

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
May 1, 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 J. 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 Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes for April 3, 2023**

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the April 3, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

5. **Election of Officers for 2023-2024**

Superintendent Dottie Brown presided during the election of Board Chair and Board Chair Janeth Walker presided during the election of Board Vice Chair and Secretary for the board service of May 2023-April 2024.

Trustee Harriet Coker nominated and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to elect Trustee Janeth Walker as Board Chair. The motion passed 9-0.

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg nominated and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to elect Trustee John Hiers as Vice Chair. The motion passed 9-0.

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg nominated and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to elect Trustee Tonie Holman as Secretary. The motion passed 9-0.

6. **School Reports: Chastity Evans, 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 –Principal Chastity Evans
- 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 – Principal Deonia Simmons.

7. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

Assistant Superintendent Dennis Ulmer 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 sadly addressed the traumatic events over the week of spring break in which Bamberg County School District lost two of its students. Dr. Brown advised thoughts and prayers were still with the family, educators, and friends that were impacted by the loss. However, Dr. Brown indicated how proud she was of the student and faculty response to the events. Dr. Brown thanked the three administrators of Denmark-Olar Schools, Dr. Deonia Simmons, Ms. Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, and Dr. Rhonda Ray, for their around-the-clock support. Dr. Brown sent out a heartfelt thank you to the community, Voorhees College, Denmark Technical College, Bamberg County School District guidance counselors, SROs, social worker Jraquarie Washington, William J. McCord counselors, local police departments, and sheriff's department for their support to the families and school district. Lastly, Dr. Brown thanked the board for all of their thoughts, prayers and support.

Dr. Brown advised since the incidents, changes have been made at the schools to improve safety concerns to include increasing the presence of law enforcement and the purchase of additional metal detectors. Dr. Brown further advised random drug and contraband dog searches were conducted and coordinated by Sheriff Kenny Bamberg with one minor incident. Dr. Brown commended and thanked the administrators, Sheriff Bamberg, and the seven agencies involved in conducting the searches.

- b) Dr. Brown noted a recruitment fair was held by Bamberg County School District on April 28, 2023 and credited it as being a huge success with a large turnout. Dr. Brown expressed her gratitude to Denise Miller for coordinating the event.
- c) Dr. Brown congratulated Mr. Criston Jensen of Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School and Ms. Blanch Johnson of Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School for being the winners of Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Innovative Teaching Mini Grants. Dr. Brown thanked each of them for going above and beyond to supply additional resources to the students of the district.
- d) Dr. Brown announced a district-wide "Employee Appreciation Day" celebration would be held on May 12, 2023 in an effort to bring the districts together as one. It's an event to acknowledge all employees of Bamberg County School District and to celebrate being one family with one purpose.

- e) Dr. Brown informed that the Bamberg County First Steps program operates under Bamberg County School District and is once again seeking support from the board to continue collaborations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to continue providing support to the Bamberg County First Steps program. The motion passed 9-0.

- f) Dr. Brown presented the board with a resolution that would make digital/scanned records the official records of Bamberg County School District.

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman second to approve the resolution making digital/scanned records the official records of Bamberg County School District. The motion passed 9-0.

- g) Dr. Brown inquired the board as to their pleasure regarding their attire for the upcoming graduations. After a brief discussion, the board decided robes would be the desired attire for the board members.

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

- a. Bamberg County School District Golf Team – State Championship – Hartsville, S.C. – May 8, 2023-May 9, 2023 (Sarah Catherine Williams, Coach)
- b. Denmark-Olar Middle School Gear Up – Educational STEM Quest Day/Carowinds – Charlotte, NC – May 31, 2023 (Patricia Moultrie Goldsmith, Principal DOMS)
- c. Denmark-Olar High School JROTC – JROTC Summer Camp – Fort Jackson, S.C. – June 4, 2023 – June 10, 2023 (Major Phillip Robinson, JROTC Instructor)
- d. Denmark-Olar High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team – SCHSL Scholastic Basketball Showcase – Rock Hill, S.C. – June 16, 2023-June 18, 2023 (Hercules Davis, Jr., Coach)
- e. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team – SCHSL Scholastic Basketball Showcase – Rock Hill, S.C. – June 16, 2023-June 18, 2023 (Willie Carter, Coach)
- f. Bamberg-Ehrhardt Varsity Football Team – FCA 7 on 7 Camp – Beaufort, S.C. – June 19, 2023-June 21, 2023 (Corey Crosby, Coach)

