

**Bamberg County School District  
Board of Trustees Board Retreat  
Bamberg County School District Office  
March 8, 2025  
10:00 a.m.**

**Members present:** Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair Naomi Eckels, Secretary Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Jeni Bunch, Trustee Harriet H. Coker, Trustee David Corder, Trustee Tonya A. Sanders-Govan, and Trustee Cathy Ayer Griffin.

**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, 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. **Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

**Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 9-0.

4. **Discussion of Calendar (Action Needed)**

Dr. Dottie Brown revisited the 2024-2025 District Calendar with the Board. She informed the Board that the district was required to close on March 5, 2025, due to high winds and concerns surrounding bus safety. Dr. Brown further explained that she had contacted the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to explore options for making up the missed school day. The SCDE indicated that, with Board approval, the district’s early release day on March 25, 2025, could be converted into a full instructional day to compensate for the closure on March 5, 2025. This adjustment would leave April 18, 2025, available to be used as a make-up day in the event of any further unforeseen closures.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee David Corder moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to approve extending March 25, 2025, from an early release day to a full instructional day in order to make up for the school closure on March 5, 2025.** The motion passed 9-0

5. **Board Development Presentation: Boykin & Davis, LLC**

Charles J. Boykin, Tierney F. Goodwyn, and Anyah Barber, attorneys with Boykin & Davis, LLC, conducted a presentation to the Board regarding the roles and responsibilities of a school board member. The presentation covered the various roles and functions of a board member, as well as the limitations and decision-making processes of the school board. Additionally, they discussed the South Carolina Ethics Act, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Board Privilege, and Board Member Liability.

During the presentation, board members had the opportunity to discuss in detail their reasons for running for their board seats, how they plan to accomplish their goals, the importance of each of their goals, and how the district can become stronger and more successful in achieving these objectives.

6. **Superintendent Search Process: Boykin & Davis, LLC**

Charles J. Boykin, Tierney F. Goodwyn, and Anyah Barber, attorneys with Boykin & Davis, LLC, extended their presentation by providing a detailed overview of the Superintendent Search Process. This discussion covered the steps involved, including advertising the opening, screening candidates, narrowing down the pool of applicants, conducting first and second rounds of interviews, holding a community forum, selecting a candidate, and negotiating a contract offer.

7. **Executive Session**

**Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee David Corder seconded, the motion to enter Executive Session. The motion carried 9-0.**

Board Chair Janeth Walker noted that the Board would be moving into Executive Session to discuss Personnel: Qualifications for Superintendent and Legal Advice on Superintendent Search.

**Open session: Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee David Corder seconded, the motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 9-0.**

8. **Action on Executive Session Items (if needed)**

**Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded the motion to accept and approve Agenda Item 7(b), Legal Advice on the Superintendent Search, to announce the superintendent vacancy and move forward with the superintendent search. The motion passed 9-0.**

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 7(a) Personnel: Qualifications for Superintendent.

9. **Adjourn**

**Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Board of Trustees Board Retreat Minutes

Page 3 of 3

March 8, 2025

Minutes approved:

---

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

---

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary