

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
May 5, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair Naomi Eckels, Secretary Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Jeni Bunch, Trustee Harriet H. Coker, Trustee David Corder, Trustee Tonya A. Sanders-Govan, and Trustee Cathy Ayer Griffin.

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, 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**
Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Jeni Bunch seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes for April 7, 2025**
Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to accept the April 7, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
5. **School Reports: Mandy Edwards, Denise Miller, Jordan Smith, Dr. Shannon Johnson, Dr. Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, and Dr. Deonia Simmons. Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principals)**
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith
 - Denmark-Olar Elementary School –Principal Dr. Shannon Johnson
 - Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Dr. Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
 - Denmark-Olar High School Principal – Principal Dr. Deonia Simmons

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]

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown presented two monitoring result letters from the South Carolina Department of Education regarding Bamberg County School District's Federal Programs and State Accountability Systems. She was pleased to report that both audits resulted in "all-clear" ratings, with no deficiencies or findings identified. Dr. Brown expressed her sincere appreciation to Dr. Rhonda Ray, Mr. Devon Furr, and Mrs. Phyllis Overstreet for their dedicated efforts in managing these programs effectively.
- b) Dr. Brown extended congratulations to Ms. Allison Williams-Clark, 2nd Grade Teacher at Denmark-Olar Elementary School, and Ms. Tracy Brown, Math Teacher at Denmark-Olar Middle School, for being awarded the Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Innovative Teaching Mini Grants. Dr. Brown announced that the total amount awarded to the district was \$1,250.00, which can be utilized to purchase equipment, materials, and supplies for the classroom. She expressed her gratitude to both Ms. Williams-Clark and Ms. Brown for their commitment to enhancing educational resources for the students in the district.
- c) Dr. Brown concluded with an update on district enrollment, reporting a total of 1,795 students as of April 30, 2025.

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

- a. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC – US Whitewater Center – Charlotte, NC – May 16, 2025 (Major John McDonald, JROTC Instructor)**
- b. **Denmark-Olar High School JROTC – JROTC Summer Camp – Ft. Jackson, SC – June 8, 2025-June 13, 2025 (MSG Phillip Robinson, JROTC Instructor)**

Following a review of the requests for out of state/overnight trips, **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, the motion to approve the following trip requests as presented:**

- **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC** – Request by JROTC Instructor, Major John McDonald for students to attend US Whitewater Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 16, 2025.
- **Denmark-Olar High School JROTC** – Request by JROTC Instructor MSG Phillip Robinson for students to attend the JROTC Summer Camp in Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, from June 8–June 13, 2025.

The motion passed 9-0.

9. **First Reading – BCSD Policy – Section E – Support Services:**

- a. **EEBA – District Owned Vehicles**

Dr. Brown presented policy EEBA for first reading.

Trustee David Corder moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, to accept the first reading of Policy EEBA – District-Owned Vehicles, as presented. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

10. Monthly Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2024-2025 as of April 2025, for review. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Ms. Furr informed the board members of the need to schedule a date for a budget work session. The board agreed that the budget work session would be held on May 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Trustee David Corder moved, and Vice Chair Naomi Eckels seconded the motion to accept and approve the Financial Report for April 2025, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

11. Visitors' Comments

Mrs. Sharon Carter requested that the board reconsider its policy regarding board member volunteering, particularly during the testing monitoring season, to better support teachers in the upcoming year.

12. Executive Session

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Vice Chair Naomi Eckels seconded, the motion 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 Matters Related to: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, and Matters Related to Release of Students.

Open session: Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, the motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 9-0.

13. Action on Executive Session Items

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee David Corder seconded the motion to accept and approve Agenda Item 12(a)(1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, and k; Agenda Item 12(a)(2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employees a, b, c, d, and e; and Agenda Item 12(b) To Discuss Matters Related to Release of Students for students 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18. The motion passed 9-0.

14. Adjourn

Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary