

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
February 9, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair Beverly P. Bonaparte, Secretary Tonie A. Holman, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Naomi Eckels, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom J. Thompson.

Absent: Trustee Harriet Coker and Trustee John Hiers.

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. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 7-0.
3. **Approval of Minutes for November 15, 2022 (Committee Meeting), January 9, 2023, and January 11, 2023**
4. **Draft: 2023-2024 School Calendar (Action If Needed)**
Superintendent Dottie Brown reviewed the four 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 four calendar options as follows:

Option A – Traditional Calendar

This calendar option would align with prior school year calendars with no change.

Option B – Traditional Calendar with an earlier start date.

This calendar option would provide an earlier start date, would allow summer school to start earlier, and the end of the first semester would conclude prior to winter break, which would help with exam and EOC test scores.

Option C – 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.

Option D – 9-2 Calendar (Modified)

This calendar option would allow forty-five days of instruction followed by one intercession week and one week for teachers and students to have a break. The intercession week would allow for one week of academic, small group instruction followed by one week for mental/physical break for teachers and students.

Following a detailed explanation of the different calendar options, Dr. Brown presented the survey results. Dr. Brown advised Option B was the most favored option with 31.7% of the votes, followed by Option D with 28.7%, Option C with 23.2%, and Option A trailing with 16.4%.

Dr. Brown presented the board with a handout of all of the comments provided by students, parents, and staff. Dr. Brown requested the board to review all of the comments in their entirety prior to taking any action on the 2023-2024 school calendar. [Handout]

Dr. Brown addressed the South Carolina Department of Education's memo reminding districts of the regulatory requirement for district school calendars to have no more than three early release days. Dr. Brown advised all options of the calendars would be reviewed to ensure they comply with this regulation.

Dr. Brown concluded her presentation of the calendar options by thanking the community, students, parents, and staff for their participation in the survey and further ensured that whatever calendar option is chosen, all parties involved in making this decision have the best interests of the students at heart.

5. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent's Report**
Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown reviewed the district's student enrollment trends for Bamberg County School District as of February 2023 compared to the prior year.
- b) Dr. Brown presented the 2022-2023 Homeschool Report, showing a total of forty-four Bamberg County School District students in grades K-12 as being homeschooled.
- c) Dr. Brown advised all principals and staff are currently working on evacuation drills, active shooter drills, and bomb threat practices so that all staff are aware of the procedures involved with each specific drill.

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

- a. BE Wrestling – Individual Championship – Anderson, SC – February 24, 2023-February 25, 2023 (Terrell Haynes, B-E Wrestling Coach)
- b. ProStart Management/Culinary Teams -- SC ProStart Invitational – Myrtle Beach, SC – March 5, 2023-March 7, 2023 (Kathy Hunt, BEHS Culinary Arts Teacher)
- c. HOSA Future Health Professionals – 2023 State Leadership Conference -- Charleston, SC – March 15, 2023-March 17, 2023 (Teresa Huber, BEHS Health Sciences Teacher)
- d. Lady Raiders Softball Team – Grand Strand Softball Classic – April 8/9, 2023-April 14, 2023 (Robert Williams, BCSD Athletic Director/BE Softball Coach)

Following a review of the requests for overnight trips, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the request from Science Teacher April Miles of Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School and Science Teacher Charlotte Schlamp of Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School to attend the NSTA National Conference on Science Education in Atlanta, GA, March 22, 2023-March 25, 2023, request of Ms. Teresa Huber for HOSA Future Health Professionals to attend the 2023 State Leadership Conference in Charleston, SC, March 15, 2023-March 17, 2023, and the request of Athletic Director Robert Williams for the Lady Raiders Softball Team to attend the Grand Strand Softball Classic in Myrtle Beach, SC, April 8/9, 2023-April 14, 2023.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

7. **First Reading – BCSD Policy – Section G – Personnel:**

- a. GCLE – Unencumbered Time
- b. GCLE-R – Unencumbered Time

Superintendent Brown presented policies GCLE and GCLE-R for first reading.

After brief discussion, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to approve for first reading of Policies GCLE – Unencumbered Time and GCLE-R – Unencumbered Time.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

8. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to accept the Financial Reports for January 2023, as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

9. **Visitors' Comments**

Mrs. April Miles addressed concerns regarding the calendar options. Mrs. Miles requested the board to take a breath before making a change and to obtain research to support the proposed modified calendars. Mrs. Miles further expressed the possible financial detriment that may be caused to families that farm.

Mrs. Jenny Bunch thanked the administration for the level of detail that went into the calendar options and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in the survey process. Mrs. Bunch expressed she would like to have had more detail prior to filling out the survey.

10. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Naomi Eckels moved and Secretary Tonie Holman 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, Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property, and Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation.

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

11. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to approve Agenda Item 12 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employees a, b, and c, and Agenda Item 12 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, and #6. The motion passed 7-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 12 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Agenda Item 12(c) (1) Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property, and Agenda Item 12 (d) Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation.

12. **Adjourn**

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary