

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 10, 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, 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; 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. 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.
- B. The board unanimously approved the agenda. Motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.
- C. Rosey Anderson announced that board members SGM Abraham Sexton and Becky Huggins would be leaving the Barnwell School District 45 school board to transition to the consolidated school board and their letters of resignation had been accepted. Superintendent Stapleton presented SGM Abraham Sexton with a plaque for 14 years of dedicated service and Becky Huggins with a plaque for 6 years of dedicated service. Tina Smith presented each of them with photo poster frames of memories through the years. SGM Sexton expressed that he was sadly leaving, but everyone would still be together. He stated that Dr. Stapleton is so thoughtful, he appreciates her leadership, and this is a good board. He wanted everyone to know that he was not leaving, but just going to do another job. Becky Huggins expressed that she felt that this was the best group of leaders that she ever worked with, and she thanked everyone for allowing her to be a part of it.
- D. Rosey Anderson, Chair, announced that two offices needed to be voted on due to the departure of the two board members. The vote counts elected Dr. Rhett Richardson as Clerk, and Felicia Devore as Career Center representative. Congratulations.
- E. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda items. Motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded Felicia Devore.

F. There was no hearing of the public.

II. Superintendent Report

A. Recognition

1. Rosey Anderson, Chair, read the Back to School message and announced that a group photo would be taken prior to going into Executive Session.
2. Franklin McCormack, Barnwell High Principal, recognized the Barnwell High School Sporting Clays Team. The team started a few years back and have had tremendous success in the amount of participation. He said he was able to attend an event and, as he followed Coach Scottie Sturkie around, it was unbelievable how organized the event was. There were several events of the past 2 years that the team placed in. There were 5 SCDNR (SC Department of Natural Resources) Events, 5 SCTP (Scholastic Clay Target Program) Events and 4 SCYSF (Youth Shooting Foundation) Events during the 2021-2022 season. The team members were Noah Smith, Hudson Harvey, Joe Huggins, and Jax Mead. This team is led by good leadership, Coach Scottie Sturkie and Assistant Coaches Jody Huggins and Becky Huggins. When Mr. McCormack attended the event, he thought that they all shot together, but they are all in different divisions. In the SCDNR events the team placed as follows:
 - SCDNR 2nd Place Team/Squad Skeet State Championship
Joe Huggins- 1st Place High Overall after winning shoot off
 - SCDNR -1st Place Team/Squad in Trap State Championship
Joe Huggins tied for HOA but did not win shoot off
 - SCYSF Sporting Clays
Joe Huggins scored 98 out of 100, an impressive score

Thank you to the Warhorse Sporting Clays Team. Coach Scottie Sturkie explained how when he first contacted the school board and asked for this opportunity, they could have said no. This is not just a shooting sport, but safety goes a long way with this sport. You primarily see this sport in private schools, and public schools have very low participation. It's an amazing sport, and if you ever need something to do, please experience it for yourself. Thank you to the school board for allowing this to happen.

3. Franklin McCormack, Barnwell High School Principal, recognized the Barnwell High School Twirlers coached by Riley Ridgeway as champions of the First Place SC State Halftime Show on April 22, 2023. This event is sponsored by the National Baton Twirling Association. Barnwell High School has a long standing tradition of talented majorettes. Coach Riley Ridgeway took the reins from longtime coach Scottie Moore. She is absolutely fabulous and also teaches the Montessori program at Barnwell Primary School. The members of last year's

championship team are Karrie Bolen, Kayden DeFreest, Carol Anne Barnes, Joey Lynn Evans, Gracie Carter, Nora Martin, and Emma Bolen. Superintendent Stapleton presented the twirlers with a championship banner that will be hung in the BHS gymnasium. Coach Riley Ridgeway thanked everyone and the school board for their support. "We are very proud of these girls. They work really hard and they have earned this."

4. Superintendent Stapleton talked about the end of the year breakfast and the announcement of the newest District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Tanya Anderson. The District Teacher of the Year, in addition to the Teacher of the Year gifts, also received a \$1,000 check, a District Teacher of the Year plaque, a beautiful flower basket, and a picnic basket full of special goodies. I also announced that morning that the District Teacher of the Year would receive a Barnwell School District 45 Teacher of the Year ring. Superintendent Stapleton shared the following words from Mrs. Anderson: According to Mrs. Anderson, *"It is pressing that the public understands that it truly takes a village, and we need to work together for the good of the students. They face many obstacles and a lot of them find peace in the school. Students bring more to the classroom than a backpack, and we have to be ready to find ways to help them heal and learn. Teachers give so much of themselves and are needed every day by the students that are entrusted to us. The message becomes one for all that are invested in our youth ... "Be what another human needs!" Together, we are such a powerful force! We should all work together to find our strength within each other to help rebuild the most dominant profession. We should all work together to improve the journey of our youth. If we all pause and think about someone that impacted our lives, a past/current teacher would be on the list. The teachers want and need the support so that we can continue to do what we love ... TEACH.* Superintendent Stapleton asked everyone to join her in giving Tanya Anderson a round of applause. She then presented Mrs. Anderson with the BSD45 Teacher of the Year ring.

Superintendent Stapleton asked that, before we move on to the district updates, please give everyone that was recognized a round of applause.

B. Information

1. District Updates

Superintendent Stapleton gave the following district updates:

- a. Facility and ESSER Highlights
 - The new HVAC system is still underway in the GBMS gymnasium.
 - Carver Security is completing the new GBMS Fire Alarm System.
 - The districtwide roofing project was underway all summer and will conclude at GBMS in the next few weeks.

- The new shade structures were installed at BPS, as well as a new fence screen. The new swings are on the way, and the new tables and benches are currently being assembled.
- b. Barnwell Primary School Auditorium is complete. Please stop by and see it when you get a chance.
 - c. Summer projects included:
 - Painting across the district
 - Parking lot resurfacing
 - Removal of trees and shrubs where needed for safety reasons
 - Upgraded entryways at BHS
 - New flooring in select areas of BHS that is more durable
 - d. Projects that are underway:
 - Districtwide ADS KeyScan System Upgrades
 - Front door scanner and intercom for District Office and Transportation

These are highlights, but are not all-inclusive.

- e. We had our districtwide Welcome Back breakfast and here are a few pictures of our breakfast together. (photos shared in presentation) Kelly Shealy and Daphne Still were our prize patrol. It was wonderful being able to come back together and being able to celebrate. We ended our school year on the theme of “Being the Light,” so we brought that back for the beginning of the year. We want to be the light for our students, families, community, and for each other. Also, we have some photos from the first day of school that we will use through the year. Different people from the district office went around to different schools to take pictures. It was a great week, and we are very excited about this school year and everyone coming together. It is exciting to go into the schools and see the smiling faces. You remember the “why” and why you’re in education, and it’s so great to be a part of that.
- f. The BHS yearbook pictures will be taken on August 21st. Board members will have your photos taken for the yearbook. We will provide you with more information about the exact time at a later date.

III. New Business

A. Actions

1. Request for motion made by the Chair Rosey Anderson for the approval of the 2023-2024 Board Meeting Dates. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.

2. Rosey Anderson, Chair, announced that the approval for Out of District Student Requests will take place following Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richardson- I wish everyone could be sitting here and looking out at the wealth of talent of everyone recognized. We are fortunate to have great instructors and athletes. Mrs. Anderson, there is not a higher honor than to be recognized by your peers. Mr. Sturkie, you have been doing this for 6 years, and, after hearing the presentation, we greatly appreciate you, Becky and Mr. Huggins. Riley, we appreciate all you do. Thank you for all your hard work. Mr. Sexton and Becky, we have always worked as a team. When you bring different personalities together, they don't always work, but everyone should have their own opinions. The best thing we have done is to have Dr. Stapleton as the Superintendent. She's been fabulous and the district would not have proceeded without her direction.

Devore- Just to add on to what Dr. Richardson said: Mr. Sturkie, in the beginning it was new to me and I was unsure what it meant, but this is something that these students can take with them to college. Thank you and to the students, congratulations on your accomplishments. Twirlers, congratulations on winning the state championship. We are very proud of you for your hard work and bravery. You put a lot of hours into your routines. I was once a twirler, and it takes hard work and dedication. Mrs. Anderson, congratulations on being voted on by your peers because that means so much and to be dedicated to students and staff. I am currently very good friends with one of my teachers because she sparked something in me, and we continue to talk through the years. Thank you for coming to Barnwell School District 45 and congratulations. To Mr. Sexton, and to Becky, we joined the board at the same time 6 years ago. As a team, we have the best board that I have ever been a part of. We will miss you guys and we will see you around. We will always remain friends and family because that's what we are – one big family.

Anderson- Ditto...Ditto...and extra Ditto. It looks good to see a crowd here. Some people have to come and some want to come. Please come back and not just for special occasions but be interested in your school district. The Barnwell Primary Auditorium looks fabulous. To the Sports Clay Team and the BHS Twirlers, congratulations to both groups on your achievements. Just stick with it and listen to your parents, coaches, and teachers. Do what you need to do, have fun, but stay the course. Mrs. Anderson, we appreciate you again for being selected by your peers to become District Teacher of the Year. I know you will represent our district well. If there is anything that we can do for you, please let us know.

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 Requests. 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 7:29 p.m. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore.

Request for motion was made to approve the out of district request for student A and B. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Request for motion to approve the out of district request for Student C. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Request for motion to approve out of district request for Students D and E. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson. The motion was approved unanimously.

Request for motion to deny the out of district request for Student F. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Rhett Richardson