

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Special Called Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
February 23, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair Beverly P. Bonaparte, Secretary Tonie A. Holman, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Harriet Coker, Trustee John Hiers, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom J. Thompson.

Absent: Trustee Naomi Eckels.

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, WIIZ 97.9 FM, WBSC-LP 102.3 FM, and the Bamberg County School District website have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0.
3. **Draft: 2023-2024 School Calendar (Action if Needed)**
Superintendent Brown reviewed for first reading four different calendar options for the 2023-2024 School Calendar on which the board would need to decide. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Dr. Brown presented the four calendar options as follows:

Option A – Traditional Calendar

This calendar option would align with prior school year calendars with no change.

Option B – Traditional Calendar with an earlier start date.

This calendar option would provide an earlier start date, would allow summer school to start earlier, and the end of the first semester would conclude prior to winter break, which would help with exam and EOC test scores.

Option C – 9-1 Calendar (Modified)

This calendar option would allow forty-five days of instruction followed by one intercession week. The intercession week would allow for small group instruction, address student needs, and address teacher burnout.

Option D – 9-2 Calendar (Modified)

This calendar option would allow forty-five days of instruction followed by one intercession week and one week for teachers and students to have a break with no instruction. The intercession week would allow for one week of academic, small group instruction followed by one week for mental/physical break for teachers and students.

After a lengthy discussion and hearing each board member's thoughts, a motion was made.

Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to accept and approve the 2023-2024 Option C School Calendar for first reading. The motion passed 8-0.

4. **Second Reading – BCSD Policy – Section G – Personnel:**

- a. GCLE – Unencumbered Time
- b. GCLE-R – Unencumbered Time

Superintendent Brown presented policies GCLE and GCLE-R for second reading.

After brief discussion, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve for second reading of Policies GCLE – Unencumbered Time and GCLE-R – Unencumbered Time.** The motion passed 8-0.
[Board Packet Enclosures]

5. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trip:**

- a. Denmark-Olar Girls Varsity Basketball Team – Upper State Championship -- Greenville, SC – February 24, 2023-February 25, 2023 (Jarvis Littlejohn, Assistant Athletic Director)

Following a review of the request for an overnight trip, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve the request from Assistant Athletic Director Jarvis Littlejohn for the Denmark-Olar Girls Varsity Basketball Team to attend the Upper State Championship February 24, 2023-February 25, 2023 in Greenville, SC.** The motion passed 8-0.

Prior to adjournment of the meeting, Dr. Brown briefly addressed the potential bomb threat risk to Richard Carroll Elementary School earlier in the day. Dr. Brown advised that the threat was treated as a credible threat and that proper procedures were followed. Dr. Brown thanked faculty, city police officers, and school resource officers for a phenomenal job in relocating the students and staff in record time. Dr. Brown further thanked the parents for picking up kids in an organized manner.

6. **Adjourn**

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

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

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Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary