

**Bamberg County School District**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Bamberg County School District Office**  
**November 4, 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 Holman, Trustee Blossom Thompson, and Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst

**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 Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 9-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes for October 7, 2024**

**Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to accept the October 7, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.** The motion passed 9-0.

5. **School Reports: Mandy Edwards, Shannon Johnson, Denise Miller, Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, Jordan Smith, and Deonia Simmons. Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals/Assistant Principals)**

- Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
- Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Principal Shannon Johnson
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
- Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith
- Denmark-Olar High School – Assistant Superintendent Denny Ulmer in the absence of Principal Deonia Simmons

Each principal presented a detailed review of their individual school’s report card, rating and plans to improve future ratings.

6. **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]

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown thanked all involved in making both Bamberg-Ehrhardt High and Denmark-Olar High football homecoming games successful events.
- b) Dr. Brown presented the Feed My Sheep Ministries Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner Flyer to be held on November 28, 2024 at Denmark-Olar High School.
- c) Dr. Brown updated the enrollment data as of October 31, 2024, advising the total number of student enrollment across the district was currently at 1,826.
- a) Dr. Brown discussed Bamberg County School District's overall report card and advised the district does not get an overall rating. Dr. Brown advised there were student gains in Algebra, Reading/ELA, Math, Biology, and Science, but there were struggles in US History and Constitution. Dr. Brown thanked all administrators for their efforts in filling the gaps and working on strategic plans for moving forward.

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

- a. Foundations Beyond School Hours 2025 – Orlando, FL – February 13, 2025-February 16, 2025 (Professional Development requested by Zelda Douglas, Denmark-Olar Afterschool Coordinator)

Following a review of the request for an out-of-state professional development request, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Tonie Holman seconded to approve the request for Denmark-Olar's Afterschool Coordinator, Zelda Douglas, to attend the Foundations Beyond School Hours 2025 professional development in Orlando, FL, February 13, 2025-February 16, 2025.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

9. **Second Reading – BCSD Policies – Section J – Students:**

- a. JICJ – Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day

Superintendent Brown presented policy JICJ for second reading.

After brief discussion, **Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Naomi Eckels seconded to approve for second reading of Policy JICJ – Prohibition of Personal Electronic Devices During the School Day.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Second Reading – BCSD Policy – Section K – School-Community-Home Relations:**

- a. KF-E(1) – Request of Use of School Facilities Form

Superintendent Brown presented policy KF-E(1) for second reading.

After brief discussion, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve for second reading of Policy KF-E(1) – Request of Use of School Facilities Form.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2024-2025 as of October 2024, for review. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Ms. Furr further advised the annual district audit has started and will be complete by December.

**Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Naomi Eckels seconded to accept and approve the Financial Report for October 2024, as presented.** The motion passed 9-0.

12. **Superintendent Evaluation**

Board Chair Janeth Walker reminded all that a motion to approve the superintendent's evaluation was passed at the October 2024 board meeting. Board Chair Janeth Walker read a statement summarizing the superintendent's annual performance evaluation stating the Board believes that Dr. Brown has the vision and skill set necessary to continue to move the District forward toward its goals and her commitment and dedication to enhancing the educational environment and academic opportunities for all students is appreciated. The Board members expressed their support for her leadership and performance in various ways.

Mrs. Walker further went on to state that the Board understands that continuing to build relationships with members of the community will further strengthen the educational environment of all students in the district and the Board would like for Dr. Brown to find ways to collaborate with local entities and other stakeholders to identify opportunities for the District to support the economic development in the County and continue to support the students in preparing to enter the workforce. Mrs. Walker advised the Board acknowledges the challenges in recruiting teachers and administrators and appreciates Dr. Brown's efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and administrators to support our students. The Board would like for Dr. Brown to evaluate the District's recruitment and retention strategies to identify opportunities to ensure that the District is competitive in its access to teachers and would like for her to explore ways to provide additional resources to support teachers. Mrs. Walker went on to state that the Board would also like for Dr. Brown to continue to develop ideas and provide enhanced opportunities to foster greater parent engagement in the educational process. The Board believes that these efforts are important to increasing student academic growth and success.

Mrs. Walker concluded by encouraging Dr. Brown, reiterating that the Board was pleased with her performance and looks forward to her continued leadership.

13. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

14. **Executive Session**

**Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst 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 Employment/Personnel: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, and Discussion of Release of Students.

**Open session: Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst 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 Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve Agenda Item 14 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employee a.** The motion passed 9-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 14 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation nor Agenda Item 14 (b) Discussion of Release of Students.

16. **Adjourn**

**Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed 9-0.

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

Minutes approved:

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Janeth Walker, Board Chair

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Naomi Eckels, Secretary