

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg Ehrhardt High School
January 19, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair John Hiers, Secretary Tony E. Duncan, Trustee Gwendolyn Dianne Bamberg, and Trustee Naomi Eckels.

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, and the Bamberg School District One Website have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Secretary Tony Duncan seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
3. **Approval of Minutes for November 17, 2021 and November 22, 2021**
Secretary Tony Duncan moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to accept the November 17, 2021 and November 22, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
4. **2022 School Board Recognition – Review of the Ethical Principles**
The board was presented with the South Carolina School Board Association’s 2022 Ethical Principles for review. Each Board member took their turn and shared in the reading of the ethical principles, followed with the signing of the 2022 Ethical Principles poster to reiterate their pledge as a school board member.
5. **School Reports: Chastity Evans, Denise L. Miller, and Dennis R. Ulmer.**
Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principal)
In exercising extra precautions for COVID-19, the principals were not required to attend the meeting; however, Superintendent Dottie Brown reviewed all school reports as presented.
6. **Athletic Report: Robert Williams**
In the absence of Coach Robert Williams, Superintendent Brown reviewed the athletic report as presented. [Board Packet Enclosure]
7. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent’s Report**
Superintendent Brown noted the following:
 - a) **Recognition of Mr. Tony Duncan**
Superintendent Brown recognized Mr. Tony Duncan with a certificate of appreciation and pin from the South Carolina School Boards Association for 15 years of dedicated school board service.

- b) **Recognition of Coach Robert Williams**

Superintendent Brown acknowledged Coach Robert Williams for being named Lower State Coach of the Year in Class A. Coach Williams was chosen by the South Carolina Coaches Association for leading the Red Raiders to a 13-1 record and also leading them to the Class A Lower State Championship, their first appearance since 2017.
 - c) **Recognition of Savannah Nuclear Site Mini Grant Winners**

Superintendent Brown announced and congratulated the Savannah Nuclear Site Mini Grant Winners, Ms. Morgan Busbee, Ms. Contrilla Anderson, and Ms. Blanch Johnson. Ms. Busbee was awarded \$750.00, Ms. Anderson was awarded \$1,000.00, and Ms. Johnson was awarded \$1,000.00 in grant funding, for a total award allocation to Bamberg School District One in the amount of \$2,750.00.
 - d) **District Enrollment Trend Data**

Superintendent Brown reviewed the district's student enrollment trends for Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two as of January 2022 compared to the prior three years.
 - e) **FFA Magazine Spotlight**

Superintendent Brown recognized Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School's FFA, led by Ms. Morgan Busbee, for being highlighted in the FFA *New Horizon's* Spring/Summer 2022 magazine.
 - f) **SCDHEC Updated Guidance for K-12 Schools**

Superintendent Brown referenced the most recently updated DHEC guidance dated January 15, 2022. Dr. Brown advised quarantine and isolation timelines have changed. Dr. Brown advised the guidelines have been posted to the school's webpage and social media page so the public can have access to the most recent information.
8. **Consolidation Updates**

Superintendent Brown advised there were no new updates regarding consolidation and were still awaiting the scheduling of a meeting to swear-in the new board members for the consolidated district.
9. **Shared Services Updates**

Superintendent Brown noted that Bamberg School District One and Bamberg School District Two are continuing to use shared services with superintendent, deputy superintendent, finance director, technology director, technology coach and food services director.
10. **2021 Bamberg School District One Audit – Neal Crider, McGregor & Company, LLP**

Mr. Neal Crider, auditor, noted the District received a "clean opinion" on the financial statements. There were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies related to internal control over financial reporting. Mr. Crider stated for fiscal year 2021, the District met the criteria for qualifying as a low risk auditee which reflects the good job the District has done over the last few years with its internal controls. Mr. Crider advised that this allows the auditors to put more reliance on the District's internal controls over financial reporting and compliance and reduce the amount of testing over major programs. However, with the influx of ESSER funds and with ESSER being a new, larger program, they had to consider this a high risk program. Food service also became large enough this past year with meal distributions to also become a high risk program. Therefore, Mr. Crider advised they were required to do more work than necessary in a normal year based on the low risk

determination. Food Service and ESSER were identified and tested as major programs this year and were issued a “clean opinion” on compliance. There were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies related to internal control over financial reporting and no major compliance findings on the major programs tested.

Mr. Crider noted several years ago the SCDE began requiring districts to maintain an unassigned fund balance equal to 30 days of operations. The District fell short of this mark in, FY 2020, but recovered this year, FY 2021, in maintaining an unassigned fund balance. The District, in fact, has an unassigned fund balance equal to 40 days of operations.

Mr. Crider reported on the negative balance of the pupil activity accounts and encouraged the District to try to get these resolved this year before consolidation to provide a fresh start for the activity funds. This would provide “clean books” for the new district, but would require management to make a final decision.

The General Fund ended with an increase in the Fund Balance of \$405,800.00 which comes to a total of \$1,387,158.00. With respect to long term debt, the IRS subsidized \$990,150.00 on interest on the qualified school construction bonds and the District paid \$393,112.00 out of pocket interest on these funds. The balance of the sinking Principle Fund was \$10,796,995.00 as of June 30, 2021 and this fund will continue to increase and be used to pay the balloon payment that is coming up in 2027 of the \$20,000,000.00 on those Bonds. The funds that are sitting in that account also generate investment earnings and in FY 2021, they generated \$329,419.00. Early in the fiscal year the \$9,000,000.00 Build America Bonds were refunded which is essentially a refinance to take advantage of the low interest rates and even though the District is going to lose the subsidy the IRS has, this transaction is going to save the District \$2,161,853.00 over the life of the Bonds. Overall, the District had another solid year.

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for the FY 2021-2022 as of November 2021 and December 2021, for review. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Ms. Furr addressed the deficit in the pupil activity accounts referenced by auditor, Mr. Neal Crider, and advised entries could be made to zero the activity accounts out this year, so that the accounts would be clear prior to consolidation. The total balance to clear the pupil activity accounts is \$69,662.00 which would come from the General Fund.

Secretary Tony Duncan moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to approve the clearing out of the pupil activity account balances of \$69,662.00 from the General Fund. The motion passed 5-0.

12. **Visitors’ Comments**

None.

13. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. **Secretary Tony Duncan moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to enter Executive Session.** The motion carried (5-0).

Board Chair Janeth Walker noted that the Board would be moving into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Recommendation for Resignations (If Needed), Personnel Recommendations for Hires (If Needed), and Student Transfer Requests (If Needed).

Open session: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tony Duncan seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

14. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded for the Board to approve Agenda Item 13 (a) Personnel Recommendation for Resignations (If Needed) for employees #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8 and #9 and Agenda Item 13 (b) Personnel Recommendations for Hires (If Needed) for employee #1 and #2. The motion passed 5-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 13 (c) Student Transfer Requests (If Needed), as there were no recommendations presented at this time.

15. **Adjourn**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary