

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, November 11, 2021

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; Felicia Devore, Vice-chair; SGM Abraham Sexton, Clerk; Becky Huggins, Member;
Dr. Rhett Richardson, Member (attended virtually)

District Office: Crissie Stapleton, Superintendent; Rachel Wall, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum Director; Tina Smith,
Administrative Assistant; Holly Hutto, Chief Financial Officer; John Moody, IT Director

Other: Jonathan Vickery, Barnwell People Sentinel

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

OPENING BUSINESS

1. Rosey Anderson, 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 SGM Abraham Sexton.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Becky Huggins.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Recognition

1. Superintendent Stapleton stated that we salute and thank our Veterans for their service to our country and our board member SGM Abraham Sexton for his service. We are unable to celebrate Veterans Day in person as we are accustomed to doing prior to COVID-19; however we look forward to celebrating and honoring our Veterans in other ways throughout the week. Throughout the week, our classrooms have been incorporating Veteran Day activities to teach our students the importance of honoring and saluting those who have served our country. We thank you for being heroes for our students! The board members were able to watch a Veterans Day Tribute video from the students in the district. Board member SGM Abraham Sexton was presented with gifts for his service.

B. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton presented information from the Cognia Report:
 - a. The role of the Engagement Review Team is to gather first-hand information to evaluate your institution's performance against the Cognia Performance Standards:
 - Interview stakeholder groups
 - Review documentation provided
 - Observe and assess the quality of learning environments to gain insights about teaching and learning.
 - Key findings include belief in the mission and vision, relationships are a strength, and communication. Great staff support and strong onboarding process. Continuous focus on improvement journey is necessary.
 - 154 stakeholders were interviewed including students and teachers.
 - The evaluation team was very complimentary of the district at the end of the review. The Cognia report should be accessible within 30 days.

SGM Abraham Sexton expressed that he was very appreciative for the preparation, leadership, and time put in for this process. Great Job!

2. Superintendent Stapleton presented District Updates:

- a. Sarah Modugu, a tenth grader at Barnwell High School (BHS), will serve as Vice-President and Holly Thomas, an eleventh-grade BHS student, will be Secretary for the South Carolina Technology Student Association (SCTSA) this school year. The two students selected are 2 out of 7 in South Carolina.
- b. Facility improvements include new scoreboards at BHS football field and gym. The new digital school signs for GBMS and BHS are expected to arrive and be installed soon. New bleachers installed and floors redone at BHS gym. The area of the football field where the players enter was paved. Graphics have been added to the media room and athletic rooms at BHS.

3. Superintendent Stapleton presented COVID-19 Updates:

- a. It is the priority of the school board to support the staff throughout the pandemic. We are still facing many of the same challenges from last year.
- b. DHEC supports CDC's Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine approval for ages 5-11 and urges parents to get their children vaccinated. We are working with local providers to plan a clinic for our parents to take their children for vaccines.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

A. Actions

1. Approval of Staff Incentive

Superintendent Stapleton asked for approval of a one-time \$1000 staff incentive for full-time employees in good standing who are currently under contract to work the entire 2021-2022 school year. Also part-time employees and substitutes' incentive will be based on their specific work schedule. SRO Officers will also be included. If approved, we would like to issue the incentive before the Thanksgiving break.

Rosey Anderson, Chair and Felicia Devore, Vice-chair both abstained from voting because of a family member that would be receiving the incentive.

Motion to approve the one time staff incentive was made by Becky Huggins and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.

- 2. Motion made by SGM Abraham Sexton to move forward with the lawn care plan to move the districts' lawn care services within the school district and purchase the appropriate equipment and seconded by Becky Huggins.
- 3. Motion by Felicia Devore to schedule a special-called meeting between November 29th and December 10th determined by the recommendations and communication made with the school board and seconded by Becky Huggins.
- 4. Motion made by Becky Huggins for the approval and second reading of Policy JLDDB Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention and seconded by Felicia Devore.
- 5. Motion made by Felicia Devore for the approval and second reading of Policy GBEE Internet and Electronic Communication and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richardson— Thank you to our Veterans and to Mr. Sexton for your service, and thank you to everyone for their hard work preparing for Cognia.

Huggins- I would like to honor our Veterans. Thank you Mr. Sexton and all Veterans. Thank you to everyone in the district for your day to day hard work and for everything that you go above and beyond to do. I love seeing the school facility improvements. It makes me proud to be a part of this district.

Sexton- I appreciate all the staff for all your hard work with Cognia. I appreciate everything that everyone has done. I look forward to being able to visit the schools again and see our facilities. Thank you to the financial officer and to Mr. Moody, the IT Director, Thank you, as well.

Devore- Thank you to all the Veterans. The video tribute was touching. Thank you to everyone that participated in the Cognia process and thank you to Superintendent Stapleton and Dr. Wall for helping us prepare. Congratulations to our Varsity football team for making it to the second round of the playoffs.

Anderson- I had a teacher say to me that the people in this district are more than family and she's staying and it's good to hear that. I loved the Veterans video and really miss going into the schools. Congratulations to our football team for making it to the playoffs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for Executive Session.

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton at 6:46 p.m.

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Sexton