

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
September 11, 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 Harriet Coker, Trustee Naomi Eckels, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom 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, 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 Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes for August 7, 2023**
Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to accept the August 7, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
5. **School Reports: Mandy Edwards, Denise Miller, Jordan Smith, Rhonda Ray, Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, and Deonia Simmons. Hand-outs:** School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principals)
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Interim Principal Mandy Edwards
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith
 - Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Principal Rhonda Ray
 - Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
 - Denmark-Olar High School – Assistant Principal Shannon Johnson in the absence of Principal Deonia Simmons.
6. **Truancy Report**
Truancy Officer Denise Robinson-Crosby reviewed the truancy report as presented for Bamberg County School District. [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 Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown presented First Steps 2021-2022 Annual Report and thanked Ms. Pauletta Plowden and all of her staff for all they do for the at risk students and families in this area.
- a) SCSBA Delegates for 2023 Delegate Assembly -- December 2, 2023
Dr. Brown reviewed the SCSBA's Delegate Assembly information and requested a delegate be sent from Bamberg County School District. The board agreed to send Trustee Naomi Eckels as the delegate with Trustee Beverly Bonaparte as the alternate.
- b) Dr. Brown recognized several board members for achieving the next level in SCSBA's Boardmanship Institute: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg, Trustee Naomi Eckels, and Vice Chair John Hiers for all reaching Level 3 status and Trustee Cynthia Hurst for reaching Level 2 status.
- c) Dr. Brown briefly discussed the South Carolina School Board Association's Accidental Death and Dismemberment Policies and advised if anyone had any beneficiary changes/updates to please advise.
- d) Dr. Brown further presented the board with a last minute request for an out-of-state field trip request: Denmark-Olar High School Juniors and Seniors – CSRA College Night – Augusta, GA – September 14, 2023 (Kimberly Haigler, DOHS Guidance Counselor)

Following a review of the request for an out-of-state trip, **Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the request of DOHS Guidance Counselor, Kimberly Haigler, for Denmark-Olar High School Juniors and Seniors to attend the CSRA College Night in Augusta, GA on September 14, 2023.** The motion passed 9-0. [Handout]

- e) Dr. Brown concluded by asking the board if they would consider allowing the principals to only come to board meetings quarterly as opposed to monthly. Dr. Brown advised the principals would still submit their reports monthly, but would only be required to attend quarterly.

Following a brief discussion, the board expressed their appreciation to the principals for all they do and **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve the principals only being required to physically attend meetings quarterly.** The motion passed 9-0.

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

- a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA Chapter – Marine & Fisheries Science Camp – Cherry Grove, SC – October 12, 2023-October 15, 2023 (Morgan Busbee, FFA Advisor)
- b. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC – US Army JROTC Raider National Championship – Fort Knox, Kentucky – November 2, 2023-November 5, 2023 (Major McDonald, JROTC Instructor)
- c. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA Chapter – Equine Camp – Cherry Grove, SC – November 16, 2023-November 19, 2023 (Morgan Busbee, FFA Advisor)
- d. B-E Dancers – Dance Trip – New York, New York – November 18, 2023 – November 20, 2023 (Mary Bray Mehrzad, Dance Instructor)

Following a review of the requests for an out of state/overnight trips, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the request of FFA Advisor, Morgan Busbee, for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA Chapter to attend the Marine & Fisheries Science Camp in Cherry Grove, SC, October 12, 2023-October 15, 2023 and for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA Chapter to attend the Equine Camp in Cherry Grove, SC, November 16, 2023-November 19, 2023; the request of JROTC Instructor, John McDonald, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC to attend the US Army JROTC Raider National Championship in Fort Knox, KY, November 2, 2023-November 5, 2023; and the request of Dance Instructor, Mary Bray Mehrzad, for the B-E Dancers to travel to New York, NY, November 18, 2023-November 20, 2023.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Ms. Furr made note that the preliminary audit will be back in the next several weeks and further noted this was the first audit for the new district.

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to accept the Financial Report for August 2023, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

11. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

12. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Harriet Coker 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: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, Discussion of Release of Students, and Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property.

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 9-0.

13. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve Agenda Item 12 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employee a, Agenda Item 12 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and Agenda Item 12 (c) (1) Incidental to Potential Sale of Property to allow the Superintendent to negotiate the sale of 8 Beech Avenue to the highest bidder. The motion passed 9-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 12 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignations.

14. **Adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary