

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Richard Carroll Elementary School
June 15, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Board Chair Janeth Walker, Vice Chair John Hiers, Secretary Tony E. Duncan, and Trustee Gwendolyn Dianne Bamberg.

Absent: Seat 3 - Vacant

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 following have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting:

The Times and Democrat
The Advertiser-Herald

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 4-0.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to accept the May 18, 2020, meeting minutes with the correction stated (deletion of the word “not” from the first sentence of the second paragraph on Agenda Item 5-g on page 4). The motion passed 4-0.

Question: Board Chair Janeth Walker requested the deletion of the word “not” from the first sentence of the second paragraph on Agenda Item 5-g on page 4 of 7. She was in attendance at the meeting. Therefore, the sentence will now read, “Board Chair Walker noted that last month she sent Superintendent Schwarting an email requesting a written outline of the information that was gathered at the meeting this year from Mr. Boykin’s office where she was in attendance as well as an outline of the meeting that was held at the State Department with Molly Spearman this year be provided to the Board.

4. **Student/Staff Recognition Superintendent’s Report**
Superintendent Schwarting noted the following:
 - a) Student School Closing Enrollment: 1,236
The last day that the students actually attended school was March 13, 2020, due to the Coronavirus. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - b) A “Return to School Survey” from SCSBA was sent to all school board members. The results of the survey indicated that 68% of the families in their district are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of online learning and paper-based instruction that their children have received; 20% believe that online learning or paper-based learning is equivalent to in-school suspension; 66% support allowing parents the choice for their students to repeat their current school level grade; 83%

overwhelmingly believe that the state should seek a waiver to suspend students standardized testing for the upcoming school year; 81% support the allowing of students to begin the school at their next level of instruction; 66% believe a partial or split scheduling would be a good option if social distancing with restrictions remain; 37% favor the option of beginning the school year early in July to review instruction provided during the closure; and 50% believe parents should have a choice of sending their children back to school for in-person instruction or continuing on-lined paper instruction at home. Board Chair Janeth Walker was the only Board Member from this district to complete the survey.

c) The COVID-19 virus is on the rise in South Carolina.

d) Notes from the June 10, 2020, called meeting with State Superintendent Molly Spearman are as follows: [Handout]

1. A meeting is scheduled for superintendents on Tuesday, June 30, 2020, in the SCASA Building to discuss “Cultural Diversity”. It will be televised virtually for anyone who can’t attend. Time: TBD. Incoming Interim Superintendent Dottie Brown has been asked to represent this district.
2. The state will fund up front 50% of the funding for the Academic Recovery Camp (ARC) – remainder to be paid at the end of the camp. The camp must last 4 weeks with a minimum of 3.5 hours per day and the anticipated starting day is July 13, 2020. We are still waiting on the definition of a week (4 or 5 days). Any unspent money will be allocated to unemployment funding for the state.
3. Subcommittee AcceleratedEd recommendations will be available for public comments from Thursday, June 11th through Tuesday, June 16th. The next meeting will be on June 19th with adoptions of report to be made public at that time. These are recommendations and not mandates.
4. Classes will be 8-12 students; bus one-half capacity (DHEC): 39 students if all elementary; and 34 with middle and high.
5. Met with private school to determine their interest in CARES Act funds. They are interested and a meeting is scheduled with Jamee Barnes on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in the District Office. There is a formula to determine the amount of money they can receive.
6. Five additional days will be added to the calendar for K-8, prior to school starting. No additional instruction for High School. K-8 program to be called LEAP (learn, evaluate, analyze, prepare). Hoping to receive more information on Friday, June 19, 2020.
7. Bus cleaning will be provided by the state on a daily basis where they are parked in each district. Half-day routes (kindergarten students) call for bus drivers to ‘wipe down’ seats used, hand rails, etc. with EPA approved cleaning agent.
8. The state will provide 5 cloth face masks per teacher for summer school and for the official opening of school (teachers, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers). Students may wear masks if they choose but they will not be provided by the school district.
9. Teacher salary scale remains the same even for teachers transferring into the district from another district. More information is expected to come.
10. Teacher Certification. Due to teacher shortages, there will be some waivers granted on a case by case basis. Presently, all teaching positions have been filled in this district.

5. **Approval: Framework for High School Class Credit –
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School Honors Visual Arts
[Board Packet Enclosure]**

Superintendent Schwarting reviewed a *Framework for High School Class Credit for an Honors Visual Arts Class at Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School* developed by Ms. Teresa Alsing, Visual Arts Teacher. The class meets all the standards developed by the State Department and Ms. Alsing is certified to teach the class. Students will receive Carnegie Unit credit. This program will help students to show their artistic and will provide cultural events for them. Corrections will be made on the signature page (46) as follows:

- Superintendent: Dottie Brown instead of Phyllis Schwarting
- Correct spelling of Board Chair's name: Janeth instead of Janet
- Removal of Board Member: Julia Berry

Following the review, Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to approve the Framework for High School Class Credit Honors Visual Art program for Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School with the changes on signature page (4) as noted and presented. The motion passed 4-0.

