

Bamberg County School District
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School
April 4, 2022
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 H. Coker, Trustee Naomi Eckels, Trustee John L. Hiers, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst and Trustee Blossom J. Thompson.

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, and the Bamberg School Districts One and Two Websites have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0. [Trustee Naomi Eckels had not arrived]
3. **Approval of Minutes for March 7, 2022 and March 28, 2022**
Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to accept the March 7, 2002 and March 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 8-0. [Trustee Naomi Eckels had not arrived]
4. **School Reports: Chastity Evans, Denise L. Miller, Dennis R. Ulmer, Rhonda Ray, Shannon Johnson, and Deonia Simmons. Hand-outs:** School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principal) Superintendent Dottie Brown reviewed all school reports as presented.
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School –Principal Chastity Evans
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Dennis Ulmer
 - Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Principal Rhonda Ray
 - Denmark-Olar Middle School – Assistant Principal Shannon Johnson
 - Denmark-Olar High School – Principal Deonia Simmons
5. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams and Jarvis Littlejohn**
Superintendent Brown reviewed the athletic reports as presented for Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two. [Board Packet Enclosure]
6. **Discussion of Bond Indebtedness: Bob Damron**
Financial Advisor, Bob Damron, discussed in detail the bond indebtedness for Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two. Mr. Damron presented the board

with several reports showing the outstanding debt for each district and advised all rates will become assets of the new consolidated district. [Board Packet Enclosure]

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

a) **SCSBA-Officer/Board Nominations-SCSBA Resolutions-Changes to the SCSBA Constitution**

SCSBA submitted forms to school boards for making nominations, proposals for new Legislative Resolutions or amendments to current resolutions, and proposals for changes to the SCSBA Constitution, to be submitted by June 13, 2022.

b) **Consolidation Activities in Progress**

Superintendent Brown presented the board with district activities related to consolidation which are currently in progress, including technology, finance, curricula alignment, strategic planning committee selection and meetings, board policies, pupil accounting, student services, salary schedules, district/school safety and security, athletics, facilities assessments, community relations, and capacity building.

c) **Discussion and Presentation of BCSD Strategic Planning Process (PPT)**

Superintendent Brown gave insight into how the strategic planning committee was selected, their responsibilities, and projected timeline to complete the tasks appointed to them. Dr. Brown further advised it was recommended that two board members serve on the committee. Board Chair Janeth Walker advised that she and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte would serve on the committee.

d) **Legislation Update – H.5098**

Superintendent Brown reviewed a copy of Legislation H.5098 submitted by Representative Justin Bamberg requesting the prior Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two school boards be dissolved since the consolidated board has been seated. Dr. Brown advised the legislation has passed the House and has had first reading in the Senate.

e) **Discussion of Proposal Rhodes Branding Process (PPT)**

Superintendent Brown submitted a branding proposal from Rhodes Branding for their services in helping create the consolidated district's visual identity, but asked the board to hold off on making a decision regarding the proposal, as this may be a job that can be handled by the Strategic Planning Committee.

f) **Public Health Workforce Grant School Nurse Funding Opportunities**

Superintendent Brown informed that Finance Director Devon Furr is applying for the Public Health Workforce Grant provided by DHEC that would enable districts to provide retention bonuses to school nurses who have remained employed during the pandemic.

8. **Fuel Prices and Impact (Action if Needed)**

The board discussed the rising fuel prices and the impact it could have on student activities such as field trips, athletic events, etc. The board chose to continue monitoring the issue and revisit in the future, if needed, but to take no action at this time.

9. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trip**

- a. B-E Varsity Baseball – Charleston/Summerville, SC – April 11-13, 2022
- b. Health Occupation Students of America – Nashville, TN – June 22-25, 2022

Following a review of the requests for overnight trips, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the request from Coach Schwarting for an overnight trip for the B-E Varsity Baseball to travel to Charleston/Summerville, South Carolina, April 11-13, 2022 (During Spring Break) to participate in the Hanahan Invitational Tournament and the request from Teresa Huber for an out of state/overnight trip for Health Occupational Students of America to travel to Nashville, Tennessee, June 22-25, 2022 to attend the International Leadership Conference.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Approval: 2022-2023 School Calendar**

As requested by Superintendent Brown regarding the approval of the draft copy of the 2022-2023 Calendar (second reading), **Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to approve the 2022-2023 School Calendar as presented.** The motion carried 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

11. **Discussion of Sign on Bonuses for New Hires and/or Critical Needs Subjects (Action if Needed)**

Superintendent Brown presented various comparisons for local sign on bonuses in the area and requested the board to entertain a sign on bonus for new hires in the district. After a brief discussion, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve sign on bonuses for new hires not to exceed \$5,000.00.** An amendment was proposed during which, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to authorize district level staff to set the terms and stipulations as to how the sign on bonuses would be carried out.** Both motions passed 9-0.

12. **Board Salary – Committee Report (Action if Needed)**

The committee tasked to research, review, and formulate a recommendation for new board compensation presented the board with their findings and salary recommendations of \$700.00 per month for board chair, \$600.00 per month for vice chair and \$500.00 per month for all other members, to stay in line with the approved legislation. [Handout]

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to set the salaries at \$700.00 per month for board chair, \$600.00 per month for vice chair and \$500.00 per month for all other members. The motion passed 9-0.

13. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two for FY 2021-2022 as of March 2022, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept the Financial Reports for March 2022, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

14. **Draft: 2022-2023 Salary Schedule**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the proposed 2022-2023 salary schedule as previously presented by Consolidation Consultant Dean Wittwer. Ms. Furr stated the only

change that was made was the correction to the Food Service Operator position. Ms. Furr advised the House Ways and Means Committee passed a version of the salary scale for 2022-2023 which is required to be used by school districts. Ms. Furr noted the 2022-2023 salary scale presented is subject to change based on what is decided by legislators. Ms. Furr further stated the state approved an 8% raise for bus drivers. After further review of the salary schedule, it was noted that a correction needed to be made on line 4 of the noncertified salary schedule.

Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the 2022-2023 Salary Schedules as presented with the noted corrections to the noncertified salary schedule and with understanding the salary schedule is subject to change based on legislation. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

15. **Visitor's Comments**
None.

16. **Executive Session**
Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded 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 Recommendations/Matters (If Needed), Student/Personnel Matters (If Needed), Contractual Matters (If Needed), and Legal Matters/Counsel (If Needed).

Open session: Trustee Naomi Eckels 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 9-0.

17. **Action on Executive Session Items**
Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded for the Board to approve Agenda Item 16 (a) Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters (If Needed) for principals' recommendations for hire and rehire of certified and classified employees, administrators' discretion for return to work retirees, recommendations for new hires of employees #4a, #4b, #4c, #4d, #4e and #4f, and resignations of employees #5a, #5b, #5c, #5d, and #5e, and Agenda Item 16 (b) Student/Personnel Matters (If Needed) of student transfer requests for students #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8. The motion passed 9-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 16 (c) Contractual Matters (If Needed) or Agenda Item 16 (d) Legal Matters/Counsel (If Needed), as there were no matters presented at this time.

18. **Adjourn**

Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary