

## Minutes of the Special-Called Meeting of the Barnwell School District 45 Board of Trustees

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m., Monday, November 29, 2021

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

**PRESENT:**

**Board of Trustees:** 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; Holly Hutto, Chief Financial Officer; David M. Enzastiga, CPA

**Other:**

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 Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

#### A. Information

1. Mr. David M. Enzastiga, CPA presented the fiscal year 2021 Audit Report. The district currently has 3-4 months fund balance in reserve. The Food Service department is currently +268,753.00. There were no findings noted. The district has +4.7 million in federal funds.  
Motion made by Becky Huggins to approve the Fiscal year 2021 Audit Report and was seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

### ADVOCACY

### BASIC STRUCTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was a motion made to go into executive session for the superintendent's job performance evaluation. Motion to go into executive session made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson at 9:16 a.m.

Motion to exit executive session made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton at 11:02 a.m.

Felicia Devore, Vice-chair, read the Barnwell School District 45 Board of Trustees public statement for the annual job performance evaluation for Superintendent Crystal Stapleton in the absence of Chair, Rosey Anderson.

- This morning, the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session to conduct the annual job performance evaluation of Superintendent Crystal Stapleton.
- As Vice Chairperson, on behalf of my fellow Board Members, I wish to announce that Ms. Stapleton received an overall "Exemplary" performance evaluation.
- Ms. Stapleton is committed to the success of this District. The health and safety of staff and students continue to be a priority and the COVID-19 Dashboard is updated frequently to keep our staff, students, and families informed of the latest internal data including positive cases, quarantined individuals and isolations.

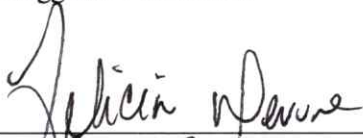
- We applaud the Superintendent for her focus on student achievement and initiatives to improve performance and address any academic learning loss caused by COVID-19. Under her leadership, the District has expanded STEM opportunities including Robotics, Artificial Intelligence Tutors, STEM labs, Coding, and specialized course offerings within a complete engineering pathway. Our students are graduating with enhanced academic, humanities and technical achievements.
- Ms. Stapleton has continued her emphasis on recruitment and retention. The District now has a number of partnerships with institutions of higher education such as University of South Carolina-Aiken for professional development school and intern certificates and Carolina CAP and Voorhees College for PRAXIS and alternative certification programs. The Superintendent actively solicits the involvement of staff members in decision making through teacher advisory councils, forums, and participation on numerous school and district teams. In addition, she continues to plan appreciation events and tokens of gratitude for our staff members to increase morale.
- My colleagues and I also want to commend Ms. Stapleton for promoting fiscal responsibility in this District and continuing to increase the District's general fund balance. Ms. Stapleton is constantly seeking innovative funding opportunities including grants for the new Star Academy, to combat childhood obesity initiative, to create a virtual lab at BHS, etc. She is regularly making recommendations to decrease the District Office's overhead costs by eliminating positions and restructuring the responsibilities all while increasing instructional positions in schools and program offerings for students.
- The Board continues to be impressed with the Superintendent's outstanding leadership and dedication to the education community and the community at-large. She graduated from Leadership South Carolina Class of 2021, was asked to be a member of the Advisory Board for the new Barnwell Innovation Center, serves on the Digital Economy Ecosystem Leadership Team for Barnwell County, and served as President of the Rotary Club of Barnwell County during 2020-21, among other things.

Becky Huggins made a motion to approve Superintendent Stapleton's overall exemplary performance evaluation which includes:

- A one-year extension to her contract, through June 20, 2027
- An increase of 3% for Mrs. Stapleton's annual annuity effective for the 2020-21 school year.
- An increase to the monthly automobile allowance by \$200.00
- Provisions for the payment of up to 3 classes toward her doctoral degree.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson. It was noted that Superintendent Stapleton declined to accept an increase in salary.

Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Becky Huggins at 11.06 a.m.

Vice Chair   
 Clerk 