6. **First Reading – Updated Policies:**
a. **Policy GCC-R(2) – COVID-19 Related Leave (Professional Staff)**
b. **Policy GCC-R(2) – COVID-19 Related Leave (Support Staff)**

Superintendent Schwarting reviewed Policy GCC-(R2) – COVID-19 Related Leave (Professional Staff) and Policy GCC-R(2) – COVID-19 Related Leave (Support Staff) from SCSBA. She noted these policies are temporary rules because they relate to COVID-19. Also, these policies correlate with the district's Policy "GCC". A second reading will be scheduled for the next board meeting. [Board Packet Enclosure]

7. **Federal Programs Report – Phyllis Overstreet**

Phyllis Overstreet, Federal Programs Coordinator, reported the following:

Title I-Preliminary Funding Allocation: \$601,334.34 (Increase of approximately \$70,000.00): The school to be served is Richard Carroll Elementary. Activities to be funded include five class size reduction teachers across grades K-4, upgrade computer lab and classroom whiteboards, and provide instructional supplies.

Title II-Teacher Quality Allocation: \$54,734.00: Anticipated to remain about the same for FY 20. Funds will support teacher professional development activities, focusing on virtual/blended learning and social/emotional learning.

Title III-ESOL Allocation: \$1,377.00 (Based on FY 20 allocation). Funds will be used for teacher professional development to support English Learner students in the district.

Title IV-Student Support and Academic Enrichment Allocation: \$42,803.86 (Increased by approximately \$1,000.00). The stakeholder group will meet in July regarding the use of these funds.

Title V-Rural Education Achievement Program: (Allocation for last year was approximately \$21,000.00). Allocations will be sent down later this year. Funds are used to support instructional supplies, staff development, and technology.

Perkins: \$34,000.00 - Federal / \$50,000.00 - State). Funds are used at the high school for Career and Technical Education for professional development, upgrade program equipment, and to outfit career and technology classrooms.

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to authorize the Superintendent to serve as the District's authorized representative to submit all federal projects to the State Department of Education for 2020-2021. The motion passed 4-0.

8. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for May 2020, for review. Ms. Furr noted that presently the purchasing of masks and wipes are the main focus because they are hard to find. A lot of money has been spent but we are stable. A survey is being taken to see if the state will help with some of the funding for feeding the students during COVID-19 crisis.

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to approve the May 2020, Financial Report as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

9. **Recognition by Board Trustees**

Board Chair Janeth Walker presented a plaque to Superintendent Schwarting for her dedicated years of service to Bamberg School District One on behalf of the Board. The inscription on the plaque is as follows: Bamberg School District One – All Hands Supporting Education – Board of Trustees – 20 Years – Presented to Phyllis K. Schwarting, Superintendent – In Recognition and Appreciation of your dedicated service to all Bamberg School District One Board Members – 2020. Superintendent Schwarting thanked the Board for the plaque.

10. **Visitors' Comments**

Sara B. Sandifer comments were as follows:

- a) Mrs. Walker acknowledged her question that the board had previously stated in past meetings that they were pursuing the consolidation because they would be forced to do so in the future, and if they did not cooperate now, the state would mandate what and how the districts would be consolidated. With that being said, they were also told by the same legislation to submit a wish list which ended up being a \$30 million request, the state came back and said no you only get \$3 million. So the question to the Board is that do you not see that the state is mandating what happens to you now? That the state is still controlling what happens and how with this consolidation, so it really wouldn't matter if we were forced to consolidate versus complying now. However, we are EXEMPT from consolidating so why is the board continuing to push it through when no one is wanting it?

- b) Bamberg 1 was not on the list from the state for the mandatory consolidation, why are you (the board) still railroading us to consolidate with District 2, especially since the law has not passed?
- a) There are other districts in the state that cross county lines to consolidate with other schools, so why can't District 2 consolidate with Blackville Hilda?
- b) Is the board still going to pursue a public forum about this consolidation? Being that the majority of District 1 does not want this consolidation, why are you (the board) still forcing it.

[Comments made in meeting and emailed]

11. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a **motion to enter Executive Session**. Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to enter the Executive Session**. The motion carried (4-0).

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Student Transfer Requests
- b. Personnel Recommendation for Hires
- c. Personnel Recommendation for Resignations

Open session: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg **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 carried 4-0.

12. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept Agenda Item 11(a) Student Transfer Requests for student #1, #2, #3, and #4 as presented; Agenda Item 11 (b) Personnel Recommendation for Hires for personnel #1, #2, #3, #4 and #5 as presented; and to accept Agenda Item 11 (c) Personnel Recommendation for Resignations for employees #1, #2, #3, and #4 as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

13. **Adjourn**

Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to adjourn the meeting**. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary