

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
August 7, 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 Beverly Bonaparte, Trustee Naomi Eckels, 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 Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes for June 28, 2023 and July 10, 2023**
Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept the June 28, 2023 and July 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 8-0.
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
 - Denmark-Olar Middle School
 - Denmark-Olar High School
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School

Superintendent Dottie Brown presented all school reports in the absence of principals.

6. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**
Dr. 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 informed that, beginning this year, free admission would be allowed for anyone 65 and older with proper identification.

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown welcomed everyone back for the start of the 2023-2024 school year and further stated she couldn't wait to see the exciting things that were going to happen in the new year.
- b) Dr. Brown recognized the custodians, administration, and staff for the quick turnaround time in getting the buildings ready for the new year.
- c) Dr. Brown concluded with a summary of the enrollment data starting at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year compared with years past and advised the data is in line with past numbers.

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

Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA Chapter – National FFA Convention – Indianapolis, IN – October 31, 2023 – November 4, 2023 (Morgan Busbee, FFA Advisor)

Following a review of the request for an out of state/overnight trip, **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the request of FFA Advisor, Morgan Busbee, for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA Chapter to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN October 31, 2023-November 4, 2023.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

9. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Ms. Furr made note of the audit engagement letter from McGregor & Company included in the board packet. Ms. Furr stated this is a standard form letter that goes into detail regarding the upcoming audit process.

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the Financial Report for July 2023, as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

10. **Visitors' Comments**

Mrs. Sharon Carter thanked the Board for agreeing to be part of the Reading Buddy Program. She gave an update on the number of volunteers signed up to date and stated their anticipated date to start the program would be in September.

Ms. Betty Mack expressed her gratitude to the Board for listening to her concerns by increasing the substitute pay across the district.

11. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte 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, and Discussion of Release of Students.

Open session: Trustee Naomi Eckels 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 8-0.

12. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve Agenda Item 11 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employee a and Agenda Item 11 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. The motion passed 8-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 11 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignations.

13. **Adjourn**

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary