

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School
August 17, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Board Chair Kedra H. Rivers, Vice Chair Chris Wallace, Secretary Tony E. Duncan, Trustee John L. Hiers, and Trustee Janeth Walker

Absent: None

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair Kedra Rivers 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, Section 30-4-80(e), as amended, the following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting:

The Times and Democrat
The Advertizer-Herald
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Vice Chair Chris Wallace seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 5-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Vice Chair Chris Wallace **moved and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded to approve the Board Minutes of July 20, 2015, as written with the following corrections on pages 3 and 4 (red print – strike through words):**

***Open Session (Page 3):** Trustee Tony Duncan ~~Walker~~ moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting.*

***Adjourn (Page 4):** Vice Chair Chris Wallace moved and Trustee Tony Duncan ~~Walker~~ seconded to adjourn the meeting.*
5. **School Reports: Stacey Walter, Leigh Ann Osborne, Randall L. Maxwell**
Hand-outs of School Reports were given to each Board member from a school representative as follows:
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Stacey Walter
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Guidance Counselor Leigh Ann Osborne
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Randall Maxwell
6. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent’s Report**
Superintendent Schwarting reported the following:
 - Included in a carrying bag to each Board member were the following: updated employee handbook, Book entitled, “How Full is Your Bucket”, First Steps Flyer, 2015-2016 District Calendar, Professional Development Manual, Custodial Safety

Rules Handbook, Free Lunch Coupon and Food Prices, Title 1 Parent Handbook, and School Bus Rider Discipline Code. [Handout]

Superintendent Schwarting asked the Board to help implement the Personal Leave Policy this year (No personal leave the first two and the last two weeks of school, and none on staff development days nor the day before or after a holiday). Also noted was that all students in all schools will receive free breakfast and lunch this year.

- E-Rate is still active. The District will receive \$15,000 to offset the cost of cell phone usage. According to the SDE's meal count data, the District's Free and Reduced SFA total is 96.87%; therefore, the District will have to pay 3% of the food that is given to students. This funding will come from special sales. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), the District met all the requirements for the past three years (2011- 2014). Special thanks were extended to Dottie Brown, Director of Student Services, and her staff for their work in achieving this accomplishment. Also, thanks were extended to Cynthia Tucker for maintaining the paperwork and reports that goes through Special Education and the District. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- The administration plans to adhere to the District's attorney, Boykin & Davis, and discontinue the distribution of Gideon Bibles to students in the elementary school. However, religious materials with specific, reasonable guidelines may be distributed passively (leave items on a table) to students at the middle and secondary schools. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Legal charges (R. Steven Chandler Law Office) have been brought against a student in connection with a choking incident sustained on October 9, 2014, while being transported home on a school bus. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- The 2016-18 Realignment schedule for sports will become effective next school year; however, the District will continue to play their same schools this year. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- The following sports schedules are available: Varsity Football, Junior Varsity Football, Volleyball, and Middle School Football. [Board Packet Enclosures]
- The District received notice that two minor issues will have to be corrected on its fourth annual update on the District's Strategic Plan by September 30, 2015.
- Jay T. Lilly, Engineer from Thompson Turner Construction, informed the administration that the renovations in the Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School gym are being delayed due to the OSF (Office of School Facilities) requesting drawings and construction plans of the project. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Students who participate in sports received an "Acknowledgement of Concussion Policy, a Concussion Information letter and a Parent/Athlete Concussion Information Sheet to be read, signed by the student and parent, and returned to school. The school will keep this information on file. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Board members were encouraged to read the book entitled, "How Full is Your Bucket" given to them by Superintendent Schwarting. Superintendent Schwarting noted that the author of the book spent 50 years of his life studying the reverse of what's wrong with people; that is, what's right with people. He noted if you can tear a person down with negativity – what can you do with positivity? Every person has a bucket and a dipper. You have to fill your own bucket and feel good about yourself before you can give other people dips in their bucket. When your bucket is empty,

you don't feel good about yourself; therefore you don't feel good about other people. Each employee of the district received a copy of this book along with a brief in-service on August 17, 2015, at the District's Orientation.

The Board suggested that the administration provide a statement or form for personnel to sign stating that they received, read, and understand each handbook they receive. The Board also thanked the District Office for the bag and packet of school information they received. Also, the Board gave Jannette Stokes, secretary, an applause for all the printing that she did this summer.

7. **Approval: Technology Device Pilot Program**

The SDE issued a Proviso for \$4.5 million which will be divided by up to six school districts. The administration submitted a request for over a million dollars. This funding would allow the District to purchase computers for grades 1 through 3 and 6th, 7th, and 8th with a focus next on the high school. [Handout]

Upon the request of Superintendent Schwarting, Vice Chair Chris Wallace **moved and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded requested that the administration be allowed to move forward in pursuing the Technology/Device Pilot Program grant that has the potential of giving the District approximately \$750,000 to a million dollars in order to purchase computers for the students of the District.** The motion passed 5-0.

8. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Finance Report for July 2015. She noted that the District was in good shape and getting ready for its audit in September 2015. [Board Packet Enclosure]

9. **Visitors' Comments**

None

10. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Kedra Rivers called for a **motion to enter Executive Session.** Trustee John Hiers **moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to enter Executive Session.** The motion carried 5-0.

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Student Transfer Requests
- b. Employment Recommendations
- c. Personnel

Open session: Vice Chair Chris Wallace **moved and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting.**

The motion passed 5-0.

A. Student Transfer Requests

Trustee Janeth Walker **moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to accept the student transfer requests for the 2015-2016 school year as presented by Superintendent Schwarting.** The motion carried 5-0.

B. Employment Recommendations

Trustee Janeth Walker **moved and Vice Chair Chris Wallace seconded to accept the employment recommendations of employees as recommended by Superintendent Schwarting.** The motion carried 5-0.

C. Personnel

There was no action taken on "Personnel".

Trustee John Hiers **moved and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Kedra H. Rivers, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary