Members present: Board Chair Chris Wallace, Vice Chair Janeth Walker, Secretary Tony E. Duncan, Trustee John L. Hiers, and Trustee Julia “Kim” Berry.

Absent: None

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair Chris Wallace called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence.

2. **Notice to Media:** In accordance with the S. C. Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, Section 30-4-80(E), the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting:
   - The Times and Democrat
   - The Advertiser-Herald

3. **Approval of Agenda**
   Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 5-0.

4. **Approval of Minutes**
   Vice Chair Janeth Walker moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to approve the Minutes of November 20, 2017, as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

5. **2018 School Board Recognition – Review of the Ethical Principles**
   In observance of National School Boards Month, Superintendent Schwarting thanked the Board for the services they provide to the school District. The “Ethical Principles for Board Members” from SCSBA were read and signed by the members. These rules are helpful in carrying out the duties of Board members. [Handout: Gifts]

6. **Approval of 2018 Board Calendar**
   Following a review of the 2018 Monthly Board Meeting Schedule, **Vice Chair Janeth Walker made a motion and Trustee John Hiers seconded to accept the 2018 Monthly Board Meeting Schedule.** The motion passed 5-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

7. **School Reports: Stacey Walter, Denise Miller, and Dennis Ulmer**
   Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals):
   - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Stacey Walter
   - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
   - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School –Vice Principal Jordan Smith
8. **Athletic Updates**
New scoreboards have been erected in the gym at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School. A repairman will be coming on Friday, January 26th to correct a problem with two numbers that are not working properly. Vice Chair Janeth Walker noted how grateful and appreciative she is to see the new scoreboards – they look good.

9. **Student/Staff Recognitions and Superintendent’s Report**
Superintendent Schwarting reported the following:

a) **Make-up Days:**
Superintendent Schwarting noted that the District missed school on September 11 and 12 due to Hurricane Irma and January 4 and 5 due to snow. The District made up September 11 on January 16 and will make up September 12 on March 23 (Staff Development Day). Also, the District will make up January 4, on March 30 which is Good Friday and a day scheduled to be off. January 5 is pending due to unpredictable weather conditions during the month of February. The spring break will not be affected. The state law requires that three days be made up and these days are in the District’s calendar but the fourth day and any day after that that might come up will have to receive permission from the Board.

b) **Out of State Field Trip Requests**
Board Packet Enclosure: Request for Field Trip Requiring Overnight Lodging

Following a review of a request for out-of-state overnight lodging field trips, Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to approve the request from Mrs. Angela Williams, Project Beyond and GT Coordinator, to take 17 students in grades 3-5 to Atlanta, Georgia, on March 8-10, 2018, and to take 26 students in grades 6-8 to Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 22-25, 2018, to visit historical sites that coincide with current studies and to experience them in action through events. The motion passed 5-0.

Through an oversight by the Board, a site location was omitted from the previous motion that was passed regarding the field trip request from Mrs. Angela Williams; therefore, Vice Chair Janeth Walker moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to include the location of Monticello, Virginia, as a site for the students in grades 6-8 to tour on March 22-25, 2018. The motion passed 5-0.

- Student enrollment as of January 8, 2018: Richard Carroll Elementary – 755; Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle – 210; Bamberg-Ehrhardt High – 412; and total enrollment – 1,377. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- 2018 Boardmanship Institute Calendar of Events were reviewed by Superintendent Schwarting. The events listed are sponsored by South Carolina School Boards Association for Board members. Hotel bookings are taken care of by Kim Johnson in the District Office.
- 2018 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) report must be completed by Board members electronically. The deadline for filing is March 30, 2018. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Title I project was approved in the amount of $548,649.04. Title I project money is used at Richard Carroll Elementary School to help offset student-teacher ratios.
The District received a “clean audit” on its Title II money. Title II money comes from the “Improving Teacher-quality Grant”.

According to the State Department of Education, the District met all goals on its Strategic Plan and School Renewal Plans that were submitted on September 1.


Mr. Neal Crider, auditor from McGregor & Company, noted that the District received a “clean opinion” on the financial statements. The District should maintain a general reserve fund of at least one month of general operating expenditures of the previous two completed fiscal years. However, the District is developing a plan to increase the general fund reserve to at least one month of the general fund expenditures. Food Service and Title I received a “clean opinion” – no weaknesses or deficiencies. The audit showed the district had a change in the fund balance of a deficit for the year of $13,645. The District ended the year with a fund balance of $853,412. Food Service was overspent by $40,798. The Food Service department has improved this year but it is still operating in the red. Last year the District had to transfer approximately $89,000 and this year $40,798 was transferred to Food Service. Nevertheless, if the District had not done this the District would have cleared approximately $27,000.

11. Second Reading – Updated/New Policies (SCSBA)

Following a second review of Policies IHAM – Health Education; IHAQ – Career/Transition To Work Education; IHCD-R – Advanced College Placement; IKA-R – Grading/Assessment Systems; JLD – School Counseling; and JICDA-R – Code of Conduct, Vice Chair Janeth Walker moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to approve the updated policies of IHAM – Health Education; IHAQ – Career/Transition To Work Education; IHCD-R – Advanced College Placement; IKA-R – Grading/Assessment Systems; JLD – School Counseling; and JICDA-R – Code of Conduct for second and final reading. The motion passed 5-0.


Finance Director Devon Furr presented Financial Reports for November 2017, and December 2017. No questions came from the Board.

13. Visitors’ Comments

No visitors signed to give comments.

14. Executive Session

Board Chair Chris Wallace called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to enter Executive Session. The motion carried 5-0.

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

a. Personnel Employment
Open session: Vice Chair Janeth Walker moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

15. Action on Executive Session Items
   (A) Personnel Employment
   Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Janeth Walker seconded to accept the employment recommendation on employee 1, 2, and 3 at the end of the 2017-2018 school year and noted that there was no action taken on Personnel Concerns or Athletic Concerns. The motion passed 5-0.

16. Adjourn
   Trustee Kim Berry moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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Christopher Wallace, Board Chair

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Tony E. Duncan, Secretary