

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School
February 18, 2020
6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Trustee John Hiers

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair Janeth Walker called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence from Board Members.
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 Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the agenda as written. The motion passed 3-0. [Trustee Tony Duncan had not arrived]
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to accept the regular scheduled January 21, 2020 and the February 3, 2020, called meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 3-0. [Trustee Tony Duncan had not arrived]
5. **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
6. **Student/Staff Recognition Superintendent’s Report**
Superintendent Schwarting noted the following:
 - a) **Overnight Field Trip Request – Charleston, SC – March 12-15, 2020**
 - b) **Overnight Field Trip Request – Greenville, SC – March 13-15, 2020**

Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to approve the Overnight field trip request for Blanch Johnson, Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School FBLA Advisor, to take students to Charleston, South Carolina, on March 12-15, 2020, in order to participate in the SLC. Also, to approve the overnight field trip request for Bridget Kinard, Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Student Council Advisor, to take students to Greenville, South Carolina, on March 13-15, 2020, to participate in the SCASC State Conference. The motion passed 4-0.

c) Graduation Ceremony

Superintendent Schwarting noted that every parent of a graduating senior employed by Bamberg School District One was surveyed and asked if he/she would like to present his/her child with their diploma. Nine of 18 employees responded with yes and nine did not respond. The Guidance Counselors, Superintendent, and Board Chair met and reviewed the concerns and developed guidelines for this school year since it is so late; however, after this year, the administration is looking at not allowing anyone other than the Principal and Superintendent to give out diplomas. Parents will be made aware of this in a timely manner next school year.

Guidelines are as follows:

1. *Parent must confirm that he/she will be participating in the 2020 Graduation Ceremony no later than Friday, February 28th.*
2. *Parent must attend Graduation Practice held on May 28, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.*
3. *Graduation Ceremony requirements:*
 - a. *Parent must sit on the stage with faculty/staff/BSDI Board Members. No other guest or spouse will be allowed to sit with Bamberg School District One parent.*
 - b. *Parent must arrive no later than 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2020, at a TBD location.*
 - c. *Parent will not be allowed access to the graduates prior to the ceremony.*
 - d. *Parent should adhere to a professional dress code.*
 - e. *Parent must conduct himself/herself in a professional, respectful manner that maintains the dignity of the graduation ceremony.*
 - f. *No video or photography will be allowed on the stage.*
 - g. *After giving out student diploma, parent must remain sitting on stage for remainder of the ceremony.*

Parent is representing Bamberg School District One and will need to respect any changes/directions from the BEHS Graduation Committee members during Graduation Practice/Ceremony. [Board Packet Enclosure]

- d) Student Enrollment: 1,238 – Decrease of approximately 3%. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- e) The results of the Adult Education audit indicated that there were no deficiencies found. This district's Adult Education program is with Barnwell and Denmark #2. Recently, five students from this district received high school diplomas from Adult Education.
- f) The CANTEY Group will be checking into the District's cyber security. The District's Cyber Security Policies will be reviewed to see if there are any that needs to be updated.
- g) The Bamberg City Police Department and Sheriff's Department sponsored "Stay in Your Lane Youth Summit" on Friday, February 21, 2020. Also, they will sponsor a program called "Teen Talk" on Friday, February 28, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Chief James Smoak has been informed by Superintendent Schwarting that six of the topics listed for discussion were topics that the administration was not at liberty to discuss in a school setting (sex education program). He noted to her that this is not a school sponsored program. However, Superintendent Schwarting felt responsible because a flyer went home to our high school students.

- h) The District is working diligently trying to make sure every person is counted in the Census. The District's money does depend on it.
- i) The results of a recent Homeschool Report indicated that the District had 12 students enrolled last school year and 32 this year which is a 63% increase. This year there were 10 organizations to report to the District and in the past there were only two or three. The big difference could be due to a change in the reporting method that has been established by the Homeschooling Association in the state. Students in this program are in grades Kindergarten through 12th.
- j) Board members are invited to attend the SCSBA's 2DAC (Two Days at the Capitol) event on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, South Carolina. Board members who need assistance with registering are asked to contact the District Office. [Board Packet Enclosure]

7. **Draft: 2020 School Calendar**

A draft copy of the proposed 2020-2021 School Calendar was reviewed by Superintendent Schwarting. She noted that in past years, District One's calendar is usually done with Orangeburg Consolidated School District #4 because of the Career Center and the Alternative School where students from this district attend. However, Orangeburg does not have a proposed calendar at this time and won't have one until the end of the month, if then. Superintendent Schwarting noted that the biggest change that could possibly be made to this calendar would be the starting date which will be decided by the Legislature. [Handout: Draft Calendar]

8. **Discussion: Use of funding to Cope Area Career Center/Denmark Technical College**

Superintendent Schwarting reviewed the programs, degrees, student enrollment, and finances paid to Denmark Technical College, Cope Area Career Center, and Orangeburg Technical College for the year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. Courses offered are: Health Science, Auto Tech, CDL, Cosmetology, Welding, Law Enforcement, Project Lead the Way, and Early Childhood. Dual Enrollment classes are not offered at Denmark Technical College and students receive a certificate. Cosmetology is offered at Denmark Tech and Cope Career Center and it is a one-year diploma course. Last summer 35 students attended Denmark Tech from this district and during the fall 14 students. Project Lead the Way students at O-C Tech receive college credits. Cope Career Center helps students to attend college with approximately 12 to 24 college credits when they graduate. The District also has students taking English from USC-Salkehatchie in Allendale and Culinary Arts at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School.

The District pays each technical school a fee for students to attend their school. The fee is calculated by the total number of students enrolled and divided into what it will cost the school to operate the facility for the year. There is no documented evidence that can be obtained to show why students are sent to these institutions.

Superintendent Schwarting was asked to meet with the new President of Denmark Technical College to find out what their future plans may hold – particularly, why they don't offer Dual Enrollment Credits. [Board Packet Enclosure]

9. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for January 2020, for review.

Ms. Furr noted that there is some talk regarding adding five days to teachers' contracts, what type of raises should be given to teachers, and the starting date for school. Nevertheless, all of these things may affect the District's 2020-2021 School Calendar.

Trustee Kim Berry moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept the January 2020, Financial Report as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

10. **Visitors' Comments**

Ken Ahlin noted that he wanted to follow up on the consolidation; that is, if there is something to report. Also, he inquired about the use of funding that was discussed – is this something that is or is not in the District's Budget?

Board Chair Janeth Walker responded by stating that the fees that are paid to the listed technical colleges are included in the District's Budget. Basically, the Board was trying to figure out how much is being spent with Cope Area Career Center along with students -- how many students are participating at Denmark Technical College – what each offers – what's the benefit of going to one school with what they offer, versus going to the other – trying to figure out the students who are going – where they are going – why are they choosing certain schools.

Also, Board Chair Walker noted that at this time, there are only rumblings – consolidation has not died.

11. **Executive Session**

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

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Principals' Teacher Recommendations for 2020-2021
- b. Director of Student Services Recommendations for 2020-2021
- c. Superintendent's Administrators Recommendations for 2020-2021
- d. Personnel Recommendation(s) for Resignation / Employment
- e. Discussion: Superintendent Search
- f. Legal Advice: Superintendent Search

Open session: Trustee Tony Duncan **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 4-0.

12. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee Kim Berry moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept Agenda Item 11(a) Principals' Teacher Recommendations for 2020-2021 from Principal Stacey Walter, Principal Denise Miller, and Principal Denny Ulmer; on Agenda Item 11(b) Director of Student Services Recommendations for 2020-2021 to accept the recommendations from Director of Student Services Dottie Brown; on Agenda Item 11(c) Superintendent's Administrators Recommendations for 2020-2021 to accept the recommendations from Superintendent Phyllis Schwarting; and on Agenda Item 11(d) Personnel Recommendation(s) Resignations / Employment to accept the recommendations on employees No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

Board Chair Janeth Walker noted that there was no action taken on **Agenda Item 11(e) Discussion: Superintendent Search** and on **Agenda Item 11(f) Legal Advice: Superintendent Search** that the District's Attorney was not present; therefore, there was no advice given.

13. **Adjourn**

Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary