

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

TIME: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 9, 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

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

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. Dr. Rhett Richardson 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 Felicia Devore and seconded by Dr. Rhett Richardson.
3. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Motion was made by SGM Abraham Sexton and seconded by Felicia Devore.
4. There was no hearing of the public.

ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Recognition

1. Superintendent Stapleton thanked Anderson Oil Company for their continued support with the Barnwell School District 45 Spirit Pump. A check was recently presented to the school district in the amount of \$5530.58. Last year's funding was allocated for the arts programs within our district. This year we will be collecting the funds in a general account and determine the best way to utilize them.

B. Information

1. Superintendent Stapleton presented district updates:
 - a. The School Board's Welcome Back collage photo was shared with the SCSBA and added to our district website.
 - b. The silent bid auction was a success with all items being sold although none were operational. A thank you goes to CFO, Holly Hutto for leading the auction process.
 - c. We started sending press releases each week through a new email called "Barnwell Warhorses."
 - d. We welcome Mr. John Hilton to our transportation department. He had a wonderful first week riding bus routes, analyzing the bus financial records, and revisiting our current procedures and protocols.
 - e. We are continuing with the Cognia accreditation process of doing our self-assessments. Each school has a Cognia lead who is working on the school-level self-assessments and adding narratives and evidence to the online portal.
 - f. We established a Barnwell School District 45 District Advisory Team during the 2017-2018 school year to focus on three different domains: Teaching and Learning Impact, Leadership Capacity, and Resource Utilization. Through their service on this team, the advisory team members help our district determine our strengths, as well as determine our areas for improvement. The first meeting of the 2021-2022 District Advisory Team was held August 30, 2021.

- g. Maurice Austin, a graduate of Barnwell High School Class of 1987 has founded an organization called Maurice's Treasure Box. This week his organization donated book bags and notebook paper to Barnwell Primary School.
 - h. For our sports update, our tennis team is currently 1-1, Varsity volleyball is 2-0 and 1-0 in region play, JV volleyball is 1-1, and Varsity football is 2-1. Cross Country has their first meet on Saturday, and JV and Middle School football have their first games on 9/23.
 - i. We received OSF approval from FEMA. Tetra Tech is preparing to submit for FEMA approval to begin Phase 2 and the cost analysis is being finalized.
 - j. We had \$400,000.00 awarded for our implementation of the STAR Academy. STAR Academy is an all-inclusive "school-within-a-school" intervention program that educates and elevates students (typically 7th-9th grades) who have failed one or more grade or are at risk of failing. The expert-built program pairs hands-on learning experiences with social-emotionally-based teaching methods, resulting in many students earning up to two grade-level promotions in one year.
 - k. Multiple stakeholder representatives met virtually Wednesday, August 11th for our review of the district's vision and mission statements. We then shared a survey link on our district website and through Remind 101 to seek input from all stakeholders. The Superintendent shared the revised vision and mission.
 - l. The Stakeholders chose to keep the core values the same during the revision process. Our Barnwell School District 45 Core Values are:
 - Innovation: we understand that change is constant and must be willing to embrace change.
 - Integrity: we strive to exemplify integrity in all we do.
 - Investment: we know the investments of our staff, our students, our families, and our community are what makes us strong.
 - Community: we believe that community involvement plays an essential role in the success of our schools.
2. Superintendent Stapleton presented COVID-19 Update:
- a. School Reporting: Once a week by noon on Mondays, the number of persons quarantined and isolated will be reported both to DHEC and our online Dashboard.
 - b. The COVID-19 Information Page and Covid-19 Dashboard will be updated weekly. The data reported will also be adjusted to include the newest required DHEC reporting criteria.
 - c. COVID-19 Guidelines will include following DHEC's protocols and recommendations regarding any illness or positive COVID-19 test.
 - d. 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 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.
 - e. DHEC continues to emphasize the importance of vaccinations, and we want our families to have vaccination clinics available. Mr. Dewayne Eubanks has been assisting us with these plans as the regional vaccination liaison.

ADVOCACY

BASIC STRUCTURE

A. Actions

1. Certification of Delegates for the 2021 Delegates Assembly. The delegate named was SGM Abraham Sexton and Felicia Devore was named as the alternate delegate.
2. First Reading of Revisions to Policy EBCB Safe Drills
3. First Reading of Revisions to Policy IHAC Social Studies Education
4. First Reading of Revisions to Policy GBGA Staff Health

Motion for approval of first reading of policy revisions. Motion for approval made by Dr. Rhett Richardson and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richardson— Thank you to Maurice Austin, Mrs. Stapleton, and Dr. Wall. Thank you to all the staff for your hard work during COVID and making sure that the district stays safe and continues to stay up and running.

Huggins- Thank you for everyone's hard work and support.

Sexton- Thanks to everyone for the donations and Mrs. Stapleton for the great leadership. Thanks to Maurice and please let him know the appreciation. I would like to welcome Mr. John Hilton as the new transportation supervisor. Thank you Mrs. Stapleton for the FEMA update. The grants and donations that are received come from having wonderful leadership. Thank you to the financial director- job well done. Thank you to Jonathan Vickery and to my fellow board members.

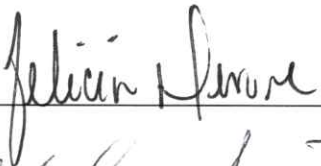
Devore- I would like to say thank you to Anderson Oil Company for the donation. Thank you to Maurice Austin who does wonderful things for a lot of people and to Mr. Dwayne Eubanks for the great job with the vaccination clinic. Hopefully you will continue to get a great turnout. Welcome to Mr. Hilton in your new position as transportation supervisor. These are difficult times and I want to thank you all for your hard work.

Anderson- Thank you to the staff and I appreciate the community's support during this time. Also, thank you the BHS alumni Tracy Hallingquest for his generous donation to the JV volleyball team. Please keep the Beasley family in your prayers and continue to lift them up. Thank you to Mrs. Stapleton and Dr. Wall for always staying so positive.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for Executive Session.

The Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting. The motion was made by Felicia Devore and seconded by SGM Abraham Sexton at 7:53 p.m.

Vice Chair 
Clerk 