

Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
September 9, 2024
6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Board Chair Janeth Walker and Trustee Harriet Coker

1. **Call meeting to order:** Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte 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 Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes for August 22, 2024**

Secretary Naomi Eckels moved and Trustee Cynthia Hurst seconded to accept the August 22, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

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

- Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith
- Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Principal Shannon Johnson
- Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith
- Denmark-Olar High School – Principal Deonia Simmons

Each principal reviewed their specific school testing data in detail and plans for improvement.

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 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 recognized Bamberg County School District's staff, administrators, truancy officer and social worker for making education better.
- b) Dr. Brown proudly announced Bamberg County School District's 2024-2025 school level teachers of the year: Allison Harper for Richard Carroll Elementary School, Monica Harley for Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School, Heather Palmer for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School, Wanda Summers for Denmark-Olar Elementary School, Teresa Rivers Johnson for Denmark-Olar Middle School, and Phillip Robinson for Denmark-Olar High School. Dr. Brown advised they were chosen by their peers and all would now compete for Bamberg County School District's 2024-2025 District Teacher of the Year.
- c) Dr. Brown thanked all faculty and staff for the growth in district and state testing scores. Dr. Brown advised the scores reported were raw scores and that the data would be presented again when the school report cards were released.
- d) Dr. Brown briefly discussed the new cell phone policy approved by the State Board of Education. Dr. Brown informed that the new model policy has been sent by the South Carolina School Board Association and the local school boards would need to have the policy approved and in place by January 25, 2025.
- g) Dr. Brown concluded with a summary of the enrollment data as of September 4, 2024 advising the total number of student enrollment across the district was up to 1,826.

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

- a. International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention Conference – Charlotte, NC – October 6, 2024-October 9, 2024 (Professional Development requested by Denise Robinson-Crosby, Truancy Officer and Jra'quarie Washington, Social Worker)

Following a review of the request for an out-of-state professional development trip, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Naomi Eckels seconded to approve the request of truancy officer, Denise Robinson-Crosby and social worker, Jra'quarie Washington, to attend the International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention Conference in Charlotte, NC, October 6, 2024-October 9, 2024.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

10. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2024-2025 as of August 2024, for review. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Trustee John Hiers moved and Secretary Naomi Eckels seconded to accept the Financial Report for August 2024, as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

11. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

12. **Executive Session**

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to enter Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0.

Vice Chair Beverly Bonaparte 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 Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation.

Open session: Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Naomi Eckels seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

13. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Tonie Holman seconded to approve Agenda Item 13 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, and Agenda Item 13 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for student 1. The motion passed 7-0.

There was no action taken on Agenda Item 13 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation and Agenda Item 13 (c) Discussion of Superintendent Evaluation.

14. **Adjourn**

Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Naomi Eckels, Secretary