

Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
February 5, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Members present: Vice Chair John L. Hiers, Secretary Tonie A. Holman, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Beverly Bonaparte, Trustee Harriet Coker, Trustee Naomi Eckels, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom Thompson (Via Google Meet)

Absent: Board Chair Janeth Walker.

1. **Call meeting to order:** Vice Chair John Hiers 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 Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 7-0. [Trustee Blossom Thompson had not joined the meeting]

4. **Approval of Minutes for January 8, 2024**

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept the January 8, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 7-0. [Trustee Blossom Thompson had not joined the meeting]

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. **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]

[Trustee Blossom Thompson joined the meeting via Google Meet at 6:05 p.m.]

7. **Discussion of Draft Calendar for 2024-2025 (Action if Needed)**

Superintendent Brown reviewed two different calendar options to address student and teacher needs, to include options that would allow the first semester to conclude prior to winter break in an effort to help with exams and EOC scores. Dr. Brown further advised that surveys were sent out to all students, parents, and staff members who have an interest in Bamberg County School District. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Dr. Brown presented the two calendar options as follows:

Option A – Traditional Calendar - earlier start date. (Hybrid Calendar)

This calendar option would provide an earlier start date, would give employees a fall and winter break, and the end of the first semester would conclude prior to Christmas break, which would help with exam and EOC test scores.

Option B – 9-1 Calendar (Modified)

This calendar option would allow forty-five days of instruction followed by one intercession week. The intercession week would allow for small group instruction, address student needs, and address teacher burnout. This calendar mirrors the 2023-2024 school calendar.

Following a detailed explanation of the different calendar options, Dr. Brown presented the survey results which included all of the comments provided by students, parents, and staff. Dr. Brown also presented the five indicators that were being targeted based on the 9-1 calendar. Dr. Brown discussed student academic achievement, student absences, student discipline, teacher absences, and fiscal impact.

Dr. Brown requested the board to review all of the information given in their entirety prior to taking any action on the 2024-2025 school calendar. [Handout]

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown continued with a summary of the enrollment data as of January 29, 2024, advising the total number of student enrollment across the district was 1,764.

9. **Discussion of Use of Tennis Court & Reconditioning Fees (Action if Needed)**

Dr. Brown presented the board with two quotes for reconditioning the tennis courts. The first quote being the quote previously obtained by the City of Bamberg from Tennico of Columbia, Inc. in the amount of \$32,747.00 and the second quote from Everline Coatings and Service in the amount of \$50,000.00-\$65,000.00. Dr. Brown advised more companies were contacted, however, these companies had previously given quotes to the City of Bamberg and never heard anything back and were not willing to return to give another quote. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Dr. Brown further advised Bamberg County School District Attorneys were currently in the process of drafting an agreement with the City of Bamberg with regards to Bamberg County School District paying for the repairs.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the bid from Tennico of Columbia, Inc. to do the work for the quoted amount of \$32,747.00.** The motion passed 8-0.

10. **Elective Course Approval:**

a. Personal Health and Wellness (559900CW-Elective-1.0 credit) – BEHS

Superintendent Brown introduced the proposal to offer Personal Health and Wellness as an elective course for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School.

Following the proposal, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve Personal Health and Wellness (559900CW) for BEHS as an elective course.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

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

- a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt Wrestling – Individual Wrestling Championship – Anderson, SC – February 23, 2024-February 24, 2024 (Robert Williams, Athletic Director)
- b. ProStart Management Team – Competition – Myrtle Beach, SC – March 3, 2024 – March 5, 2024 (Kathy Hunt, CTE Teacher)
- c. HOSA – State Leadership Conference – Charleston, SC – March 13, 2024-March 15, 2024 (Teresa Huber, HOSA Advisor)
- d. Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School Band – Festival of Music at Carowinds – Charlotte, NC – March 23, 2024 (Katherine Vaz, Band Director)
- e. Denmark-Olar Middle School Gear Up (8th Graders) – STEM Quest Educational Day – Charlotte, NC – March 28, 2024 (Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, Principal DOMS)

Following a review of the requests for an out of state/overnight trips, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the request from Athletic Director, Robert Williams, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt Wrestling to attend the Individual Wrestling Championship in Anderson, S.C., February 23, 2024-February 24, 2024; CTE Teacher, Kathy Hunt, for the ProStart Management Team to attend a Competition in Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 3, 2024-March 5, 2024; HOSA Advisor, Teresa Huber, for HOSA to attend the State Leadership Conference in Charleston, S.C. March 13, 2024-March 15, 2024; Band Director, Katherine Vaz, for Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School Band to attend the Festival of Music at Carowinds in Charlotte, N.C., March 23, 2024; and Principal Patricia-Moultrie Goldsmith's request for Denmark-Olar Middle School Gear Up to attend STEM Quest Educational Day at Carowinds, Charlotte, N.C., March 28, 2024.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

12. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to accept the Financial Report for January 2024, as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

13. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

14. **Executive Session**

Vice Chair John Hiers called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to enter Executive Session. The motion carried 8-0.

Vice Chair John Hiers 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.

Trustee Blossom Thompson ended her Google Meet attendance and exited the meeting.

Open session: Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

15. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve Agenda Item 14 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a and b and Agenda Item 14 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a. The motion passed 7-0.

There was no action taken on 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 Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary