

**Bamberg County School District**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Bamberg County School District Office**  
**April 8, 2024**  
**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 Blossom Thompson (Via Google Meet)

**Absent:** Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst

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 Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes for March 4, 2024**  
**Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to accept the March 4, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.
5. **School Reports: Rhonda Ray, Patricia Moultrie-Goldsmith, Deonia Simmons, Mandy Edwards, Denise Miller, and Jordan Smith. 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

Superintendent Dottie Brown presented all school reports in the absence of principals.

6. **Truancy Report**  
Superintendent Dottie Brown reviewed the truancy report as presented for Bamberg County School District in the absence of Truancy Officer Denise Robinson-Crosby. [Board Packet Enclosure]

7. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

Superintendent Dottie Brown 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 continued with a summary of the enrollment data as of March 27, 2024 advising the total number of student enrollment across the district was 1,772.
- b) Dr. Brown thanked administration, staff, students, and parents for their hard work and dedication during the intercession weeks.
- c) Dr. Brown advised afterschool was winding down and again thanked faculty and staff for running smooth afterschool programs.

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

- a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA – SC FFA Summer Camp – Cherry Grove, SC – June 24, 2024-June 28, 2024 (Morgan Busbee, FFA Advisor)

Following a review of the request for an out of state/overnight trip, **Trustee Naomi Eckels moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the request from Bamberg-Ehrhardt FFA Advisor, Morgan Busbee, for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FFA to attend the SC FFA Summer Camp in Cherry Grove, SC, June 24, 2024-June 28, 2024.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

10. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Ms. Furr advised the \$5,000,000.00 allocated to pay down debt had been sold.

Ms. Furr requested the board members to start looking into dates for the budget work session.

**Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to accept the Financial Report for March 2024, as presented.** The motion passed 8-0.

11. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

12. **Executive Session**

**Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels 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, Discussion of Release of Students, and Contractual Matters Regarding: Incidental to Potential Sale of Property.

Trustee Blossom Thompson ended her Google Meet attendance and exited the meeting.

**Open session: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee 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**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to approve Agenda Item 12 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, and j, Agenda Item 12 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a, and Agenda Item 12 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for students 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9. The motion passed 7-0.

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**

**Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Beverly Bonaparte seconded to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Janeth Walker, Board Chair

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Tonie A. Holman, Secretary