

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School
August 19, 2019
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.
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 Advertiser-Herald
3. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Trustee Kim Berry moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the July 15, 2019 and July 29, 2019, minutes as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
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:
 - SCSBA compiled and issued a “Board Member Selection and Meetings” roster of all the school districts in South Carolina. It is noted that Board members are elected in 77 of the 81 districts. Four districts have members appointed by a County Board. Sixty-six board elections take place in November. Special elections and appointments occur in other months in the remaining districts. **Thirty-seven** districts choose board members from single-member districts. **Twenty-two** retain at-large representation, **eighteen** districts use a combination of single-member and at-large, **three** have all appointed members and **one** has a combination of at-large and appointed. Board members in Bamberg School District One are elected in April and they are installed at the April Board Meeting. Officers are elected in May and meetings are held the third Monday of each month. It has been discussed that this district should look at a November election during the regular General Election rather than April and avoid

- paying for the election; after all, elections are expensive. Nevertheless, this is something that has to be finalized by legislators. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- SCSBA would like for all Board members to review their previous Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policy Beneficiary(ies) and submit any changes to Jannette Stokes at the District Office. New Board Members are required to complete a “Beneficiary Designation Request Form”. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - Bamberg School District One is #15 from the top of the “South Carolina Public High School Graduates Entering Post-Secondary Education Without Remediation (2017)”. From a recent check, this district has zero students going to college who had to take remediation courses. [Handout]
 - The agenda for the SCSBA Law Conference which is scheduled for August 24-25, 2019, in Charleston, South Carolina, was reviewed. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - Each Board Member received a student handbook from each school in the district for future reference. [Handout]
 - Board Members were provided with a packet of information that was all printed by Jannette Stokes and given to the staff on their first day back to work. The packet contained a Title I Parent Handbook, Custodial Safety Rules, School Bus Drivers Manual, Coaches Handbook, Food Service information (Prices, Charges, Meal Coupon), Football Schedules, First Steps Flyer, Notification of Asbestos Results, District 2019-2020 School Calendar, Professional Staff Development Handbook, and Bus Riders Discipline Code Manual.
- a. **Report on Consolidation Issues**
The District’s plan for consolidation was submitted to the State Department of Education on July 31, 2019 (Deadline was August 1, 2019). Following the submission of the plan, the administration received and responded to a request requiring more clarity in three areas.
7. **Teacher of the Year Nominee – Discussion**
Following a review on information received from Carla Edwards regarding a “Teacher of the Year Program”, Superintendent Schwarting noted that the deadline for the 2018-2019 selection is September 16, 2019. Nevertheless, due to the lateness in getting the information, and the amount of information required on the application, a “State Teacher of the Year” will not be selected this year. A meeting will be scheduled with the principals and they will be given the necessary information for their teachers for next year. The teachers will be well served to know in advance and work on the application throughout the year. [Board Packet Enclosure]
8. **Homecoming - Discussion**
Following a report from Trustee Tony Duncan regarding a need for some improvements for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School’s Homecoming, Board Chair Janeth Walker agreed to meet with Principal Denny Ulmer and the Homecoming Committee to see what can be done.
9. **First Reading – Updated Policies:**
Superintendent Schwarting reviewed for first reading the following updated Board Policies: [Board Packet Enclosures]

- a) Policy EEAE – Bus Safety Programs
- b) Policy IHBF – Homebound Instruction
- c) Policy KLGA – School Resource Officers
- d) Policy IKA-R – Grading/Assessment Systems

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to approve for first reading updated Policy EEAE – Bus Safety Programs, Policy IHBF – Homebound Instruction, Policy KLGA – School Resource Officers, and Policy IKA-R – Grading/Assessment Systems as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

10. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for July 2019, for review. She noted that there is not a lot happening at this time of the year and that the auditors will return after Labor Day (September 2019) for approximately two weeks. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to accept the July 2019, Financial Report as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

11. **Visitors' Comments**

Ken Ahlin noted that he left the meeting (August 8, 2019 – Special), with more questions concerning the consolidation. He understood that \$12.5 is already in the budget and looking for \$34.5 which is where the \$50 million comes from; however, he wanted to know where did the \$50 million and the \$34.5 come from. He is concerned because he heard that there is no guarantee that the district will get the amount of money that has been requested; therefore, what happens if you don't! Also, Mr. Ahlin noted that he is wondering if consolidation is cost saving!

Board Chair Walker and Superintendent Schwarting noted that the \$50 million is the amount that the State Department of Education provided from the legislators for Capital Improvements. Of that \$50 million, \$12.5 was designated as an incentive for the districts that were being urged to consolidate – this leaves \$37.5. Also, there was a second round of applications that the administration could and did apply for (things needed that might not be taken care of). Bamberg 1 nor Bamberg 2 have the money nor space to do some of the things that would have to be done in order to consolidate. The best guess is, if the district does not receive what is requested, the plan will have to be reviewed again. This District does not have a clear answer at this time and is not sure if the SDE does either. There is a lot that goes into consolidation; however, when more information is received, it will be shared.

12. **Executive Session**

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

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Student Transfer Requests

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

13. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee Kim Berry moved and Vice Chair Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept Agenda Item #10 (a) Student Transfer Requests for students #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, 7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, and #20 as presented. The motion passed (5-0). [Board Packet Enclosure]

14. **Adjourn**

Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Janeth Walker, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary