

Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
June 12, 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 Naomi Eckels, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom J. Thompson.

Absent: Trustee Beverly Bonaparte and 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 Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes for May 1, 2023 and May 17, 2023**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to accept the May 1, 2023 and May 17, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with a note to check Item #5 Election of Officers for 2023-2024 on meeting minutes May 1, 2023 and to make any appropriate changes to nominations, if needed. The motion passed 7-0.

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

- Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Superintendent Dottie Brown in the absence of Principal Rhonda Ray
- Denmark-Olar Middle School – Superintendent Dottie Brown in the absence of Principal Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
- Denmark-Olar High School – Superintendent Dottie Brown in the absence of Principal Deonia Simmons.
- Richard Carroll Elementary School – Superintendent Dottie Brown in the absence of Principal Chastity Evans
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Superintendent Dottie Brown in the absence of Principal Denise Miller
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Kelsey Sandifer in the absence of Principal Jordan Smith

Dr. Brown noted that both Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School and Denmark-Olar High School graduations were successful and everyone did a phenomenal job. Dr. Brown thanked staff for their hard work and congratulated the graduates on their achievements.

6. **Truancy Report**

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]

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

Superintendent Dottie Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown updated the board on each of Bamberg County School District's school vacancies, noting interviews are still being conducted and that the number of vacancies have decreased.
- b) Dr. Brown approached the board about the July board meeting and inquired as to their wishes regarding the meeting. After a brief discussion, the board decided to go forward with having the meeting on July 10, 2023.

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

- a. Lady Vikings Basketball Team – SCHSL Basketball Camp – Rock Hill, S.C. – June 15, 2023-June 16, 2023 (Terrance Jones, Coach)
- b. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Varsity Volleyball Team – Volleyball Camp – Spartanburg, S.C. – July 11, 2023-July 13, 2023 (Deanna Merchant, Coach)

Following a review of the requests for overnight trips, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the request of basketball coach, Terrance Jones, for the Lady Vikings Basketball Team to attend the SCHSL Basketball Camp in Rock Hill, S.C., June 15, 2023-June 16, 2023 and the request of volleyball coach, Deanna Merchant, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Varsity Volleyball Team to attend a volleyball camp in Spartanburg, S.C., July 11, 2023-July 13, 2023.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Denmark-Olar Middle School Certified Teacher Update**

Dr. Brown advised the board this was covered under Item #8 Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent's Report

11. **Second Reading – BCSD Policies – Section D – Fiscal Management**

- a. DGD – Credit Card Use

Superintendent Dottie Brown presented policy DGD for second reading.

After a brief discussion, **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve for second reading of Policy DGD – Credit Card Use.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

12. **Second Reading – BCSD Policies – Section G – Personnel**
 - a. GCQE – Retirement of Professional Staff
 - b. GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff

Superintendent Dottie Brown presented policies GCQE and GCQC for second reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve for second reading of Policies GCQE – Retirement of Professional Staff and GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

13. **Second Reading – BCSD Policies – Section K – Instruction**
 - a. KFD – Clear Bag Use at District Events

Superintendent Dottie Brown presented policy KFD for second reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve for second reading of Policy KFD – Clear Bag Use at District Events.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

14. **First Reading – BCSD Policies – Section G – Personnel**
 - a. GCCAC/GDCC – Paid Parental Leave

Superintendent Brown presented policy GCCAC/GDCC for first reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve for first reading of Policy GCCAC/GDCC – Paid Parental Leave.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

15. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2022-2023 as of May 2023, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Ms. Furr also requested that the board discuss dates for a follow-up budget work session.

Trustee Naomi Eckels moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept the Financial Report for May 2023, as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

16. **Visitors' Comments**

Ms. Sharon Carter approached the board with the Reading Buddy Program that has shown to bring up reading scores. It was at this time that Board Chair Janeth Walker stopped Ms. Carter and advised that she could not talk about a topic that was not on the agenda and that

if she would like to be added to the July 2024 board meeting, the board would consider her request to discuss the program. Ms. Carter went on to state it was a free program with volunteers. Again, Board Chair Janeth Walker addressed her concerns with the topic as it was not a current agenda topic. Ms. Carter requested the item be added to the July meeting.

17. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Naomi Eckels moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to enter Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0.

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: Leased Property.

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

18. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve Agenda Item 17 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, and f, Agenda Item 17 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignations for employees a and b, and Agenda Item 17 (b) Discussion of 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 7-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 17 (c) (1) Contractual Matters Regarding: Leased Property.

19. **Adjourn**

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary