

**Bamberg County School District**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Bamberg County School District Office**  
**December 4, 2023**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair John L. Hiers, Secretary Tonie A. Holman, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Beverly Bonaparte, Trustee Harriet Coker, Trustee Naomi Eckels, and Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst.

**Absent:** Trustee Blossom Thompson.

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**

**Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 7-0. [Trustee Naomi Eckels had not arrived]

4. **Approval of Minutes for November 6, 2023**

**Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to accept the November 6, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with a minor change to spacing on page 2.** The motion passed 7-0. [Trustee Naomi Eckels had not arrived]

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

- Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Principal Rhonda Ray
- Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
- Denmark-Olar High School – Principal Deonia Simmons
- Richard Carroll Elementary School – Interim Principal Mandy Edwards
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith

Superintendent Dottie Brown presented all school reports in the absence of principals. Dr. Brown recognized several students at Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School for their artwork being chosen to be displayed at the SC State Fair in October.

6. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

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

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown advised that the district had received funding in the amount of \$505,650.00 for a Safety Grant applied for by Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr, Technology Director Ricky Padgett, and Phyllis Overstreet. Dr. Brown thanked them for their hard work in applying for and receiving the grant funding. Dr. Brown further advised this funding would be used for additional cameras, metal detectors, and window film for Denmark-Olar schools.
- b) Dr. Brown continued with a summary of the enrollment data as of December 4, 2023, advising the total number of student enrollment across the district was 1,760.

8. **Review and Approval of Strategic/School Renewal Plans**

Dr. Brown reviewed the District Strategic Plan, advising stakeholder review and parent meetings had been held pursuant to the guidelines and that the plans were based on student achievement, teacher quality, school climate surveys along with many other factors. After a review of the Strategic/School Renewal Plans, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the Strategic/School Renewal Plans as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.

The board thanked the principals, committees, School Improvement Councils, Parent Teacher Organizations, and parents for their diligence and hard work in getting the plans finalized.

9. **Second Reading – BCSD New Policies – Section G:**

- a. GBEBE – Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Staff)

Superintendent Brown presented policy GBEBE for second reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve for second reading of Policy GBEBE – Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Staff) with the addition of language incorporated from policy JICFB.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Second Reading – BCSD New Policies – Section J:**

- a. JICFB – Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Student)

Superintendent Brown presented policy JICFB for second reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve for second reading of Policy JICFB – Gavin's Law (Sexual Extortion) (Student).** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

11. **Discussion of Use of Tennis Court & Recondition Fees (Action If Needed)**

Dr. Brown advised after a follow-up meeting with Mayor Nancy Foster and City Clerk Robin Chavis, the City is requesting Bamberg County School District to pay for the entire amount needed to resurface the tennis courts. In accordance with the school district's

procurement policy, Dr. Brown informed the board that the district must obtain more quotes and would work to see if there were any state contractors who can do the work for a cheaper rate. Once this has been accomplished, everything would be brought back before the board again for a decision. Dr. Brown also suggested when that time came, that it would be in the school's best interest for a written agreement to be drawn up between the school and the City regarding future repairs to the tennis courts.

12. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2023-2024 as of November 2023, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Ms. Furr made note that the Bamberg County School District audit had been submitted and that Auditor Neal Crider would be present at the January 2024 meeting to present the audit. Ms. Furr further noted that this was the first audit for the consolidated district.

**Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to accept the Financial Report for November 2023, as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.

13. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

14. **Executive Session**

**Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to enter Executive Session.** The motion carried 8-0.

Board Chair Janeth Walker noted that the Board would be moving into Executive Session to discuss Employment/Personnel: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, Discussion of Personnel Matters, Discussion of Release of Students, and Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property.

**Open session: Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting.** The motion carried 8-0.

15. **Action on Executive Session Items**

**Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve Agenda Item 14 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employee a and Agenda Item 14 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a.** The motion passed 8-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 14 (a) (3) Discussion of Personnel Matters, Agenda Item 14 (b) Discussion of Release of Students, and Agenda Item 14 (c) Contractual Matters Regarding: (1) Incidental to Potential Sale of Property as there were no recommendations at this time.

16. **Adjourn**  
**Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Janeth Walker, Board Chair

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Tonie A. Holman, Secretary