

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 14, 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, Clerk

District Office: Crissie Stapleton, Superintendent; Rachel Wall, 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. 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.
- B. Superintendent Stapleton asked that, under New Business A3, there be the deletion of the voting on Student A due to everything that was needed was not received, but there was still a need for Executive Session to discuss Employee A contractual matter. Rosey Anderson, Chair, asked for the motion to delete the voting on Student A Out of District Request during Executive Session. Motion for the approval of the deletion of the Out of District Student A Request made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Motion was made by Chair Rosey Anderson for approval of the consent agenda items. Motion made by Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson. The board unanimously approved the consent agenda items.
- D. There was no hearing of the public.

II. Superintendent Report

- A. Information
 - 1. District Updates

Superintendent Stapleton gave the following district updates:

- a. Facility and ESSER Highlights

- Windows and Doors Project will begin on 9.28.23 at Barnwell High School, Guinyard-Butler Middle School, and Barnwell Primary School. The project will be divided into 3 phases. We are awaiting delivery of the windows and doors. They will be installed based on the greatest need.
 - The GBMS fire alarm project is still moving along.
 - BHS Fire Alarm- A pre-project walkthrough was done last week and supplies will be delivered to begin the process at the high school.
 - The BPS intercom system was struck by lightning, and we are working with insurance to replace that.
 - The roofing projects at GBMS and at BPS Gymnasium are scheduled to be completed this week.
 - Currently the roof top units are being installed at GBMS and classroom units at BHS. There are about 5 rooftop units that will be replaced and the only units that we are still waiting on is the GBMS gymnasium units which are scheduled to arrive mid-October. Also, the larger units for the BHS cafeteria are still waiting on delivery. The classroom units are being installed now and there are about 5-7 units. These are the main updates since the last time we met.
- b. Aerial Baxley, the new Director of the Carolyn S. Williams Early Childhood Learning Center recently held a family event. Families participated in literacy activities, heard tips for helping their children be Kindergarten ready, served as a group to provide feedback on future engagements, and had a meal together. We are working on future events at community locations.
 - c. Our Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce recently held a State of the Region Address and Business Expo at USC Salkehatchie. Barnwell High School represented BSD45 at the Expo. Pam Priester and JJ Cone met with attendees to share work-based learning opportunities and explained how we welcome partnerships at BHS in many different capacities. They offered their ideas as to how businesses and industries could partner with our district.
 - d. Superintendent Stapleton expressed how excited the district is about a partnership that is in the works with Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC). She has been meeting with them and this is just a teaser because she couldn't say much, except that we are working on a STEM partnership for our elementary students.
 - e. Proposals have been submitted for our rural recruitment funding. Our 2023-2024 allocation amount is \$60,961.00. Kin Hair has submitted proposals, and we are awaiting approval and the release of funding. This is \$20,000.00 less than what we usually receive. We plan to use the funds for the same purposes as last year.
 - f. Southern Carolina Alliance hosted a Workforce Education Summit for our regional county leadership team of county council chairs and county administrators from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Colleton,

Hampton, and Jasper counties. Franklin McCormack was able to attend in my place. The summit featured variety of speakers who are engaged in workforce development throughout the seven counties from the Department of Education, Technical College of the Lowcountry, Denmark Technical College, Department of Employment and Workforce, SC Technical College System, and others. The summit brings together different groups that impact education. It was great to bring these groups together to have those discussions about the partnerships available for moving forward.

- g. Rosey Anderson, Chair, stated that she had one question and one comment. She asked when the BPS intercom system went out, did they use walkie talkies? Superintendent Stapleton replied that Donna Selvey, BPS principal, was creative when the internet went down and they couldn't call anybody through the intercom system. They were still able to get everyone in their cars and on buses with no internet or intercom system. They were very innovative.

