

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Richard Carroll Elementary School
August 17, 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 Advertizer-Herald

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 4-0.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept the July 20, 2020, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 4-0.
4. **School Reports: Stacey Walter, Denise L. Miller, and Dennis R. Ulmer.**
The principals provided the Board with a summary of their school opening. [Board Packet Enclosure]
5. **Student/Staff Recognition Superintendent's Report**
Interim Superintendent Dottie Brown noted the following:
 - a) **Athletic Updates**
The SCHSL provided the District with a proposed Fall Sports Calendar for coaches to follow. Coach Robert Williams and staff are currently working on the District's sports schedule of activities. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - b) **Clear Bag Procedure/Policy – Athletic Facilities**
The administration developed a "Clear Bag/No Bag Procedure that will become effective September 1, 2020, at all Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Athletic facilities for all spectators. Approved bags include: Clear Tote (12" x 6" x 12"), 1-gallon clear plastic storage bag, small clutch with wrist strap (not to exceed 4.5" x 6.5"). All other bags must be left in vehicles. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - c) **Waivers for Athletics and Extra Curricula Activities – Boykin Law**
The District's attorney provided a newly revised "Parent Acknowledgement and Waiver – Athletics" and a "Parent Acknowledgement and Waiver – Extracurricular Activities" agreement that will require a parent's signature in order for their child to

participate in sports or extracurricular activities. The waiver informs parents that these activities are voluntary and that there are known and unknown risks inherent in all athletic activities.

d) Project Beyond

In the past Project Beyond was for students in grades 3 through 8; however, due to COVID-19, Project Beyond will only be for students in grades 3 through 6 at Richard Carroll Elementary School. Mrs. Angela Williams will be the teacher. Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School will serve 7 and 8 grade Gifted and Talented students in the same manner as students in grades 9 through 12. Advanced and Honors courses will be utilized to enrich the curriculum for Gifted and Talented students.

6. Monthly Financial Report

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for FY 2020-2021 as of July 2020, for review. Ms. Furr noted that the reports were unaudited and subject to change. Also, she noted that cleaning supplies and masks have been ordered and the state will pay for them.

Interim Superintendent Dottie Brown noted that childcare will be provided for the staff for the next three weeks. The staff and students are very excited and appreciative about this. Also, she noted that Chromebooks have been issued to students, and an aide will ride the school buses and assist the students with seating. Mrs. Brown thanked the parents, teachers and staff for all their help in getting things ready for the opening day of school.

7. Visitors' Comments

Ken Ahlin noted that he was hoping to get answers to the following questions:

- 1) Since the consolidation that was approved, how does the school board plan to pay for it? The last information he heard, it will be millions of dollars but the board has limited options. The board is limited to a millage increase of 3 mills above the inflation factor from the previous year without any special permission. Going above that millage rate increase requires a referendum, which is no guarantee either. So, a 3 mills increase is a non-starter and likely wouldn't be able to fund the consolidation; therefore, the other option is a referendum. Based on the current tax climate in Bamberg, likelihood of this being voted down is real. Unless the legislature comes up with some money for consolidation, we would be in a quandary. Question is what is the district's plan to pay for this if the legislature doesn't come through with the money?
- 2) The second question concerns the return on investment. It has been stated and is expected that this will be an expensive endeavor and the kids will benefit from this. Since this is an administrative merger of the Bamberg School Districts 1 & 2 boards, could someone articulate how this is going to directly benefit the kids' education? It has been framed in that context by the school board and our local politicians. It would be nice to have some details. For him, it would be insulting just to have a flowery, generic response saying "we will be better able to serve the kids" or "we will be able to provide a better education". If there truly is a well thought out and detailed plan, it will be very easy to articulate.

8. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Janeth Walker called for a **motion to enter Executive Session**. Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg 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 Resignation(s)
- c. Personnel Survey Results
- d. Contractual Matter

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.

9. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to accept Agenda Item 8 (a) Student Transfer Requests for students #1 through #21 as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to accept Agenda Item 8 (b) Personnel Recommendation for Resignation(s) for employee #1 as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

Board Chair Walker noted that there was no action taken on Agenda Item 8 (c) Personnel Survey Results as noted. The motion carried 4-0.

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded in regards to Agenda Item 8 (d) Contractual Matter to approve the contract for the Educational Consultant as presented. The motion passed 4-0.

Board Chair Walker noted that the District will move forward with the Educational Consultant; however, there will not be any Legislation considered until after the first of the new year.

10. **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 7:51 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary