

Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
June 10, 2024
6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Trustee Harriet Coker

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 Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes for May 6, 2024**
Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the May 6, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 8-0.
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.

6. **Truancy Report/Update: Denise Robinson-Crosby**
Superintendent Dottie Brown reviewed the truancy report as presented for Bamberg County School District in the absence of Truancy Officer Denise Robinson-Crosby. [Board Packet Enclosure]

7. **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]

Dr. Brown thanked Dr. Charles Gaillard for his continued support by administering free physicals for Bamberg County School District athletes.

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown congratulated students, Laila Kearsse and QuaNaë Raysor of Denmark-Olar Middle School and Kanaz Wroten of Bamberg Ehrhardt Middle School for receiving the 2024 GoSciTech Scholar Award. Dr. Brown advised they were among twelve rising 8th graders from Allendale, Bamberg, Hampton, and Jasper counties chosen by their schools to receive full scholarships to participate in the SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics Outreach Center's GoSciTech Residential Camp summer program.
- b) Dr. Brown further congratulated Federal Programs Coordinator Mallie Shaw and Technology Coach Charlotte Schlamp (with the help of Mandy Edwards, Ann Boykin, and Kelli Sanders) in being approved for the High-Intensity Tutoring Pilot Project through the SCDE. Dr. Brown stated these ladies applied for the program by submitting a funding application to implement or expand high-intensity tutoring and that the total amount awarded to Bamberg County School District for the 2024-2025 school year is \$578,880.00. Dr. Brown advised more information regarding this program is forthcoming.
- c) Dr. Brown continued by recognizing, Ms. Amy Ridgeway, Richard Carroll Elementary School Media Specialist, for being the recipient of the 2024 Sally Scholar's Grant. Dr. Brown announced the funds from this grant will allow RCES to purchase language transmitters to serve as real-time language interpretation and communication devices for students who speak little to no English.
- d) Dr. Brown extended a sincere thank you to Mrs. Tracy Golden, Nu Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Savannah Creek Baptist Church, Trinity U.M. Church, Pilgrim Baptist Church, Bushy Pond Baptist Church, Union Baptist Church, Glam Shak of Atlanta, GA, Tri-County Health Network, Absolute Total Care, and Southeastern Housing for their partnership in providing 1,167 Childhood Hunger Initiative Power Packs (aka CHIPP) for students in Bamberg County School District. Dr. Brown further thanked Kevin Crosby, Jasmine Medlin, and Lindsay Toomer for coordinating the pickups and deliveries of the power packs.
- e) Dr. Brown continued with a summary of the enrollment data as of May 29, 2024 advising the total number of student enrollment across the district was 1,781.

- f) Dr. Brown informed that Bamberg County School District candidate filing for school board seats 1, 4, 5, 7, 8 (at large) will open Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. and will close Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. Dr. Brown informed that a candidate filing notice will run in the Bamberg Leader and will be posted on the county website prior to the filing period and Statements of Intention of Candidacy must be signed by the candidate in person at the Bamberg County Voter Registration & Elections Office. Dr. Brown further informed that the approved House Bill 5321 has been signed by the Governor.
- g) Dr. Brown concluded by presenting the board with a last minute request for an out-of-state professional development trip request: Making Schools Work Conference – Nashville, TN – July 9, 2024-July 12, 2024 (Professional Development requested by Dena Hartzog, BEHS School to Work Counselor). [Handout]

Following a review of the request for an out-of-state professional development trip, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the request of BEHS School to Work Counselor, Dena Hartzog, to attend the Making Schools Work Conference in Nashville, TN, July 9, 2024-July 12, 2024.** The motion passed 8-0.

- 9. **First Reading – BCSD Policy Updates – Section B:**
 - a. **BBB – Board Membership/Elections**
 - b. **BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies**

Superintendent Brown presented policies BBB and BBE for first reading.

After brief discussion, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve for first reading of Policies BBB – Board Membership/Elections and BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

- 10. **First Reading – BCSD Policy Updates/New Policies – Section E:**
 - a. **EBCB – Safety Plans and Drills**
 - b. **EBCB-R – Safety Plans and Drills**
 - c. **EBCB-E(1) – Monthly Self-Assessment**
 - d. **EBCB-E(2) – School Fire Drill Report**

Superintendent Brown presented policies EBCB, EBCB-R, EBCB-E(1), and EBCB-E(2) for first reading.

- a. After brief discussion, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Tonie Holman seconded to approve for first reading of Policies EBCB – Safety Plans and Drills, EBCB-R – Safety Plans and Drills, EBCB-E(1) – Monthly Self-Assessment, and EBCB-E(2) – School Fire Drill Report – Board Membership/Elections and BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies with changes in language to EBCB and EBCB-R.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

11. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trips:**
 - a. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School EMC Afterschool Sublimation – Splash in the Boro – Statesboro, GA – June 7, 2024 (Kathy Hunt, Advisor)**
 - b. **Denmark-Olar High School Varsity Basketball Team – Basketball Team Camp – Rock Hill, SC – June 13, 2024-June 14, 2024 (Terence Jones, Basketball Coach)**
 - c. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team – Basketball Team Camp – Rock Hill, SC – June 13, 2024-June 14, 2024 (Candace Jones, Basketball Coach)**
 - d. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team – Basketball Team Camp – Charleston, SC – June 21, 2024-June 22, 2024 (Candace Jones, Basketball Coach)**
 - e. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Varsity Volleyball Team – Volleyball Camp – Spartanburg, SC – July 9, 2024-July 11, 2024 (Lauren Etheridge, Volleyball Coach)**

Following a review of the requests for out of state/overnight trips, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the request from Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School advisor, Kathy Hunt, for the EMC Afterschool Sublimation to attend Splash in the Boro in Statesboro, GA on June 7, 2024; the request of Basketball Coach, Terence Jones for the Denmark-Olar High School Varsity Basketball Team to attend a basketball team camp in Rock Hill, SC, June 13, 2024-June 14, 2024; both requests of Basketball Coach, Candace Jones, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team to attend the basketball team camps in Rock Hill, SC, June 13, 2024-June 14, 2024 and Charleston, SC, June 21, 2024-June 22, 2024; and the request of Volleyball Coach, Lauren Etheridge, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Varsity Volleyball Team to attend a volleyball camp in Spartanburg, SC, July 9, 2024-July 11, 2024.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

12. **Discussion: 2024-2025 Budget**

Handout: FY 2024-2025 Budget and Salary Scales

Chief Finance Officer Devon Furr advised the 2024-2025 budget was based on the House version of the budget, which still has not been passed. Ms. Furr presented copies of the teacher salary scale based on approved legislative changes, options for classified staff salary scales, and occupational therapist and psychologist salary scales. However, Ms. Furr advised after looking at the classified staff salary scale options, she advised the district would have to stay with the original scale presented during the budget work session on May 29, 2024. Ms. Furr advised eleven positions were still being held in the budget should other staff become hired in these positions. Ms. Furr further advised state legislators were beginning to look at district's fund balances as they believe some are too high. Ms. Furr again advised that the district is not eligible to set the millage since the SC Department of Revenue currently has that authority. Ms. Furr requested having the public hearing and final approval of the 2024-2025 budget in July.

After a review of the 2024-2025 Budget and the information presented, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve first reading of the 2024-2025 Budget.** The motion passed 8-0.

13. **2024-2025 Continuing Resolution (Action Needed)**

Chief Finance Officer Devon Furr requested the board to pass a continuing resolution for 2024-2025 in order to continue operations since there is not a budget being provided by the state.

Following Secretary Naomi Eckels presenting the Continuing Resolution for General Fund Operating Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to approve a Continuing Resolution for General Fund Operating Budget for the 2024-2025 School Year.** The motion passed 8-0.

14. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the Financial Report for May 2024, as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

15. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

16. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson 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 Release of Students, and Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property.

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

17. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve Agenda Item 16 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, and j, Agenda Item 16 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a, b (contingent upon a replacement), c, d, e, and f Agenda Item 16 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. The motion passed 8-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 16 (b) for student 13 and Agenda Item 16 (c) Contractual Matters Regarding: (1) Incidental to Potential Sale of Property.

18. **Adjourn**
Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Naomi Eckels, Secretary