2. Barnwell County School District Consolidation Update:

a. Consolidation Plan Update

- The consolidation plan has been approved locally and now the state department is working on the grant award notice to receive the allocation funds of 3.125 million in hand. A copy of the plan was approved at the last consolidation meeting. The funds will be grouped in sections, and we are going to have the flexibility to move it around and adjust it as needed, but every bullet listed will not be able to get done. We had a work session about the consolidation plan and it was approved at the last board meeting. Dr. Rhett Richardson interjected and asked, "How did the state arrive at that dollar amount?" Superintendent Stapleton stated that it is her understanding that every consolidated district received the same amount, but she was unsure how the state originally arrived at that number.
- The policy and revision process partnering with SCSBA is the development of the entire policy manual totaling eleven sections and approximately 500 policies and administrative rules/procedures. For each policy, there will be a review of both districts' current policies to the model policy. Every "recommended policy" will be sent as a "draft" and will need the appropriate approval by the board. We will look at BSD45, BCCSD, and the model policy and will compare all three to compose the policy.
 - The policies will be divided into seven sets: Section B; Sections A and C; Sections D, E, and F; Section G; Section I; Section J; and Sections K and L.
 - Each policy will require two readings at two different meetings, and the board cannot reasonably be expected to

devote each meeting to this project; therefore, a feasible goal is approximately 12 to 18 months for completion of the entire project.

- The first step of the strategic planning process will be planning a Vision and Mission Planning Session and that will include:
 - Reflecting on What We Want for Our New District
 - Reviewing Current Visions and Missions
 - Envisioning Barnwell County School District's Future
 - Working together with stakeholders to create one vision and mission statement for the new district. We are planning a session in the fall, but no date has been set yet.
 - We will be reflecting on what the new district will look like, the new district's future and what we want for the new district.
- September
 - The superintendent has begun meeting individually and in small groups with district administrators and school administrators across the districts. The meetings are really to get to know and meet people, as well as reconnect and have that face to face time to address their concerns with consolidation. There are so many questions and we are not at a place where we know all the answers, but we are starting by building relationships.
- Initial Steps Related To Informational Technology
 - We officially have a new domain: bcsd.net.
 - We will now begin creating a new website using this domain name. We are looking at using Blackboard.
 - The state has been partnering with us to determine our scope of work for the PowerSchool agreement for the new school district. John Moody was quoted an amount of \$109,200, which includes project management and consolidation, SC integration configuration, and consulting fees. The state data systems and PowerSchool merging will be challenging as we are bringing the data systems together.
 - We received the new school identification numbers (SIDNS) for the new district.
(Alex from the Barnwell People Sentinel just arrived. We have a small crowd tonight. Thank you, Alex, for being here.)
- Barnwell County Career Center Task Force
 - Dr. Rhett Richardson is leading the task force made up of community and business leaders (stakeholders) across our county. Their objective is to provide stakeholder input and

feedback when considering the priorities for the career center. They will report and update their thoughts and findings, list priorities and transmit their feedback.

- The Next Steps:
 - Continue information gathering and creating comparison charts between the current school district.
 - Continue the internal salary schedule.
 - We have received an employee identification number from the IRS, and we are working with Sam.gov for the validation process to be eligible for the new district to receive federal funds.
 - Continue working with the State Department of Education to determine and address next steps.
- I met with our BSD45 Media Specialist this week from BSD45 and the Barnwell County Consolidated School District. This was planned by them, and it served as a wonderful example of the first steps of working together and collaborating.

III. New Business

A. Actions

1. Superintendent Stapleton stated that there was a request for approval of the SCSBA Delegates for the 2023 Delegate Assembly. Rosey Anderson, Chair, asked for the nominations of the delegate and alternate. Felicia Devore was nominated as delegate and Rosey Anderson as the alternate. Motion was made by Chair Rosey Anderson for the approval of the delegate and alternate nominations. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Superintendent Stapleton stated there was a request for approval of the 5th Grade Camp Leopold trip. The trip is planned for April 10th-12th, and it is a wonderful trip for the 5th graders. Motion was requested by Chair Rosey Anderson for the approval of the 5th grade Camp Leopold trip planned for April 10th-12th. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore. The motion was approved unanimously.

Announcements

Richardson- I am going to shock everyone and just say thank you to everyone at Barnwell School District 45.

Devore- I would like to say thank you to everyone for coming out tonight and for your

support, and thank you to everyone at Barnwell School District 45.

Anderson- Thank you to the district and especially to Dr. Stapleton. Not only are you doing a tremendous job for our district, but gearing up for the consolidation process. Good luck to our Warhorse Football team tomorrow night going up against our former coach, and good luck to the volleyball team and JV football team.

Executive Session

Request for motion made by Chair Rosey Anderson to go into Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. to discuss Employee A Contractual Matter. 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 6:50 p.m. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Felicia Devore.

No action taken

V. Adjournment

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

Chair	<u>Rosey Anderson</u>
Clerk	<u>Mike Anderson</u>