

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
April 3, 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 Harriet 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, 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 Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
3. **Approval of Minutes for March 6, 2023**
Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to accept the March 6, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
4. **Discussion of Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence (Action if Needed)**
Board Chair Janeth Walker advised of being presented with a concern regarding the Pledge of Allegiance not being recited and a moment of silence not being observed at board meetings. Board members discussed their thoughts on the matter, and, as a result, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to approve recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and observance of a moment of silence at beginning of the current meeting and every board meeting in the future.** The motion passed 9-0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

5. **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 Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith in the absence of 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

6. **Truancy Report/Update: Denise Robinson-Crosby**
Truancy Officer Denise Robinson-Crosby reviewed the truancy report as presented for Bamberg County School District. [Board Packet Enclosure]
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 thanked all involved in preparing for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School's prom and requested that students make responsible decisions.
 - b) Dr. Brown reviewed the district's student enrollment trends for Bamberg County School District as of April 2023 compared to the prior year and noted the district had increased almost twenty students in K-12 compared to this time last year.
 - c) Dr. Brown approached the board about its discretion to offload the numerous unused properties throughout the district now that the board had an opportunity to review the appraisals included in last month's board packets. Dr. Brown advised that there were a total of three properties and the properties have no use to the district.

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to grant permission to the Superintendent to proceed with the sale of the properties. The motion passed 9-0.
 - d) Dr. Brown praised Ms. Zelda Douglas, Ms. Bridgette Pough, Dr. Brenda Hughes, Ms. Kimberly Haigler, principals, and staff at Denmark-Olar for the phenomenal career fair held at Denmark-Olar High School. Dr. Brown went on to thank all of the businesses and colleges for taking the time out to attend the career fair which contributed to its success.
 - e) Dr. Brown commended the principals and staff within the district for immediately forming teams to address ATSI concerns after Federal Program Director, Phyllis Overstreet's presentation regarding school improvement designations at last month's board meeting.
9. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trips:**
 - a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA – SC FFA State Convention, Greenville, SC – June 6, 2023-June 8, 2023 (Morgan Busbee, FFA Advisor)
 - b. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA – FFA Summer Camp, Myrtle Beach, SC – June 26, 2023-June 30, 2023 (Morgan Busbee, FFA Advisor)
 - c. HOSA Future Health Professionals – International HOSA Conference – June 21, 2023-June 25, 2023 (Teresa Huber, HOSA Advisor)

Following a review of the requests for overnight trips, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the request from FFA Advisor, Morgan Busbee of Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School for the FFA to attend the SC FFA State Convention in Greenville, SC, June 6, 2023-June 8, 2023 and for the FFA to attend the FFA Summer Camp in Myrtle Beach, SC, June 26, 2023-June 30, 2023.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

No action was taken on the request of overnight trip from HOSA Advisor, Teresa Huber, for HOSA Future Health Professionals to attend the International HOSA Conference, June 21, 2023-June 25, 2023, as this request was withdrawn prior to the board meeting.

10. **First Reading – BCSD Policies – Section I -- Instruction**
 - a. IHAE – Physical Education
 - b. IKF-R – Graduation Requirements

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

After brief discussion, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve for first reading of Policy IHAE – Physical Education and Policy IKF-R – Graduation Requirements.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Ms. Furr also requested the board to discuss dates for a budget work session following the spring break holiday.

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the Financial Report for March 2023, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

12. **Discussion of Committee for Board Retreat**

Board Chair Janeth Walker presented the board with a request for a committee to be formed to discuss topics for a local board retreat. Mrs. Walker appointed Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte as Committee Chair with Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg and Trustee Harriet Coker also being appointed to complete the committee. Mrs. Walker tasked the committee with researching topics to discuss, dates to hold the retreat, and items for an agenda.

13. **Visitors' Comments**

Prior to visitor comments, Board Chair Janeth Walker reminded all that it is not an open forum and that any questions/concerns brought forth must only pertain to the items set forth on the meeting's agenda.

Mrs. Sharon Zion began by advising the board she appreciated all that each of them do for the district. Mrs. Zion went on to discuss her history with the district, having come to the district in 1974, and felt the merging of the two districts was going well. She further shared that she has been blessed with a good job. Mrs. Zion then proceeded to be “the voice”

concerning a specific employee. It was at this time that Board Chair Janeth Walker stopped Mrs. Zion and advised that she could not talk about a teacher. Mrs. Zion attempted to continue, but Board Chair Janeth Walker again thanked her for her comments and advised her that the topic would not be discussed. Mrs. Zion thanked the board and stepped down from the podium.

14. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker 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 Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded 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**

Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve Agenda Item 14 (b) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, f, and g, Agenda Item 14 (b) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignations for employees a, b, c, d, e, and f, and Agenda Item 14 (c) Discussion of Release of Students for students 1 and 2. The motion passed 9-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 14 (a) Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation.

16. **Adjourn**

Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary