

Bamberg County School District
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School
May 2, 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 H. Coker, Trustee Naomi Eckels, Trustee John L. Hiers, 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, and the Bamberg School Districts One and Two Websites have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

3. **Approval of Minutes for April 4, 2022 and April 18, 2022**
Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the April 4, 2022 and April 18, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

4. **School Reports: Rhonda Ray, Shannon Johnson, Deonia Simmons, Chastity Evans, Denise L. Miller and Dennis R. Ulmer. Hand-outs:** School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principal)
 - Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Principal Rhonda Ray
 - Denmark-Olar Middle School – Assistant Principal Shannon Johnson
 - 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 Dennis Ulmer

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

Coach Littlejohn was excited to report that the boys and girls track teams placed third in the region tack meets held on May 2, 2022 and will compete in the upstate championship on May 14, 2022.

Coach Littlejohn informed the Board of several individual athlete accomplishments in track:

- a. Chris Sanders placed second in the 100 meter and 200 meter.

- b. Brandon Johnson placed in shot put.
- c. Jacory Williams placed second in the high jump.
- d. Daavionnan Roberts placed in second and third in shot put and discus, respectively.
- e. Shaleah Flowers placed in the 100 meter hurdles and long jump.

Athletic Director Robert Williams reviewed the athletic report as presented for Bamberg School District One. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Athletic Director Robert Williams advised that free physicals for all athletes in Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two would be offered May 18, 2022.

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

Superintendent Brown began by recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week and stated that she appreciated every teacher and wanted them to know how needed, valued, loved and respected they are. Superintendent Brown went on to thank administrators by letting them know how valued and appreciated they were and further thanked them for showing their appreciation to their teachers.

Superintendent Brown also recognized Administrative Appreciation Week and thanked her staff for all they do.

Superintendent Brown advised that state testing would begin this week and wished each student the very best during testing. Superintendent Brown also thanked parents for their efforts in getting students to school on time during testing.

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

a) **SCSBA-Officer/Board Nominations-SCSBA Resolutions-Changes to the SCSBA Constitution**

SCSBA submitted forms to school boards for making nominations, proposals for new Legislative Resolutions or amendments to current resolutions, and proposals for changes to the SCSBA Constitution, to be submitted by June 13, 2022.

Board Chair Janeth Walker advised Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte wished to be nominated as a candidate for the director's position for Region 10. **Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to nominate Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte for the director position for Region 10.** The motion carried 9-0.

b) **Legislative Update – H.5098**

Superintendent Brown reviewed a copy of Legislation H.5098 submitted by Representative Justin Bamberg requesting the prior Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two school boards be dissolved since the consolidated board has been seated. Superintendent Brown advised the legislation has passed the House, was ratified on April 7, 2022, signed by the Governor on April 13, 2022 and went into effect on April 13, 2022.

c) **Preliminary Accreditation for All Schools and Districts for Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two**

Superintendent Brown advised that she received the preliminary results for the accreditation analyses for Bamberg School Districts One and Two. Superintendent Brown was happy to report that all six schools and district office have been cleared with no findings of deficiencies. Superintendent Brown thanked each of the principals, Cynthia Tucker and Phyllis Overstreet on a job well done and for their hard work in collaboratively working together to get the accreditation report complete.

d) **Savannah River Nuclear Solutions Innovative Teaching Mini Grant Winners**

Superintendent Brown announced the Savannah Nuclear Site Mini Grant Winners, Ms. Angela Kinsey with Denmark-Olar Elementary School and Ms. Morgan Huffstetler with Richard Carroll Elementary School. Ms. Kinsey was awarded \$500.00 and Ms. Huffstetler was awarded \$750.00. Superintendent Brown congratulated each winner for thinking outside of the box and for their efforts in pursuing mini-grants.

e) **Denmark-Olar High School Class of 2022 Gates Scholar – Laila Donaldson**

Superintendent Brown recognized Denmark-Olar High School Senior, Laila Donaldson, for being awarded the Gates Scholarship. Superintendent Brown noted that Miss Donaldson was one of the 300 graduates chosen from a pool of over 37,000 across the nation to receive this prestigious and competitive scholarship. Superintendent Brown advised that Miss Donaldson planned to attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University where she would have access to a range of support services, including mentoring, leadership development, wellness, career guidance, internship, job opportunities and more.

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

- a. Vikings Football – Atlanta, GA – June 4-5, 2022
- b. Vikings Football – Conway, SC – June 15-16, 2022
- c. Vikings Varsity Boys Basketball – Macon, GA – June 10, 2022
- d. Vikings Varsity Boys Basketball – Rock Hill, SC – June 17-19, 2022

Following a review of the requests for overnight trips, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve the request from Coach Littlejohn for an overnight/out of state trip for the Vikings Football to travel to Atlanta Georgia, June 4-5, 2022, to tour the Georgia campus and athletic facilities and the request from Coach Davis for a day trip for the Vikings Varsity Boys Basketball to travel to Macon, Georgia, June 10, 2022, to attend a basketball team camp.** The motion passed 9-0.
[Board Packet Enclosures]

The board took no action and tabled the trip request from Coach Littlejohn for the Vikings Football to travel to Conway, South Carolina, June 15-16, 2022, to tour the Coastal Carolina University campus and athletic facilities and a request from Coach Davis for the Vikings Varsity Boys Basketball to travel to Rock Hill, South Carolina, June 17-19, 2022, to attend the SCHSL Basketball Showcase pending additional information regarding the

amount of financial assistance that would be needed from the district for travel accommodations.

8. **Presentation from Strategic Planning Committee for Bamberg County School District's Vision, Mission, Belief, and Motto (Action if Needed)**

After Superintendent Brown's review of the Strategic Planning Committees recommendations for Bamberg County School District's Vision, Mission, Belief, and Motto, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the recommendations for beliefs, vision statement, mission statement, and motto as presented.** The motion carried 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

9. **First Reading – BCSD New Policies – Section B:**

- a. BA – Board Operational Goals
- b. BAA – Board Self-Evaluation
- c. BB – Board Legal Status
- d. BBA – Board Powers and Duties
- e. BBAA – Board Member Authority and Responsibilities
- f. BBAA-R – Board Member Authority and Responsibilities
- g. BBB – Board Membership/Elections
- h. BBBA – Board Member Qualifications
- i. BBBC – Board Member Resignation
- j. BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies
- k. BC – Board Member Conduct
- l. BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics
- m. BCB – Board Member Conflict of Interest
- n. BD – Organization of the Board
- o. BD-R – Organization of the Board
- p. BDD – Board-Superintendent Relationship
- q. BDE – Board Committees
- r. BDF – Advisory Committees
- s. BDF-R – Advisory Committees-School Improvement Councils
- t. BDG – Board Attorney/Legal Services
- u. BDG-R – Board Attorney/Legal Services
- v. BDH – Board Consultants
- w. BE – Board Meetings
- x. BEC – Executive Session/Open Meetings
- y. BEDA – Board Meeting Notification
- z. BEDB – Board Agenda
- aa. BEDF – Voting Method at Board Meetings
- bb. BEDG – Minutes of Board Meetings
- cc. BEDH – Public Participation at Meetings
- dd. BEDI – News Media Services at Board Meetings
- ee. BEDL – Board Members and Electronic Communications
- ff. BEDM – Electronic Participation in Board Meetings
- gg. BEDN – Board Members Use of District-Owned Portable Devices
- hh. BG/BGD – Board Policy Process/Board Review of Administrative Rules
- ii. BG/BGD-R – Board Policy Process/Board Review of Administrative Rules

- jj. BIA/BIB – New Member Orientation/Board Member Development Opportunities
- kk. BID – Board Member Compensation and Expenses
- ll. BIE – Board Member Insurance/Liability
- mm. BJ– Board Legislative Program
- nn. BJ-R – Board Legislative Program
- oo. BJ-E – Advocacy Calendar
- pp. BK – Board Membership in Professional Associations

Superintendent Brown presented Policies BA, BAA, BB, BBA, BBAA, BBAA-R, BBB, BBBA, BBBC, BBBE, BC, BCA, BCB, BD, BD-R, BDD, BDE, BDF, BDF-R, BDG, BDG-R, BDH, BE, BEC, BEDA, BEDB, BEDF, BEDG, BEDH, BEDI, BEDL, BEDM, BEDN, BG/BGD, BG/BGD-R, BIA/BIB, BID, BIE, BJ, BJ-R, BJ-E and BK for first reading. Superintendent Brown gave a summary of each policy listed, whether they had previously been adopted by Bamberg School District One, Bamberg School District Two and/or both, and the suggested optional wording needing to be decided upon by the board for certain policies.

After lengthy discussion, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve for first reading of Policies BA - Board Operational Goals, BAA – Board Self-Evaluation, BB – Board Legal Status, BBA – Board Powers and Duties, BBAA – Board Member Authority and Responsibilities, BBAA-R – Board Member Authority and Responsibilities, BBB – Board Membership/Elections, BBBA – Board Member Qualifications, BBBC – Board Member Resignation, BBBE – Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies, BC – Board Member Conduct, BCA – Board Member Code of Ethics, BCB – Board Member Conflict of Interest, BD – Organization of the Board, BD-R – Organization of the Board, BDD – Board-Superintendent Relationship, BDE – Board Committees, BDF – Advisory Committees, BDF-R – Advisory Committees-School Improvement Councils, BDG – Board Attorney/Legal Services, BDG-R – Board Attorney/Legal Services, BDH – Board Consultants, BE – Board Meetings, BEC – Executive Session/Open Meetings, BEDA – Board Meeting Notification, BEDB – Board Agenda, BEDF – Voting Method at Board Meetings, BEDG – Minutes of Board Meetings, BEDH – Public Participation in Board Meetings, BEDI – News Media Services at Board Meetings, BEDL – Board Members and Electronic Communications, BEDM – Electronic Participation in Board Meetings, BEDN – Board Members Use of District-Owned Portable Devices, BG/BGD –Board Policy Process/Board Review of Administrative Rules, BG/BGD-R – Board Policy Process/Board Review of Administrative Rules, BIA/BIB – New Member Orientation/Board Member Development Opportunities, BID – Board Member Compensation and Expenses, BIE – Board Member Insurance/Liability, BJ – Board Legislative Program, BJ-R – Board Legislative Program, BJ-E – Advocacy Calendar and BK – Board Membership in Professional Associations as presented with the appropriate changes.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Discussion of Committee for Board Policies (Action if Needed)**

The board discussed the possibility of appointing several board members to form a committee to take on the task of reviewing new policies recommended by the SCSBA prior to presenting each policy to the board for first reading. Appointment of a committee would

prevent lengthy board meetings in the future. After a brief conversation, Board Chair Janeth Walker made the appointment of a committee to review future proposed board policies, to which the remaining board members agreed. The members appointed to serve on the board policy review committee were Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte and Secretary Tonie Holman.

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

In the absence of Finance Director Devon Furr, Superintendent Brown presented the Financial Report for Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two for FY 2021-2022 as of April 2022, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the Financial Reports for April 2022, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

12. **Visitor's Comments**

Mr. Ken Ahlin addressed his concerns with Bamberg County School District's board meeting schedule, as it conflicts with Bamberg County Council's meetings and prohibits visitors' attendance as they have to decide which meeting to attend. Mr. Ahlin requested the board to reconsider their meeting schedule.

13. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson 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 Personnel Release from Employment, Discussion of Compensation, Discussion of Release of Students, Contractual Matters Regarding: Superintendent, Incidental to Potential Purchase of Property and Receipt of Legal Advice.

Open session: Trustee Harriet Coker 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 9-0.

14. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded for the Board to approve Agenda Item 13 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, and j, Agenda Item 13 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for a, b, and c, Agenda Item 13 (a) (3) Discussion of Personnel Release from Employment for breach of contract for employee a and release of contract for employee b, and Agenda Item 13 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8. The motion passed 9-0.

With respect to Agenda Item 13 (c) (1) Superintendent and Agenda Item 13 (d) Receipt of Legal Advice, after advisement from legal counsel, it was Board Chair Janeth Walker's judgement that Superintendent Brown continue in her role as superintendent for the consolidated district based on her continued dedication, success, hard work and support for all communities.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 13 (a) (4) Discussion of Compensation or Agenda Item 13 (c) (2) Incidental to Potential Purchase of Property.

15. **Adjourn**

Trustee Naomi Eckels moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary