

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School
January 21, 2020
6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair Janeth Walker called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Also, thoughts were asked for the family of Willie Craven, former Richard Carroll Elementary School teacher and coach, who recently passed.
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 Advertizer-Herald
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Kim Berry moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 5-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Trustee John Hiers moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept the December 16, 2019, minutes as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
5. **2020 School Board Recognition – Review of the Ethical Principles**
In observance of National School Boards Month, each Board member reviewed “Ethical Principles for Board Members” (SCSBA) and received a pin with the engraving of the American Flag and the South Carolina Flag. [Board Packet Enclosure/Handout]
6. **School Reports: Stacey Walter, Denise Miller, Dennis Ulmer**
Handouts: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals):
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Stacey Walter
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Dennis Ulmer
7. **Student/Staff Recognition Superintendent’s Report**
Superintendent Schwarting noted the following:
 - State Ethic forms for Board members are due back March 30, 2020. Devon Furr in the District Office is available to assist anyone who needs help in completing their form. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - Student Enrollment: 1,251 [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Dragon Newsletter was reviewed. It is mainly news regarding students. [Board Packet Enclosure]

8. **LED Lighting Program**

Superintendent Schwarting noted that since the September 16, 2019, Board meeting presentation from ShealyEnergy Electric, additional information regarding LED Upgrading for the District has been received. It is as follows: Total Investment - \$449,121; ConserFund Grant - \$134,736 (Normally, this is obtainable); Net Investment - \$314,384; Energy Savings - \$86,444 – Maintenance Avoidance - \$12,910; HVAC Energy Savings - \$20,103; Total Operating Savings - \$119,458; Product Life 19.76 Years; Lifecycle Savings - \$2,360,521; and the Net Project Return - \$2,046,137. Year 1 Savings: \$119,457.71. Payments may be made monthly and with Bond money. [Handout]

Following a request from Superintendent Schwarting regarding the upgrading of LED Lights in the District, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to move forward with the installation of LED lights throughout the District.** The motion passed 5-0.

9. **SCAGO General Obligation Bond**

Superintendent Schwarting noted that Mr. Bob Damron has offered the District again a SCAGO (South Carolina Association of Government Officials) General Obligation Bond for maintenance. It is not to exceed \$675,000. [Board Packet Enclosure]

As requested by Superintendent Schwarting to move forward in pursuing a SCAGO Bond, **Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to move forward with the SCAGO General Obligation Bond and for it not to exceed \$675,000 as presented.** The motion passed 5-0.

10. **Salary: Board Members**

Superintendent Schwarting noted that as a follow-up on increased salaries for Board members, Representative Justin Bamberg informed her that a salary increase is a Legislature governance. Nevertheless, he would do whatever he could but could not make any promises because the District did not go along with consolidation -- might not have the goodwill of the Legislature.

Following a discussion regarding an increase in the salary for Board members, **Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to increase the salary of Board members from \$100 a month to \$700 a month for regular scheduled Board meetings and \$75 for each special called meeting due to the hard work that they do. Also, the Board has the acknowledgement that this request will be granted upon the recommendation of the Legislature.** The motion passed 3-2 [Nays: Trustee John Hiers and Trustee Kim Berry].

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for December 2019, for review. Ms. Furr noted that all financial records that are reported to the State Department of Education are posted on the District's website.

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to accept the December 2019, Financial Report as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

12. **Visitors' Comments**

Ken Ahlin wanted to know if there were any updates on consolidation. Also, Mr. Ahlin noted that, to him, the increase in the salary for Board members from \$100 to \$700 is pricey. He wanted to know what was in it for the children from the optics standpoint – tax payers – not saying that they can't have it, shouldn't have it, and don't work hard; however, there are teachers who have to buy their own supplies.

Superintendent Schwarting noted that the Board decided at the last meeting (December 16, 2019) not to pursue consolidation at this time due to financial debts in both school districts and that the citizens of neither district could tolerate a tax increase. The State Department has been informed that this District would be happy to pursue any type of shared services such as with the computer coach and food service director which are currently being shared.

Board Chair Walker noted that the Board would get back with Mr. Ahlin regarding his other question (Salary - Board Members).

13. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a **motion to enter Executive Session**. Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to enter the Executive Session**. The motion carried (5-0).

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Personnel Recommendation Employment
- b. Discussion: Superintendent Search

Open session: Trustee Kim Berry **moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting**. The motion passed 5-0.

14. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee Kim Berry moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to accept under Agenda Item #13 (a) Personnel Recommendation for Employment the employment of personnel "A". The motion passed 5-0.

Board Chair Janeth Walker noted that there was no action taken under **Agenda Item 13 (b) Discussion: Superintendent Search**. The motion passed 5-0.

15. **Adjourn**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Page 4 of 4

January 21, 2020

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary