

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
June 2, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair Naomi Eckels, Secretary Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Jeni Bunch, Trustee Harriet H. Coker, Trustee David Corder, Trustee Tonya A. Sanders-Govan, and Trustee Cathy Ayer Griffin.

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**
Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Jeni Bunch seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes for April 30, 2025; May 5, 2025; May 8, 2025; May 12, 2025; May 13, 2025; May 19, 2025; and May 21, 2025**

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee David Corder seconded, to accept the April 30, 2025; May 5, 2025; May 8, 2025; May 12, 2025; May 13, 2025; May 19, 2025; and May 21, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

5. **School Reports: Dr. Shannon Johnson, Dr. Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, Dr. Deonia Simmons, Mandy Edwards, Denise Miller, and Jordan Smith. Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principals)**
 - Denmark-Olar Elementary School –Principal Dr. Shannon Johnson
 - Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Dr. Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
 - Denmark-Olar High School Principal – Principal Dr. Deonia Simmons
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith

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

6. **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]

Dr. Brown acknowledged and commended the athletic accomplishments of the Bamberg County School District teams. She recognized the numerous sports trophies displayed in the board room, which were earned during the season, and highlighted the dedication, hard work, and excellence demonstrated by student-athletes, coaches, and supporting staff throughout the district.

Dr. Brown expressed sincere appreciation to Dr. Charles Gaillard for his continued support of Bamberg County School District student-athletes. She specifically recognized his generous contribution in administering 75 free physical examinations, helping ensure students are prepared and eligible for athletic participation.

7. **Truancy Report/Update: Denise Robinson-Crosby**

In the absence of Truancy Officer Denise Robinson-Crosby, Superintendent Brown reviewed the truancy report as presented for Bamberg County School District. She provided an overview of the current data and trends, addressing key areas of concern and ongoing efforts to improve student attendance across the district. [Board Packet Enclosure]

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown formally introduced the new Denmark Police Chief, Mr. Bernard Holman, and Assistant Chief, Mr. Eric Ransom, both of whom were in attendance. She noted their eagerness and willingness to support the district and its schools in any capacity. Superintendent Brown shared that the department is actively pursuing a grant to secure funding for a full-time School Resource Officer—or potentially multiple officers—to be assigned to the Denmark campuses. The Board applauded their efforts, expressed gratitude for their service, and conveyed enthusiasm for building a strong and collaborative partnership moving forward. Dr. Brown also recognized City Councilwoman and Police Commissioner Ms. Rosa James, who further reiterated the City of Denmark's commitment to supporting the placement of School Resource Officers within the district. Ms. James emphasized the city's dedication to partnering with the school district to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff.
- b) Superintendent Brown provided an update in response to a prior request from Board Secretary Cynthia Hurst regarding school signage. Communication has been made with Mr. George Morlan, Assistant Resident Engineer with the local SCDOT office, who confirmed that signage for Denmark-Olar Middle School (DOMS) and Denmark-Olar Elementary School (DOES) has been ordered. It was noted that the signs are expected to arrive within approximately 30 to 35 days, with installation to follow thereafter.

- c) Superintendent Brown reminded the Board that the district's summer hours will begin this week. The district will operate on a four-day workweek, Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and will be closed on Fridays. Additionally, Superintendent Brown requested Board approval for the closure of the district during the week of July 4, 2025 (June 30–July 4, 2025), consistent with past practice.

Trustee David Corder moved, and Vice Chair Naomi Eckels seconded, to approve the closure of the district during the week of July 4, 2025 (June 30–July 4, 2025), as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

- d) Superintendent Brown provided an update on district enrollment, reporting a total of 1,794 students enrolled across the district as of May 28, 2025.
- e) Superintendent Brown concluded her report by noting that this was her final Board meeting prior to her retirement. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to all staff who support students and contribute daily to the smooth operation of schools. Dr. Brown commended the phenomenal efforts of the entire team and extended special thanks to the Board for their continued support.

She acknowledged and thanked the district's bus drivers for their commitment, particularly in transporting athletic teams, and recognized the security officers for their dedication to school safety. She also expressed appreciation to Chief Bonds and praised the district's strong partnership with Denmark Technical College.

Board Chair Janeth Walker responded with a message of appreciation, stating that Dr. Brown's presence will be deeply missed by the Board, staff, students, and the community. She described Dr. Brown as a "breath of fresh air" and commended the positive impact she made during her tenure.

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

- a. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA – SCFFA State Convention – Greenville, SC – June 17, 2025-June 19, 2025 (Russell Henderson – FFA Advisor)**
- b. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA – SCFFA Summer Camp – North Myrtle Beach, SC – June 23, 2025-June 27, 2025 (Russell Henderson – FFA Advisor)**
- c. **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Varsity Volleyball Team – Team Volleyball Camp, Wofford College – Spartanburg, SC – July 7, 2025-July 9, 2025 (Lauren Etheridge, Head Coach)**
- d. **2025 Carolina TESOL Fall Conference – Charlotte, NC – November 5, 2025-November 7, 2025 (Professional Development Request by Deena Fogle, MLL Teacher)**

Following a review of the requests for out of state/overnight trips, **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Jeni Bunch seconded, the motion to approve the following trip requests as presented:**

- **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA** – Request by FFA Advisor, Russell Henderson for students to attend the SCFFA State Convention in Greenville, South Carolina, from June 17-June 19, 2025.
- **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA** – Request by FFA Advisor, Russell Henderson for students to attend the SCFFA Summer Camp in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, from June 23-June 27, 2025.
- **Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Varsity Volleyball Team** – Request by Head Coach, Lauren Etheridge for students to attend a Team Volleyball Camp at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, from July 7-July 9, 2025.
- **Professional Development** – Request by MLL Teacher, Deena Fogle, to attend the 2025 Carolina TESOL Fall Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, from November 5-November 7, 2025.

The motion passed 9-0.

10. **Second Reading – BCSD Policy – Section E – Support Services:**
a. EEBA – District Owned Vehicles

Dr. Brown presented policy EEBA for second reading.

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded, to accept the second reading of Policy EEBA – District-Owned Vehicles, as presented. The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

11. **2025-2026 Continuing Resolution (Action Needed)**

Chief Finance Officer Devon Furr requested that the Board approve a continuing resolution for the 2025–2026 fiscal year to ensure continued district operations, as the state has not yet provided a finalized budget.

Following the presentation of the Continuing Resolution for the General Fund Operating Budget for the 2025–2026 School Year by Vice Chair Naomi Eckels, **Trustee Jeni Bunch moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to approve the Continuing Resolution for 2025–2026.** The motion passed 9-0.

12. **Monthly Financial Report**

Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2024-2025 as of May 2025, for review. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Ms. Furr informed the board members of the need to schedule a date for a budget work session. The board agreed that the budget work session would be held on June 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Trustee David Corder moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded the motion to accept and approve the Financial Report for May 2025, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

13. Visitors' Comments

None.

14. Executive Session

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, the motion 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 Matters Related to: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, Matters Related to Release of Students and Employment/Personnel Matters Related to Superintendent Search.

Open session: Trustee David Corder moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, the motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 9-0.

15. Action on Executive Session Items

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee David Corder seconded the motion to accept and approve Agenda Item 14 (a)(1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, and f; Agenda Item 14(a)(2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a; and Agenda Item 14(b) Matters Related to Release of Students for students 1, 2, 3, and 4. The motion passed 9-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 14 (c) Employment/Personnel Matters Related to Superintendent Search.

16. Adjourn

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Jeni Bunch seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Naomi Eckels, Vice Chair

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary