

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

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 14, 2021

**PLACE:** Barnwell Schools Administrative Building Board Room 770 Hagood Ave., 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

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

**Other:** Jonathan Vickery, Newspaper

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

### OPENING BUSINESS

1. Mrs. Rosey Anderson, Chairman, called the meeting to order. SGM Abraham Sexton, Clerk, delivered the reflection. Mrs. 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.
2. The Board unanimously approved the agenda. Motion was made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Felicia Devore.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by Mrs. Becky Huggins and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

#### A. Information

1. FY'20 Audit Report – Mr. David M. Enzastiga, CPA. Superintendent Stapleton asked for approval of tonight's audit presentation for information. Motion for approval made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Mrs. Felicia Devore.
2. Superintendent Stapleton presented the district updates
  - a. Employee incentives were received by staff the week of 12/14/20. \$800 for full-time employees and \$100 for substitutes.
  - b. Board members were thanked for Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday meals
  - c. District employees were entered in a Christmas prize drawing. Thanks to the Class of 1995 for donating prizes.
  - d. School collections were donated for the Jenna Bodiford Toy Drive for the Children's Hospital of Georgia
  - e. Second grade teachers received ABii training. ABii will be implemented in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes with two tutors in each class.
  - f. Proposed 2020-21 calendar was presented with 3 make up days as a state requirement at the end of the year. The district will utilize eLearning if there's a weather day or unexpected day in the middle of the year.
  - g. FEMA update- prior to holiday break, the surveyors completed site survey. Additional surveyors visited Barnwell High School this week to answer any additional questions.
  - h. Reopening update- Total of 305 students (98 at Barnwell Primary School, 72 at Barnwell Elementary School, 55 at Guinyard Butler Middle School, and 80 at Barnwell High School) wish to return face Face from virtual 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.  
Plans are being finalized for Barnwell High School returning to 5 days a week.  
Total face-to face will be 1439- 71%.  
With any social distancing concerns, plexiglass will be utilized. With plexiglass, 3 feet distancing can be used instead of 6 feet, with masks being worn at all times.  
Barnwell High School second semester bell schedule will have earlier dismissal for face to face with a virtual period at the end of the day.

- i. Family First Coronavirus Relief Act (FFCRA) will be extended beyond the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline when it was set to expire.
- j. COVID-19 Testing- Governor McMaster and DHEC announced distribution of Abbott BinaxNovo rapid result COVID 19 test kits, but our district has refrained from COVID testing. **Phase 1a**-vaccine is for nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, and athletic trainers. Vaccines will be available locally at Aiken Regional Medical Center, Allendale County Hospital, and Orangeburg Regional Medical Center. **Phase 1b**- State Superintendent Molly Spearman has asked Governor McMaster to prioritize vaccinations for educators and support staff. As of December 14, 2020, there was no information on when Phase 1b would begin. Possible mobile vaccine units may be used in the future. DHEC and CDC has lessened quarantine period to 7-10 days depending on certain scenarios. Our district is continuing with the recommended CDC quarantine period of 14 days for all.
- k. Schools will notify DHEC of any reported cases that have been contagious while on campus. We will report to DHEC only positive cases that have been contagious while on campus.
- l. Virtual options for parents are still available. The district will work with families and provide them with all supplies and materials that are needed. There are 109 virtual students on temporary status and over 1,000 students returned to face-to-face on January 11, 2021. Safety measures are being revisited by administrators to make sure everyone understands the importance of safety when practicing face-to-face instruction.
- m. During the virtual week following the winter break, we would like to applaud food service, custodial staff, bus drivers, nurses, on-site staff at the schools and the district office staff. Thank you for all do.

#### B. Recognition

- 1. Superintendent Stapleton announced January as being School Board Appreciation Month.
  - 1. The School Board members were presented with tokens of appreciation from students, teachers, and administrators across the district and a video that Guinyard Butler Middle School created.
  - 2. The School Board Members were thanked for their support and commitment.
  - 3. The theme is "School Board Strong" and Superintendent Stapleton expressed appreciation for their leadership and impact on our staff, students, and community including and the great impact that the School Board Members have on the future of our students. They were thanked for always keeping the focus on what is best for our district.
- 2. Mrs. Rosey Anderson read the Ethical Principles from the SCSBA that guides their decisions and actions. Each School Board Member signed the Ethical Principles, and Superintendent Stapleton announced that the Ethical Principles will be framed and hung in the board room for the remainder of the school year.

#### ADVOCACY

#### BASIC STRUCTURE

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Anderson-** Mrs. Anderson expressed sincere appreciation for Superintendent Stapleton, staff, bus drivers, and custodians for doing their best to keep the schools and everyone safe. Thank you for the gifts and to Guinyard Butler Middle School for the video. Thank you for going above and beyond DHEC standards.

**Devore-** Mrs. Devore expressed her thanks to the food service staff, bus drivers, custodians, and nurses while being away from school but continuing to answer questions. Thank you for all you do.

**Sexton-** Mr. Sexton thanked Superintendent Stapleton and the District Office Staff and everyone for keeping the schools safe. Janitors, bus drivers, and whatever part you play-Thank you.

**Huggins-** Mrs. Huggins expressed how unfortunate it is that we have to keep having these COVID and safety measures conversations but thanked the custodians, staff, cafeteria staff and everyone who continues to keep the district operating. She thanked everyone for the gifts and read two thank you notes from the students at Barnwell Elementary School.

**Richardson-** Dr. Richardson thanked nurses first for having to learn the logistics of every employee at Barnwell School District 45, students, and parents. Thank you to class of 1995 for your donations, and to the administration, Dr. Wall, Superintendent Stapleton thank you for always keeping the board up-to-date and always being transparent with the COVID numbers. Thank you for going above and beyond what DHEC suggests. Thank you Mr. Burdge for the video. The School Board appreciates the public trust.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board unanimously approved a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. The motion made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Mrs. Becky Huggins.

The Board unanimously approved a motion to exit Executive Session at 7:57 p.m.

Mrs. Rosey Anderson announced that there was no action taken

The Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. Motion made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by Mrs. Felicia Devore at 8:02 p.m.

Chair Rosey Anderson

Clerk Abraham Sexton