District Updates

Superintendent Stapleton gave the following district updates:

Facility and ESSER Highlights

- The new HVAC system is completed in the BPS Gymnasium. Work has begun on the GBMS gymnasium HVAC system.
- Carver Security is working on the new GBMS fire alarm system.
- We have entered a contract for the windows and doors project. The windows and doors are now being ordered for the work to be completed.
- District wide roofing projects have begun at GBMS. We also have several painting projects going on this summer.
- We are currently waiting for the removal of the seats in the BPS auditorium, we are scheduling new flooring for that space, and we have conducted a survey offered the old auditorium seats to employees. Mike Beasley will be contacting everyone who has requested seats.
- To date, since July 2022, we have saved over \$216,438.00 in our energy conservation program.
- Grant for Director of the Carolyne S. Williams Early Childhood Center will include salary and fringe for the director as well as funding for supplies for parenting workshops, etc. The director will create and lead a district early childhood task force to assist in making plans moving forward. He/she will apply for grants to aide in future expansions of both early childhood programs and facility upgrades. He/she will also plan a monthly family event calendar and host community family events to enhance family engagement, create and implement, in coordination with Barnwell Primary School, a recruitment plan to recruit all preschool programs housed at a primary school. Superintendent Stapleton explained that, although it is a one year funded position, the district will be able to re-apply after the year one success of the program.
- Superintendent Stapleton called on Sophia Thomas to discuss the BHS Costa Rica trip with board members. Ms. Thomas explained that 36 people total attended the trip including students, parents, and tour guides. Everyone shared the same experiences even though there were only four attendees

from BHS. They were able to tour different areas and saw a real volcano. She explained that it was so fulfilling once they reached the top. Ms. Thomas elaborated about the accommodations, food, bus transportation, etc. She expressed that even though she has visited Costa Rica before, this experience was way better.

- The Willie E. Landrum Gymnasium dedication ceremony was held May 27th and there was a wonderful turnout. It was a wonderful tribute to Mr. Landrum and his impact on BSD45.
- Our summer programs have been running across the district. Several started June 5th and will run the month of June. We are grateful for all of our staff members who are teaching and assisting with those programs. Superintendent Stapleton shared the times for the CERDEP 4K Extension, BPS Summer Camp for Grades 1 and 2, BPS Summer Reading Camp for 3rd Grade, BES Summer Program, GBMS Summer Program, BHS Credit Recovery, and BHS Bridge Program.
- Superintendent Stapleton expressed that the district had a wonderful time celebrating our staff members at the End of the Year Breakfast. She shared photos from the breakfast and reminded everyone of the announcement of District Teacher of the Year - Tanya Anderson of Barnwell Elementary School.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

A. Actions

1. Holly Hutto, CFO, presented the Third and Final Reading of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proposed General Fund Budget for approval. She stated that the state just passed the budget with 40 minutes to spare. Superintendent Stapleton explained that the supplement was included in the general fund budget so it will be included when the budget is approved.
 - a. Approval of the Third and Final Reading of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Proposed General Fund Budget: Motion made by Abraham Sexton and seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - b. Approval for the district's operating millage rate to change from 208 to 224. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Becky Huggins.
2. Before the approval of the BHS Peru Field Experience, Ms. Thomas expressed her gratitude for the school board taking the time to read through the information and considering this opportunity. Approval of the Barnwell High School Peru Field Experience for April 2024: Motion made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson. The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Superintendent Stapleton explained that approvals for out of district requests for students A, B, C, and D would be completed after Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anderson- I would like to recognize two of our board members tonight. Becky Huggins, who has been serving on the board for 7 years and SGM Abraham Sexton has served 15 years. It has been wonderful working on the board with you. You have done a lot for us and the students. They will be going to the transitional board with the consolidated district so this will be the last time we meet. I would like to present you with a little something for your service to our district. We'll miss you and your service will never go unnoticed.

Devore- I too will miss you. It has been a pleasure working with you. We have all worked so well together. I have heard stories at conferences about school boards, and I can't imagine working with those types of school boards. I appreciate you, love you, and will miss you.

Huggins- It has been an honor to work with such a great group. We will continue to work together, and it has been an honor to serve on this board with you. The first school board conference I attended, no one said that they had such a cohesive group. I can't imagine working with anyone else. Even though we've had differences, we have been able to unite.

Sexton- Thank you Rosey, Mrs. Devore, and Dr. Richardson. Thank you for allowing us to be here for the district and children. I have been on school boards that lasted until 10:00 at night, and we still didn't get anything

accomplished but bickering. If we had a disagreement here, it was here and we left it here. I have enjoyed working with you, Felicia, Dr. Richardson, and I hope to continue working with you Dr. Stapleton. Tina, I hope to continue to work with you. It was my intention to attend the end of the year breakfast, and I'm sorry that I missed it, but it was my 55th wedding anniversary. It's always good to fellowship with retired teachers and friends who can attend.

Richardson- Thank you, Ms. Thomas, for taking the young people on the trip to Costa Rica. Not many people their age can say that they have ever been out of the country, and it's something that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Thank you for showing them different cultures. It shows patience and maturity on your part. I hope all the students, and everyone, are careful this summer. I have enjoyed being on this board with Mrs. Huggins and Mr. Sexton. I'm going to call you Abe. I have never done that before. I think that you have been on the board the longest. I have been on boards that we didn't get anything accomplished that we needed to. I have to say that the proudest moment of being on this board is when we gathered to interview for a superintendent and hired Dr. Stapleton. I feel that we hired the best superintendent in the state, and I may go out on a limb and say possibly the country. She surrounds herself with great and knowledgeable people. Tina, make sure you take care of Abe and make sure he has his candy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to go into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. to discuss Out of district Student A, B, C, and D. Motion made by Becky Huggins and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to come out of Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore.

Motion made to approve the acceptance of out of district Student A. Motion made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Abraham sexton. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion made to approve the acceptance of out of district Student B. Motion made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Abraham Sexton. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion was made to approve the acceptance of out of district Student C. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion made to approve the acceptance of out of district student D. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Becky Huggins. The motion was approved unanimously.

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 7:37 p.m. The motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Sexton