

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg Ehrhardt High School
July 19, 2021
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair John Hiers, Secretary Tony E. Duncan, Trustee Gwendolyn Dianne Bamberg, and Trustee Naomi Eckels.

Absent: None.

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair Janeth Walker called the meeting to order.

Notice to Media: In accordance with the S. C. Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, Section 30-4-80(E), The Times and Democrat Newspaper, The Bamberg County Leader, and the Bamberg School District One Website have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Secretary Tony Duncan moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
3. **Approval of Minutes for June 28, 2021**
Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to accept the June 28, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
4. **School Reports: Chastity Evans, Denise L. Miller, and Dennis R. Ulmer.**
Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principal)
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School –Principal Chastity Evans
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Dennis Ulmer
5. **Athletic Report: Robert Williams**
In the absence of Coach Robert Williams, Principal Dennis Ulmer reviewed the athletic report as presented. [Board Packet Enclosure]
6. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent's Report**
Superintendent Brown noted the following:
 - a) **Recognition/Introduction – Dr. Deonia Simmons, Ms. Edrie Breeland and Dr. Chastity Evans**
Superintendent Brown introduced Dr. Deonia Simmons as the new, shared Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Edrie Breeland as the new Administrative Assistant and Dr. Chastity Evans as the new Elementary School Principal at Richard Carroll Elementary School.
 - b) **School Board Member Recognition**
Superintendent Brown recognized and presented Trustee Naomi Eckels with SCSBA's Certificate of Achievement Award for achieving Level 1 in the Boardmanship Institute Training Program.

c) **South Carolina Department of Education Memorandums**

Superintendent Brown noted the summary of all of the South Carolina Department of Education Memorandums and briefly reviewed each one.

Mrs. Brown introduced an email to the board from Betsy Carpentier encouraging Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two to apply for additional funding which has been identified for schools that are consolidating. Mrs. Brown noted that districts further along in the process of consolidation and who have submitted their applications, will be given first priority to the additional funding. [Handout]

Mrs. Brown noted final CDC Guidance is forthcoming from DHEC regarding rules and regulations about mask wearing and social distancing for reopening of the 2021-2022 school year.

Mrs. Brown noted the SCDE will not be providing hotspots for school districts for the 2021-2022 school year. Mrs. Brown further noted hotspots will be written into the district's ESSER Grant, as it is a great need in the community.

Mrs. Brown addressed SCDE's memorandum regarding Proviso 1.108 and noted districts can encourage mask wearing on buses and in buildings, but could not mandate mask wearing.

d) **Federal Patent Trademark-Bamberg School District One**

Mrs. Brown congratulated Athletic Director Robert Williams, Bamberg School District One's athletic department and the District in being one of the first districts in the United States to receive a federal patent on its school logo.

e) **Update: COVID-19**

The District has a 0% positivity rate of COVID 19 cases.

f) **South Carolina Department of Education – Special Education District Profile**

Superintendent Brown introduced and reviewed the district's 2019-2020 Special Education District Profile. Mrs. Brown noted, according to the report, the district has no remediation plans or corrective actions to perform. [Handout]

7. **Consolidation Updates**

Superintendent Brown did not note any consolidation updates.

8. **Shared Services Update**

Superintendent Brown noted that Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two are continuing to use shared services with technology, finance, and food service. Mrs. Brown further noted, beginning July 1, 2021, shared services began with the superintendent and deputy superintendent. Mrs. Brown advised that district office staff have been and are currently in the process of moving employees to a centralized location.

9. **Second Reading – Updated Policies:**
a. Policy GCC/GCD – Staff Leaves and Absences (Revised)

Superintendent Brown presented Policy GCC/GCD for second reading.

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Secretary Tony Duncan seconded to approve for second reading of Policy GCC/GCD – Staff Leaves and Absences (Revised) as presented. The motion passed 5-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Visitors' Comments**

Mr. Ken Ahlin made a statement regarding community involvement with respect to consolidation and the lack thereof. Mr. Ahlin advised there are still a lot of unknowns regarding the bond debt and everything else associated with consolidation. Mr. Ahlin stated a better job needed to be done regarding the questions and answers. Mr. Ken Ahlin further stated the State Department is moving money around and enticing districts to consolidate which tends to become less about the children.

11. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. **Secretary Tony Duncan moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to enter Executive Session.** The motion carried (5-0).

Board Chair Janeth Walker noted that the Board would be moving into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Recommendation for Resignations, Personnel Recommendations for Hires, and Student Transfer Requests.

Open session: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

12. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded for the Board to approve Agenda Item 11 (a) Personnel Recommendation for Resignations for employee #1 and Agenda Item 11 (b) Personnel Recommendations for Hires for employees #1 and #2, and Agenda Item 11 (c) Student Transfer Requests for students #1, #2, and #3 as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

13. **Adjourn**

Secretary Tony Duncan moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary