

**Bamberg County School District  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bamberg County School District Office  
November 7, 2022  
6:00 p.m.**

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

**Absent:** 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**  
**Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.

3. **Approval of Minutes for October 10, 2022**  
**Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to accept the October 10, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.

4. **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 – Principal Rhonda Ray
  - Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
  - Denmark-Olar High School – Principal Deonia Simmons
  - Richard Carroll Elementary School –Principal Chastity Evans
  - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
  - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith

5. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**  
Athletic Director Robert Williams reviewed the athletic report as presented for Bamberg County School District. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Coach Williams recognized Makayla Hallman (Bamberg) for making All-State Volleyball, Keithan Washington (Denmark) and Omarion Buckmon (Bamberg) for being chosen for North-South Football.

6. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent’s Report**  
Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown thanked the principals and staff for their continued efforts and service in diligently meeting the needs of the schools, children, and families. Dr. Brown also commended the coaches and student athletes for their hard work and time put into their programs and wished all athletes the best in their upcoming playoff games. Dr. Brown further went on to thank the coaches, security, and spectators for their assistance in quickly gaining control over an incident that took place at the most recent football game in Denmark.
  - b) At the request of Board Chair Janeth Walker, Dr. Brown went into further detail regarding how and why recent changes to the athletic rules helped contain the football incident. Dr. Brown advised the decision to increase safety efforts and establish the most fair rules for all was a collaborative effort with the SC Department of Education, SC High School League, Denmark City Police Department, Bamberg City Police Department, Denmark Technical College, Bamberg County Sheriff's Department, school board, principals, and superintendent. Dr. Brown advised the new rules went through multiple layers of reviews and were then posted to ensure crowd control and safety for all. Dr. Brown further advised that most schools across the state are implementing the same or similar rules to make the safety of players and spectators more of a priority.
  - c) Dr. Brown reviewed Bamberg County School District's current enrollment, pointing out that student enrollment was down 23 students compared to this time last year.
  - d) Dr. Brown reviewed each school's report cards, highlighting that Denmark-Olar Elementary School, Denmark-Olar Middle School, Denmark-Olar High School, and Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School's ratings improve from prior years. Richard Carroll Elementary School remained the same and Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School was the only school that saw its rating fall slightly to average.
  - e) Dr. Brown congratulated Denmark-Olar Elementary School for being awarded the \$500.00 Foundational Skills Artist in Residence Grant from the Tri-County Community Foundation.
  - f) Dr. Brown recognized Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School teacher, Carroll Brabham, for being selected as Bamberg County School District's District Teacher of the Year for 2022 and advised she would now go on to compete for State Teacher of the Year.
  - g) Dr. Brown briefly reviewed the Bamberg County Job Description binders included in each board member's packet.
7. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trips:**
- a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt Varsity Boys Basketball – Carver's Bay Basketball Tournament – Myrtle Beach, SC – December 19, 2022-December 21, 2022.
  - b. National Association of Federal Program Administrators (NAFEPA) Conference – Washington, D.C. – March 26, 2022-March 29, 2022 (Professional Development requested by Phyllis A. Overstreet, Federal Programs Coordinator)

Following a review of the requests for overnight trips, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the request from Bamberg-Ehrhardt Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, Corey Crosby, for the boys' varsity team to attend the Carver's Bay Basketball Tournament in Myrtle Beach, SC, December 19-December 21, 2022 and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve Federal Programs Coordinator, Phyllis Overstreet's, request to attend the National Association of Federal Program Administrators (NAFEPA) in Washington, DC, March 26-March 29, 2022.** The motions passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

8. **Discussion of Teacher Shortage and Student Needs**

Dr. Brown discussed the teacher shortage at Denmark-Olar Middle School and the issues surrounding comparability between Denmark-Olar Middle School and Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School. Dr. Brown advised, under Title I, comparability must be met between each school and if comparability is not met between the schools by January 15, 2023, the district can lose considerable amounts of Perkins, CATE, IDEA, and Title I federal funding, all which account for district salaries. In an effort to solve the problem, Dr. Brown introduced and recommended options for three different contract companies that can provide certified teachers to students to fill the teacher void and meet comparability between Denmark-Olar Middle School and Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle Schools. Dr. Brown further advised this was a short-term solution and that recruitment efforts were going to continue into the new year, but that if this option was not chosen and vacancies could not be filled, merging schools would be the next option.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved to give the superintendent the ability to pursue a contract company, hopefully with Proximity Company, so that education can be provided to the students in a way that will be best for the district.** However, before the original motion was carried, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to amend the first motion to give the superintendent the authority to move in the necessary direction that is in the best interest of the district.** The amended motion passed 8-0.

Following the motion being passed, Dr. Brown assured that she would be working with the principals to make a decision together about this matter. Dr. Brown advised that this topic may be brought to the board in the future. Dr. Brown further assured that recruiting efforts are continuously being made and that before any decision is made about merging schools that meetings will be held with the public, students, parents, and school staff. Dr. Brown encouraged the public to contact her directly with any questions and not to believe anything other than what is provided by the district.

9. **Approval of 2023 Board Calendar**

Dr. Brown presented the 2023 Board Calendar and noted that the July and September meetings listed on the proposed calendar fell on holidays. Thus, the board would need to decide whether to hold the meetings on the holidays or to reschedule those monthly meetings to a different date. Following a review and discussion, meetings for February, July, and September 2023 were changed to February 9<sup>th</sup>, July 10<sup>th</sup>, and September 11<sup>th</sup>. [Board Packet Enclosure]

**Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to accept the 2023 Board Calendar with changes.** The motion passed 8-0.

10. **Discussion of Board Members Visiting Schools**

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte requested that the principals to provide reminders to board members about when functions are happening to get more participation from board members. Board Chair Janeth Walker discussed the possibility of having a board workshop to discuss upcoming events happening across the district in all of the schools and coming up with ideas and a plan of action of how the board members can tackle and take turns attending upcoming events.

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

In the absence of Finance Director Devon Furr, Board Chair Janeth Walker presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2022-2023 as of October 2022, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

**Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the Financial Reports for October 2022, as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.

12. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

13. **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 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, Discussion of Release of Students, and Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Property for Sale.

**Open session: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg 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.

14. **Action on Executive Session Items**

**Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve Agenda Item 13 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employees 1, 2, and 3 and for Dr. Brown to move forward with a land appraisal for Agenda Item 13 (c) (1) Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property.** The motion passed 8-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 13 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire and Agenda Item 13 (b) Discussion of Release of Students, as there were no recommendations at this time.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Janeth Walker, Board Chair

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Tonie A. Holman, Secretary