

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 13, 2022

PLACE: Barnwell Schools Administration Building, 770 Hagood Avenue., Barnwell, SC 29812 for Board Members;
virtual for the public

PRESENT:

Board of Trustees: Rosey Anderson, Chair (attended virtually); 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; John Moody, IT Director; Kelley Shealy, Curriculum Support Coach

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

OPENING BUSINESS

1. Felicia Devore, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. SGM Abraham Sexton, Clerk, 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 Dr. Rhett Richardson.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton presented the following district updates:
 - a. Barnwell School District 45 is proud to announce that Varsity Warhorse Basketball Player Russell Branch was named one of the top five players of the 2021-2022 basketball season by the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association.
 - b. Swiss Krono USA participated in a Roundtable meeting in Washington, D.C. with Mr. Guy Parmelin, President of the Swiss Confederation and Minister of Economic Affairs, Education, and Research. Swiss Krono representatives Todd Mankin and Youth Apprentice TyZavier Grayson also attended a reception at the residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland to the U.S., Mr. Jacques Pitteloud, at which Barnwell High School's (BHS) Youth Apprentice TyZavier Grayson took questions from President Parmelin. This was an amazing opportunity for TyZavier. Barnwell School District 45 is so proud of how he represented Barnwell High School.
 - c. Barnwell School District 45 is excited to announce the Tri-County Community Foundation (TCCF) Grant recipients totaling over \$12,000.00 in grant awards. This year, TCCF accepted applications in the areas of Early Childhood Education (4K to Grade 3) and Health/Fitness.
 - d. Barnwell High School Senior, Weston Sandifer, was recently awarded 1 of 4 South Carolina Future Farmers of America (SC FFA) State Fair Scholarships during a brief ceremony held in the Abernathy Arena at the 2021 SC State Fair. The honor was presented to Weston by SC FFA Association's President Cayden Gates along with State Vice President, Kinlyn Hinson. Sandifer earned the \$500 scholarship for his involvement in the FFA at the local and state levels, academic excellence, community service, and his Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE).
 - e. Our design professionals from JLA (Johnson, Laschobar, and Associates) have been working on our ESSER Project updates and working with us to receive OSF (Office of School Facilities) approval on the following projects that were conditionally approved until engineer plans could be submitted.
 - HVAC systems at BPS and GBMS gymnasiums
 - HVAC replacements in areas needed, as well as HVAC added to GBMS lobby
 - Window and door replacement across the district
 - Bathrooms in the GBMS gymnasium

- Bathrooms at W.W. Carter Field
 - GBMS flooring throughout the school
 - New intercom systems at BPS and BHS
 - Roof repair as needed across the district
- f. Some of the other facility improvements currently underway across the district and recently completed include:
- A new shed has been installed at BES.
 - Two new maintenance trucks arrived before the holiday break. One of the older trucks went to BHS to replace the one used there, and the other will be used for the new maintenance supervisor role with lawn care.
 - A new set of windows with a Warhorse design was installed at the front of GBMS.
 - GBMS received new player sideline chairs to accompany the new scoreboards in the gym for basketball season.
 - A new concrete slab has been poured at GBMS for a new outdoor basketball court and a volleyball net has been added.
 - Painting has continued at BPS on the exterior awnings, and windows.
 - We are still awaiting the installation of the new digital signs at GBMS and BHS. The BPS and BES signs are currently in production.
 - The cafeteria renovation project at BHS is moving forward and will happen throughout the remainder of the school year. This will include new flooring, painting, new branding, and new furniture. We thank Kristin Huber for leading this project renovation.
- g. New security cameras have been installed on all buses. We are currently awaiting new student badges for all students across the district. These will also be used with our new bus software to scan students as they board district transportation.

2. Superintendent Stapleton presented COVID-19 Updates:

- a. The CDC and SCDHEC have again updated the guidance for K-12 schools. There are three options for the quarantine period that may be utilized as long as all conditions listed below are met.
- Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms were reported during daily symptom monitoring. For schools, this option is only recommended for temporary use in times of substantial or high COVID transmission in the school.
 - Quarantine can end after Day 5 if a viral test (PCR or antigen test) is negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily symptom monitoring.
 - Test-to-stay: DHEC supports this school program as an option for quarantine for those staff and students needing to quarantine. Two viral tests should be performed at least 24 hours apart within 7 days of exposure. One of these tests must be done between days 5 and 7 after exposure. A mask must be worn through day 10.
- b. Out of an abundance of caution and because of the high transmission rates, we are not currently using the new DHEC shortened quarantine and isolation periods.
- c. It is at the discretion of the district or school to use the standard 10-day option in the event of increased COVID transmission in the community and school. All efforts should be made to provide the shortened 5-day option to reduce student and staff absences when the district approves that.
- d. The definitions of vaccinated individuals has been modified.
- Maximally vaccinated (also known as “up-to-date”): a person who has completed their primary vaccine series, including an additional dose if immunocompromised, and has had a booster shot if eligible.
 - Fully vaccinated: a person who has completed their primary vaccine series (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or one dose of Janssen vaccine), including an additional dose if immunocompromised, with at least two weeks since their last dose.
 - New guidance requires fully vaccinated adults 18 or older to quarantine if they are a close contact, but maximally vaccinated adults 18 or older do not have to quarantine. This does not apply to students 5 - 17 years old. They do not have to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated.
- e. SCDHEC now allows home testing for specific situations. If you are asymptomatic close contact, you quarantine per guidance and are eligible for release after five days if the test is performed on the fourth day

or after. SCDHEC now allows home test in this specific situation. At this time, we are not accepting at-home tests because we have not shortened our quarantine requirements.

- f. The COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated by noon the beginning of the following week. The data reported each week includes the required DHEC reporting criteria which was modified in September 2021.
- g. The closure guidelines are districts and schools, except virtual charters, are not permitted to offer only virtual instruction unless the district or school can no longer safely operate and provide face-to-face instruction due to staffing shortages resulting from COVID-19 or a similar infectious disease. The school or district should contact the local or regional public health office and allow public health officials to assess the situation and provide a recommendation on current operations and additional options for infection control. The decision making should be handled on a school by school basis rather than district wide unless district wide closure is recommended by public health officials. The school or district must move back to face-to-face instruction as soon as staff becomes available. According to public health officials, consideration may be given by a school district for a school (or grade level) to temporarily go virtual in the following scenarios: 30% or higher rate of absenteeism in the school or grade level due to COVID-19 (including students in isolation and in quarantine) or 5–10% or higher of the student body is in isolation simultaneously after testing positive (or being assumed positive based on symptoms when not tested).
- h. Our next vaccination clinic is January 25th from 3pm to 6pm at Barnwell Elementary School. At the clinic, the Pfizer vaccine is available to recipients ages 5 and up. The booster is also available for those who are eligible. We had a vaccination clinic on January 4th, as well. 23 boosters and 23 vaccinations were administered that day.

B. Recognition

1. Superintendent Stapleton announced that January is School Board Appreciation Month.
 - a. The school board was presented with appreciation gifts from the schools around the district.
 - b. Superintendent Stapleton expressed how the board was greatly appreciated and wanted to acknowledge their hard work and dedication, and thanked them for what they do for the entire community.
2. Vice-Chair, Felicia Devore read the SC School Board Member Ethical Principles, and each board member signed the Ethical Principles poster to be framed and kept in the Board Room.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

A. Actions

1. Approval of the 2022-2023 District School Calendar
 - a. Superintendent Stapleton presented the proposed calendar along with the following information:
 - This calendar was a collaborative effort between Barnwell 45, Williston 29, Blackville 19, and the Barnwell County Career Center.
 - We will be adding 3 makeup days at the end, because it is a state requirement to have makeup days on your calendar. Please note we are an approved eLearning district, so we would be able to utilize eLearning if we had a weather day or unexpected day in the middle of the year.
 - Please also note that, if the General Assembly were to change the requirements for the start date, we would revisit this calendar and present a new version for approval.
 - b. Motion for the approval of the 2022-2023 school calendar was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richardson— I appreciate all of our students. Thank you to Tri-County Community for the grant opportunities. Thanks to John Moody for all your hard work and thanks to everyone for the gifts.

Huggins- Thank you for the gifts and goodies for School Board Appreciation. Thank you for working diligently to improve our facilities and thank you for everything you do when it comes to dealing with COVID-19.

Sexton- Thank you to the district staff for your hard work with everything especially COVID-19. Thank you for the beautiful gifts. I read some of the letters and it took my heart. I am proud of all students and what they are doing. To the student who went to Washington, you make the staff proud. Thank you to the bus drivers and to everyone for all you do.

Devore- I would like to recognize all students for their achievements. Thank you to the district for keeping up with everything during these trying times. I pray that everyone stays healthy and we get good numbers in the upcoming month with COVID-19.

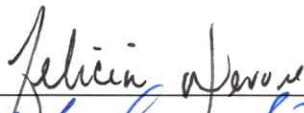
Anderson- I don't want to repeat everything that was said, but I agree. I am proud to be a part of Barnwell School District 45 Board of Trustees, and I hope to see you next month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Vice-Chair Felicia Devore to go into Executive Session at 6:58 p.m.

Out of Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. Motion made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.
No action was taken.

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson at 7:27 p.m.

Vice Chair 
Clerk 