

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
May 6, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte, Secretary Naomi Eckels, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Harriet Coker, Trustee John L. Hiers, Trustee Tonie A. Holman, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom 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 8, 2024**
Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to accept the April 8, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
5. **Election of Officers for 2024-2025**
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 2024-April 2025.

Trustee Blossom Thompson nominated Trustee Beverly Bonaparte as Board Chair, however, the nomination died for the lack of a second vote.

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

Trustee John Hiers nominated and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to elect Trustee Beverly Bonaparte as Vice Chair. The motion passed 9-0.

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg nominated and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to elect Trustee Naomi Eckels as Secretary. The motion passed 9-0.

6. **School Reports: Mandy Edwards, 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 – Interim Principal Mandy Edwards
- 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

Assistant Superintendent Denny Ulmer presented all school reports in the absence of principals.

7. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

Assistant Superintendent Denny 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 congratulated Ms. Charlotte Schlamp, Instructional Technology Coach for Bamberg County School District and Ms. Chelsee Loadholt of Richard Carroll Elementary 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.
- b) Dr. Brown presented a pamphlet for the Smiles for a Lifetime partnership program which provides restorative care for students of Bamberg County School District.
- c) Dr. Brown advised of the South Carolina School Board Association's request for the school board to celebrate all of the 2024 grads by taking a picture with the SCSBA "Congrats 2024 Grads" sign.
- d) Dr. Brown continued with a summary of the enrollment data as of April 29, 2024 advising the total number of student enrollment across the district was 1,782.
- e) Dr. Brown extended a sincere thank you to the following groups for their continued dedication, hard work, and support of the schools, administration, staff, and students of Bamberg County School District:
 1. RCES' PTO - led by President Awena Hurst;
 2. B-E Booster Club – led by President Bobbi Bunch;
 3. D-O Booster Club – led by President Eartha Atterberry;
 4. Palmetto Garden Club for assisting DOES students in Grade 2 with Earth Day;

5. Mrs. Laura Buss with the Housing Authority and Bamberg Food Share for assisting with afterschool gardening programs and some of the arts programs in both Bamberg and Denmark;
 6. Reading Buddy Program Volunteers at DOES – led by Mrs. Sharon Carter;
 7. All other volunteers and organizations that devote tireless energy, time, and assistance to supporting our schools, staff, students, and community; and,
 8. All faculty, staff, parents, and students for all of their hard work this year.
- f) Dr. Brown summed up by recognizing and sending a huge thank you to Mr. Klaus Langehans for his generous scholarship donation of \$10,000.00 which will assist several deserving Bamberg-Ehrhardt High and Denmark-Olar High students, over the next five years, with pursuing continued education after high school. A BEHS student will be chosen to receive the Beacham and Lib Greene Scholarship and a DOHS student will be chosen to receive the Erna and Herbert Langehans and Virginia Howe Scholarship.
9. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trips:**
- a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Golf Team – State Tournament – Hartsville, SC – May 6, 2024-May 7, 2024 (Mary Templeton, Golf Coach)
 - b. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC – Summer Camp – Fort Jackson, SC – June 2, 2024-June 7, 2024 (Major McDonald, JROTC Advisor)
 - c. Denmark-Olar High School JROTC – Summer Camp – Fort Jackson, SC – June 2, 2024-June 7, 2024 (Major Robinson, JROTC Advisor)

Following a review of the requests for out of state/overnight trips, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Naomi Eckels seconded to approve the request from Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Golf Coach, Mary Templeton, for the golf team to attend the State Tournament in Hartsville, SC, May 6, 2024-May 7, 2024 and the requests of JROTC Advisor, Major McDonald, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC cadets and JROTC Advisor, Major Robinson, for the Denmark-Olar High School JROTC cadets to attend the summer camp in Fort Jackson, SC, June 2, 2024-June 7, 2024 .**The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

10. **Monthly Financial Report**

In the absence of Finance Director Devon Furr, Superintendent Dottie Brown presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2023-2024 as of April 2024, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Board Chair Janeth Walker solidified the date for the budget work session for May 29, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to accept the Financial Report for April 2024, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

11. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

12. **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 Release of Students, and Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property.

Open session: Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 9-0.

13. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve Agenda Item 12 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a and b, Agenda Item 12 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a, and Agenda Item 12 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, and w. The motion passed 9-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 12 (c) Contractual Matters Regarding: (1) Incidental to Potential Sale of Property as there were no recommendations at this time.

14. **Adjourn**

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Naomi Eckels, Secretary