

**Bamberg County School District  
Board of Trustees Special Called Meeting  
Bamberg County School District Office  
May 17, 2023  
6:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** Board Chair Janeth Walker, Secretary Tonie A. Holman, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Beverly Bonaparte, Trustee Harriet Coker, Trustee Naomi Eckels, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom J. Thompson.

**Absent:** Vice Chair John Hiers

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**

**Secretary Tonie Holman moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 7-0.

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

- a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC – JROTC Summer Camp – Fort Jackson, S.C. – June 4, 2023 – June 10, 2023 (Major John McDonald, JROTC Instructor)

Following a review of the request for overnight trip, **Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the request of JROTC Instructor Major John McDonald for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC to attend the JROTC Summer Camp in Fort Jackson, S.C., June 4, 2023-June 10, 2023.** The motion passed 7-0. [Board Packet Enclosure] [Trustee Naomi Eckels had not arrived.]

5. **Continuing Resolution for Budget**

Finance Director Devon Furr advised the board that she was still waiting on numbers from the state and asked the board to adopt a resolution to provide for the continued use of the FY 2022-2023 general fund operational budget into the FY 2023-2024 until the FY 2023-2024 budget is adopted by the state legislature.

Following a review of the resolution, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte approved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve the continuing resolution.** The motion passed 8-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

6. **Discussion 2023-2024 Budget**

**Handout:** FY 2023-2024 Budget

During a review and discussion of the 2023-2024 budget prepared by Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr, it was noted that the proposed budget is based on projections from

what is known, as there is no official 2023-2024 budget from the legislators at this time. Based on what is available, the budget is balanced. The total anticipated budget for 2023-2024 fiscal year is \$22,980,644.86. The state has approved a \$2,500.00 per cell increase for certified staff. CFO Devon Furr advised that all other employees whose salaries are not based on the teacher salary scale, increased by 2%. Ms. Furr advised that the employee insurance portion will go up 3.7% and retirement would also increase.

Ms. Furr informed the board that the substitute pay has not been increased for over ten years and inquired as to the board's pleasure regarding a possible daily rate increase. The board directed Ms. Furr to run several daily increases to the daily rate to see how it would affect the budget and to contact neighboring districts to see how their substitute rates compare to Bamberg County School District's.

Ms. Furr presented the board with a letter from the South Carolina Department of Education approving Bamberg County School District for another 4K Child Early Reading Development and Education Program (CERDEP) classroom in Richard Carroll Elementary School and thanked Abbey Duggins with the SCDE for her assistance in getting the 4K classroom approved. Ms. Furr stated they are currently working on obtaining another 4K CERDEP classroom for Denmark-Olar Elementary School, but the process is not the same and is not complete.

Ms. Furr went on to present the board with a letter from the City of Bamberg regarding the leased building and property located on Faust Street in Bamberg. Ms. Furr informed the board that Superintendent Brown reached out to the City of Bamberg and Mayor Foster about donating the property to Bamberg County School District for continued and future use. However, the City of Bamberg offered to sell the district the property as opposed to donating the property. After a brief discussion, the board directed Ms. Furr to request a copy of the current lease, which is good until 2037, in order to get a better understanding of the terms before they could make an informed decision as to which way they wish to proceed with the property.

Ms. Furr also questioned the board with regard to their thoughts on equalizing the custodial hourly sub rate to align with the food service hourly sub rate. The board requested that Ms. Furr review the numbers to see how a possible increase would affect the overall budget and would make a determination when this had been completed.

Ms. Furr expressed her thoughts regarding consolidation and stated that even though consolidation has progressed nicely, the process will take much longer than a year as opposed to what has previously been perceived to be only a year-long process.

7. **Executive Session**  
**Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg 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 Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting.** The motion carried 8-0.

8. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded to approve **Agenda Item 7 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire** for employee a, **Agenda Item 7 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignations** for employees a, b, c, d, e and f, and **Agenda Item 7 (b) Discussion of Release of Students** for students 1, 2, and 3. The motion passed 8-0.

9. **Adjourn**

**Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Janeth Walker, Board Chair

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Tonie A. Holman, Secretary