

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
October 2, 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, Trustee Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, and Trustee Blossom Thompson.

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 Harriet Coker moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes for September 11, 2023**

Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to accept the September 11, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

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)

- Denmark-Olar Elementary School
- Denmark-Olar Middle School
- Denmark-Olar High School
- Richard Carroll Elementary School
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School

Denmark-Olar Elementary School Assistant Principal Lindsay Toomer presented all school reports in the absence of principals.

6. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

Assistant Principal Lindsay Toomer reviewed the athletic report as presented for Bamberg County School District in the absence of Athletic Director Robert Williams. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Ms. Toomer acknowledged Terrance Hinton (Denmark) as being the Orangeburg Touchdown Club Offensive Player of the Week during week one of the season and Jamie Downing (Bamberg) as being the Orangeburg Touchdown Club Defensive Player of the Week during week three of the season.

Ms. Toomer further acknowledged Coach Corey Crosby (Bamberg) as being chosen to coach in the North/South Football Game in Myrtle Beach the first week of December.

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

Superintendent Brown noted the following:

- a) Dr. Brown proudly recognized Bamberg County School District's 2023-2024 teachers of the year: Lynda Warren for Richard Carroll Elementary School, Criston Jenson for Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School, Morgan Busbee for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School, Phaniki Jenkins for Denmark-Olar Elementary School, Brenda Hughes for Denmark-Olar Middle School, and Jennifer Sanders for Denmark-Olar High School.

Dr. Brown congratulated Bamberg County School District's 2023-2024 District Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jennifer Sanders. Dr. Brown thanked Ms. Sanders for her hard work and dedication to the district.

- b) Dr. Brown updated the student enrollment data as of September 25, 2023 compared with years past and advised the numbers show a slight decrease.
- c) Dr. Brown advised the high school scores were still embargoed and that the principals would present their school report card ratings next month once all scores were ready for release.
- d) Dr. Brown shared that Bamberg County School District was one of five districts chosen to pilot a special needs grant. Dr. Brown briefly discussed that the grant would provide assistance to special needs students by providing education after high school and/or to aid these students in joining the workforce.
- e) Dr. Brown presented a letter from McCormick County School District's Board Chair, Terry Wilson asking the board's consideration in writing to legislatures to modify state law to exempt school districts from paying sales tax.

Following a brief discussion, Board Chair Janeth Walker suggested that she would conduct a little more research and report back to the board prior to any request being made.

8. **Elective Course Approval:**

- a. College & Career Preparation I (379985CH-Elective-0.5 credit) – BEHS
b. Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEARUP) – (27998000) -- DOMS

Superintendent Brown introduced the proposal to offer College & Career Preparation I as an elective course for Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School and Gaining Early Awareness and

Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEARUP) as an elective course for Denmark-Olar Middle School.

Following the proposal, **Trustee Cynthia Hurst moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve College & Career Preparation I (379985CH) for BEHS and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEARUP) (27998000) for DOMS as elective courses.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

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

- a. Denmark-Olar High School JROTC – US Army JROTC Raider National Championship – Fort Knox, KY – November 2, 2023-November 5, 2023 (Phillip Robinson, JROTC Instructor)
- b. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC – US Army JROTC Raider National Championship – Fort Knox, KY – November 2, 2023-November 5, 2023 (Major McDonald, JROTC Instructor)

Following a review of the requests for an out of state/overnight trips, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve the request of JROTC Instructor, Phillip Robinson, for the Denmark-Olar High School JROTC to attend the US Army JROTC Raider National Championship in Fort Knox, KY, November 2, 2023-November 5, 2023 and JROTC Instructor, John McDonald, for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC to attend the US Army JROTC Raider National Championship in Fort Knox, KY, November 2, 2023-November 5, 2023 with the district agreeing to pay \$600.00 for each JROTC Unit for meals.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

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

- a. JLCDB – Use of Lifesaving Medications

Superintendent Brown presented policy JLCDB for first reading.

After a brief discussion, **Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to approve for first reading of Policy JLCDB – Use of Lifesaving Medications.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded to accept the Financial Report for September 2023, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

12. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

13. **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 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: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Secretary Tonie Holman seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 9-0.

14. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Blossom Thompson seconded to approve Agenda Item 13 (a) (1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employee a, Agenda Item 13 (a) (2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a, and Agenda Item 13 (b) Discussion of Release of Students for student a. The motion passed 9-0.

15. **Adjourn**

Trustee Beverly Bonaparte moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tonie A. Holman, Secretary