

Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
November 6, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair John L. Hiers, Secretary Tonie A. Holman, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Beverly Bonaparte, Trustee Harriet Coker, Trustee Naomi Eckels, and Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst.

Absent: Trustee Blossom Thompson.

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 Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes for October 2, 2023**

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to accept the October 2, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

5. **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

Each principal presented their school report along with a detailed review of their school’s report card, rating, and plans to improve the rating.

6. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

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

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown gave a detailed summary of the report card performance ratings, how they were obtained, and stated every school showed growth. Dr. Brown noted Denmark-Olar High School, Denmark-Olar Middle School, and Denmark-Olar Elementary schools were all deemed as Underperforming (Below Average) Schools. Dr. Brown recognized the principals, assistant principals, teachers, staff, and parents for coming together to create plans to improve their school and district's overall report card ratings. A few of the efforts being implemented to improve the report card ratings include increasing professional development for administrators and teachers, strengthening partnerships with parents and students, aligning curriculums to state standards, recruitment efforts, and reorganizing curriculum teams. Dr. Brown thanked the board for their support in the effort to improve student progress.

Dr. Brown further explained the ratings for 2024 would consist of a new added growth model and accountability changes.

- b) Dr. Brown presented the South Carolina Department of Education's formal notice advising of Bamberg County School District's Underperforming (Below Average) Schools. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- c) Dr. Brown continued with a summary of the enrollment data, advising the numbers were slightly decreased from last month.
- d) Dr. Brown informed the board that the South Carolina School Board Association was rebooting its' Board Legislative Contact (BLC) 2.0 program and is requesting local boards to appoint a BLC contact for their district.

After a brief discussion, Board Chair Janeth Walker recommended Trustee Beverly Bonaparte as the BLC contact for Bamberg County School District. Following the recommendation, **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to appoint Trustee Beverly Bonaparte as the BLC contact for Bamberg County School District.** The motion passed 8-0.

- e) Dr. Brown concluded by informing that the \$5,000,000.00 consolidation funding had finally been received which enabled and now Financial Advisor Bob Damron can begin working with the county to reduce the millage.

The board thanked Representative Justin Bamberg for pushing and coming through with the funding.

8. **Second Reading – BCSD New Policies – Section J:**

- a. JLCDB – Use of Lifesaving Medications

Superintendent Brown presented policy JLCDB for second reading.

After a brief discussion, **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to approve for second reading of Policy JLCDB – Use of Lifesaving Medications.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

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

- a. GBEBE – Gavin’s Law (Sexual Extortion) (Staff)

Superintendent Brown presented policy GBEBE for first reading.

After a brief discussion, **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to approve for first reading of Policy GBEBE – Gavin’s Law (Sexual Extortion) (Staff).** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **First Reading – BCSD New Policies – Section J:**

- a. JICFB – Gavin’s Law (Sexual Extortion) (Student)

Superintendent Brown presented policy JICFB for first reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve for first reading of Policy JICFB – Gavin’s Law (Sexual Extortion) (Student).** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

11. **Approval of 2024 Board Calendar**

Dr. Brown presented the 2024 Board Calendar and noted that the January, April, July, and September meetings dates listed on the proposed calendar were scheduled for the second Monday of the month, as the first Monday of these months fell on a scheduled holiday. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to accept the 2024 Board Calendar as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

12. **Discussion of Use of Tennis Court & Recondition Fees (Action If Needed)**

Dr. Brown summed up a meeting she had with Mayor Nancy Foster who advised that the tennis courts needed reconditioning and presented her with a quote from Tennico of Columbia, Inc. in the amount of \$32,747.00. Dr. Brown further informed that Mayor Foster inquired if the school would consider helping with a portion of the invoice.

Finance Director Devon Furr advised that the last time the district helped with reconditioning the courts they contributed to half of the total cost.

After a review of the invoice and a brief discussion, the board decided to table the discussion pending itemization of the current quote and the possibility of obtaining additional quotes.

13. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2023-2024 as of October 2023, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Ms. Furr made note that she was working with Financial Advisor Bob Damron to have the \$5,000,000.00 consolidation money deposited in order to make a bond payment. Ms. Furr further noted that this bond payment would not reduce the millage this year, but should lower the millage for the next tax year.

Ms. Furr advised she was currently in the process of working with the auditors to finalize the audit to submit to the state department in order to meet the December 1, 2023 deadline.

Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to accept the Financial Report for October 2023, as presented. The motion passed 8-0.

14. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

15. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to enter Executive Session. The motion carried 8-0.

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, and Discussion of Release of Students.

Open session: Trustee Naomi Eckels moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 8-0.

16. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to approve Agenda Item 15 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students a, b, c, and d. The motion passed 8-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 15 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire and Agenda Item 15 (b) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation as there were no recommendations at this time.

17. **Adjourn**

Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary