

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
April 7, 2025
6:00 p.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:** Vice Chair Naomi Eckels 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 Cathy Griffin seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0. [Board Chair Janeth Walker was not present at the time of the vote.]

4. **Approval of Minutes for March 3, 2025, March 8, 2025, and March 24, 2025.**

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, to accept the March 3, 2025, March 8, 2025, and March 24, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 8-0. [Board Chair Janeth Walker was not present at the time of the vote.]

[Board Chair Janeth Walker arrived at the meeting at 6:06 p.m.]

5. **Legal update on Superintendent Search**

Tienery Goodwyn, attorney with Boykin & Davis, provided an update regarding the superintendent search. Ms. Goodwyn reported that surveys had been distributed and several applications had already been received. Applications will be accepted through April 14, 2025.

Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed that additional outreach would be conducted to encourage participation in the superintendent survey. Notices will be shared via district marquees and automated phone calls.

6. **School Reports: Dr. Shannon Johnson, Dr. Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, Dr. Deonia Simmons, Mandy Edwards, Denise Miller, and Jordan Smith. Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principals)**

- Denmark-Olar Elementary School –Principal Dr. Shannon Johnson
- Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Dr. Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
- Denmark-Olar High School Principal – Principal Dr. Deonia Simmons
- Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith

7. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

Assistant Superintendent Denny Ulmer reviewed the athletic report as presented for Bamberg County School District in the absence of Athletic Director Robert Williams. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Mr. Ulmer congratulated the Denmark-Olar High School Viking Basketball Team on their State Championship victory. He further recognized Coach Hercules Davis for his outstanding leadership and for being selected as the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association (SCACA) Coach of the Year.

8. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown recognized the Denmark-Olar High School boys' basketball team for winning the Class 1A State Championship and extended thanks to the coaches, players, parents, and fans for their continued support. She also congratulated Coach Hercules Davis for being named the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year.
- b) Dr. Brown addressed a memorandum from the South Carolina Department of Education regarding the Subrecipient Risk Assessment. Bamberg County School District received an overall risk score of 14, which is classified as low risk. She expressed appreciation to Finance Director Devon Furr and Federal Programs Coordinator Dr. Rhonda Ray for their efforts in achieving this commendable rating. [Handout provided]
- c) Dr. Brown provided an update on district enrollment, reporting a total of 1,800 students as of April 2, 2025.
- d) Dr. Brown concluded her report by informing the Board of a request from the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA) to celebrate the Class of 2025. The Board was invited to participate in a photo opportunity with the SCSBA's "Congrats 2025 Grads" sign.

9. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trips:**

- a. **Denmark-Olar High School Gear Up (9th & 10th Grade) – Six Flags Over Georgia – Austell, GA -- April 18, 2025 (Alexandria Tobin, Gear Up Advisor)**
- b. **BEHS Golf Team – State Golf Tournament – Chester, SC – May 12, 2025-May 13, 2025 Mary Templeton, Golf Coach)**

- c. **Denmark-Olar High School Gear Up (9th & 10th Grade) – Charlotte Motor Speedway/Concord Mills Mall – Concord, NC – May 27, 2025 (Alexandria Tobin, Gear Up Advisor)**
- d. **Denmark-Olar JROTC – Tour of Naval and Maritime Museum -- Mt. Pleasant, SC – May 1, 2025-May 2, 2025 (MSG Phillip Robinson, JROTC Instructor)**
- e. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School CTE/FCA/FFA – Carowinds – Charlotte, NC – May 29, 2025 (Kathy Summers, Family & Consumer Science Instructor)**
- f. **Embroidery & More Conference – Alpharetta, GA – May 2, 2025- May 3, 2025 (Professional Development Request by Kathy Summers, Family & Consumer Science Instructor)**
- g. **ISTELive 25 – San Antonio, TX – June 29, 2025-July 2, 2025 (Professional Development Requested by Charlotte Schlamp, Instructional Technology Coach)**

Following a review of the requests for out of state/overnight trips, **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded, the motion to approve the following trip requests as presented:**

- **Denmark-Olar High School GEAR UP** – Request by GEAR UP Advisor Alexandria Tobin for students to attend Six Flags in Austell, Georgia, on April 18, 2025, and the Charlotte Motor Speedway/Concord Mills Mall in Concord, North Carolina, on May 27, 2025.
- **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Golf Team** – Request by Golf Coach Mary Templeton for students to attend the State Golf Tournament in Chester, South Carolina, from May 12–13, 2025.
- **Denmark-Olar High School JROTC** – Request by JROTC Instructor MSG Phillip Robinson for students to tour the Naval and Maritime Museum in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, from May 1–2, 2025.
- **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School CTE/FCA/FFA** – Request by Family and Consumer Science Instructor Kathy Summers for students to attend Carowinds in Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 29, 2025.
- **Professional Development – Embroidery & More Conference** – Request by Kathy Summers, Family and Consumer Science Instructor, to attend the conference in Alpharetta, Georgia, from May 2–3, 2025.
- **Professional Development – ISTELive 25 Conference** – Request by Instructional Technology Coach Charlotte Schlamp to attend the conference in San Antonio, Texas, from June 29–July 2, 2025.

The motion passed 9-0.

10. **Approval: 2025-2026 School Calendar**

Superintendent Brown presented the 2025-2026 draft calendar for the second reading.

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to accept the 2025-2026 draft calendar for second reading, as presented. The motion carried 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

11. **Second Reading – BCSD Policy – Section I – Instruction:**

a. IKE – Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students (Revision)

Dr. Brown presented policy IKE for second reading.

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Vice Chair Naomi Eckels seconded, to accept the second reading of Policy IKE – Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students, as presented. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

12. **Monthly Financial Report**

Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2024-2025 as of March 2025, for review. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Trustee David Corder moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded the motion to accept and approve the Financial Report for March 2025, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

13. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

14. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Jeni Bunch 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 Employment/Personnel Matters Related to: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, and Matters Related to Release of Students.

Open session: Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg 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.

15. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded the motion to accept and approve Agenda Item 14(a)(1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, and p; Agenda Item 14(a)(2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employees a, b, c, d, e, and f; and

Agenda Item 14(b) To Discuss Matters Related to Release of Students for students 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. The motion passed 9-0.

16. **Adjourn**

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee David Corder seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary