



Barnwell School District 45

Innovation – Integrity – Investment – Community

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barnwell School District 45 Unveils Changes to the District’s Vision and Mission

Barnwell, S.C. October 1, 2021 – Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45) values continuous improvement. BSD45 works diligently to ensure all the schools, and the district as a whole, are moving toward accomplishing our shared vision.

On August 11, 2021, a team convened as part of the district’s cyclical review process, to work on the revision of the current vision and mission statements. The district held a series of planning sessions with parents, community members, faith-based leaders, stakeholders, and representatives from each school in the district who provided input into this process. During the sessions, this team reviewed the current statements, discussed the district’s goals and visions for the future, and created new statements that articulate the district's values.

These statements will serve as a compass for the daily operations within the district and its schools. This process begins during the strategic planning sessions each spring and concludes when the draft vision and mission statements are revised. Following the planning session, the district then shared a survey link through its website and Remind 101, a mobile text communication tool, to seek input from all stakeholders.

Finally, a team of school and district representatives convened to review all feedback and make final modifications. BSD45 adopted a new vision and mission statement while choosing to keep the core values the same.

Vision Statement: Where hearts are big and opportunities are great.

This vision statement reflects the values and beliefs of our school district, by challenging our staff, students, families, and community to not only put their hearts into the work the district does, but also to seek to provide the district’s students with increased opportunities academically, athletically, artistically, and socially. It paints a picture of what the internal and external stakeholders want the school district to be.

Mission Statement: As a district that seeks innovation, we are committed to preparing our students for college and career by engaging them in personalized opportunities in academics, athletics, the arts, and individual exploration through:

- *providing a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment*
- *empowering our students, staff, and community to build purposeful, positive relationships*
- *embracing our students' curiosities and interests as they write their own stories*
- *developing a foundation for lifelong learning built upon integrity, perseverance, fairness, respect, and pride*
- *encouraging our families in all aspects of educating our children*

BSD45 is committed to ensuring all students have the individualized learning experiences they need to be successful in life. Staff, students, parents, and community members, are committed to equipping our students with the knowledge, skill, and character to succeed. BSD45 provides a high-quality education, designed to reach and teach all students and to prepare them for a successful future in our rapidly changing world. The district seeks to develop student responsibility, self-confidence, ingenuity, passion, and strong academic and social skills for lifelong learning. The district expects students to demonstrate continuous improvement on all performance indicators and in all core academic areas, asking the schools to provide an aligned curriculum that addresses important academic content and utilizes instructional strategies that reflect best practices to engage students in the learning process.

During our previous planning process for the district's vision and mission, our internal and external stakeholders spent many sessions envisioning our shared goal for BSD45's future and, in doing this, determined four core values. After many revisions and feedback rounds, our district core values were chosen:

Innovation: *In Barnwell School District 45, we understand that change is constant, and we must be willing to embrace change. We seek new and innovative opportunities that allow us to provide our students with challenging and rewarding experiences.*

Integrity: *In Barnwell School District 45, we strive to exemplify integrity in all we do. It is our priority to be fair, just, and honest and to allow our strong moral principles to guide the decisions we make.*

Investment: *In Barnwell School District 45, we know the investments of our staff, our students, our families, and our community are what make us strong. We believe that every student can be successful and that these investments will allow our school district to reach new levels of success.*

Community: *In Barnwell School District 45, we believe that community involvement plays an essential role in the success of our schools. Our school district is committed to not only improving family engagement in schools, but also expanding engagement beyond the family, to the community in general. Working as a community focused on our community's children will allow us to reach new heights.*

BSD45 leaders ensure all annual strategic planning sessions are centered around the district's vision, mission, and core values. "The central question asked throughout those meetings and planning sessions is, 'What is best for all of the students in Barnwell School District 45?'," says Superintendent Crissie Stapleton. This question is echoed throughout the entire planning process. Guiding questions in the areas of student achievement, teacher and administrator quality, and school climate are used to ensure all expectations in planning are met. Stapleton states, "These specific protocols and guidelines allow us to embody our purpose through the programs we offer at all levels, and the high expectations set for all of our students."