Following a review of the requests for overnight trips, **Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the request of golf coach, Sarah Catherine Williams, for the Bamberg County School District Golf Team to attend the State Championship in Hartsville, S.C., May 8, 2023-May 9, 2023.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the request of principal, Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, for the Denmark-Olar Middle School Gear Up to attend the Education STEM Quest Day/Carowinds in Charlotte, N.C., May 31, 2023. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the request of Major Phillip Robinson, JROTC Instructor, for the Denmark-Olar High School JROTC to attend the JROTC Summer Camp in Fort Jackson, S.C., June 4, 2023-June 10, 2023. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the request of basketball coach, Hercules Davis, Jr., for the Denmark-Olar High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team to attend the SCHSL Scholastic Basketball Showcase in Rock Hill, S.C., June 16, 2023-June 18, 2023 and the request of basketball coach, Willie Cater, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Boys Basketball Team to attend the SCHSL Scholastic Basketball Showcase in Rock Hill, S.C., June 16, 2023-June 18, 2023. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the request of football coach, Corey Crosby, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt Varsity Football Team to attend the FCA 7 on 7 Camp in Beaufort, S.C., June 19, 2023-June 21, 2023. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

10. Second Reading – BCSD Policies – Section I -- Instruction

- a. IHAE – Physical Education
- b. IKF-R – Graduation Requirements

Superintendent Brown presented policies IHAE and IKF-R for second reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to approve for second reading of Policy IHAE – Physical Education. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]**

After a brief discussion, **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve for second reading of Policy IKF-R – Graduation Requirements. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]**

11. First Reading – BCSD Policies – Section D – Fiscal Management

- a. DGD – Credit Card Use

Superintendent Brown presented policy DGD for first reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to approve for first reading of Policy DGD – Credit Card Use. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]**

12. First Reading – BCSD Policies – Section G – Personnel

- a. GCQE – Retirement of Professional Staff
- b. GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff

Superintendent Brown presented policies GCQE and GCQC for first reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve for first reading of Policies GCQE – Retirement of Professional Staff and GDQC – Retirement of Support Staff.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

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

Superintendent Brown presented policy KFD for first reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to approve for first reading of Policy KFD – Clear Bag Use at District Events with one approved change.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

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

Ms. Furr also requested the board to discuss dates for a budget work session.

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to accept the Financial Report for April 2023, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

15. **Visitors' Comments**
None.

16. **Executive Session**
Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg 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 Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation, Employment/Personnel: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, and Discussion of Release of Students.

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 8-0. (Trustee Beverly Bonaparte left the meeting during executive session.)

17. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Blossom seconded to approve signing of the performance evaluation for Agenda Item 16 (a) Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation. The motion passed 8-0.

Following up the motion, Board Chair Janeth Walker read a statement summarizing the superintendent's annual performance evaluation stating the board considered the manner and proficiency of the superintendent's professional performance in the areas of professionalism, relations with the board, relations with the community, staff and personnel relations, organization and fiscal management, and instructional leadership. Mrs. Walker advised the board found the superintendent's performance in every category was generally between above average to excellent. Mrs. Walker further stated the board found the superintendent's leadership and judgment displayed during the efforts to combine the two districts into one to be outstanding and advised the superintendent demonstrated a willingness to listen to concerns and made herself available to all stakeholders from all areas of the newly formed district.

However, the board concluded town hall type meetings would further the district's consolidation interests as there still could be some members of the community who have questions about the direction of the district. Therefore, the board asked the superintendent to incorporate some town hall meetings into her community outreach efforts during the next year.

In closing, Board Chair Janeth Walker advised the board was pleased with the superintendent's leadership and looked forward to developing specific performance goals as the district moves forward.

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve Agenda Item 16 (b) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, f, g, and superintendent's recommendations for rehire, Agenda Item 16 (b) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignations for employees a, b, c, and employee d with said agreement, and Agenda Item 16 (c) Discussion of Release of Students for students 1, 2, and 3. The motion passed 8-0.

18. **Adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary