

**Bamberg School District One**  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees**  
**Richard Carroll Elementary School**  
**January 19, 2017**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Members present:** Board Chair Kedra H. Rivers, Vice Chair Chris Wallace, Secretary Tony E. Duncan, Trustee Janeth Walker, and Trustee John L. Hiers.

**Absent:** None

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair Kedra Rivers called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence. Also, noted was to keep in mind Stacey Walter, principal of Richard Carroll Elementary School, who recently lost her mother, and others during the holidays.
2. **Notice to Media:** In accordance with the S. C. Code of Laws of 1976, as amended, Section, 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 John Hiers moved and Trustee Chris Wallace seconded to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 4-0 [Trustee Tony Duncan was absent during the vote].
4. **Approval of Minutes**  
**Trustee Janeth Walker moved and Trustee Chris Wallace seconded to accept the November 21, 2016, minutes as presented.** The motion passed 4-0 [Trustee Tony Duncan was absent during the vote].
5. **2017 School Board Recognition – Review of the Ethical Principles**  
Board members read “Ethical Principles for Board Members” as recommended by SCSBA. These rules are helpful in carrying out duties as Board Members. [Handout]
6. **Approval of 2017 Board Calendar**  
Following a review of the 2017 Board Calendar, it was noted that there would be a conflict with the February 20, 2017, meeting due to this date being Presidents’ Day and there will be no school. **Therefore, Vice Chair Chris Wallace made a motion and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded to review the 2017 Board Calendar personally and let Board Chair Rivers know of an alternative date for the February 2017, meeting.** The motion passed 4-0 [Trustee Tony Duncan was absent during the vote].
7. **School Reports: RCES Representative, Sandra B. Glover, and BEHS Representative**  
Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principal/Assistant Principal):
  - Richard Carroll Elementary School – No Report
  - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Sandra B. Glover
  - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Assistant Principal Dennis Ulmer

8. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Schwarting reported the following:

- Congratulations were extended to Board Chair Kedra Rivers for having reached Level Four in the Boardmanship Institute Training Program through South Carolina School Boards Association during the Fiscal Year 2015-16. She received a certificate of achievement and a pin. Also, Trustee Tony Duncan was recognized for having reached 10 years of service. He received a pin and certificate.
- The Board has been invited to dinner by the McNair Law Firm from Columbia at the Red Fish Grill on either February 16, 17, or 18, 2017, while attending the 2017 South Carolina School Boards Association Convention. The time will be announced later. Board members who are interested should contact Kim at the District Office.
- Mr. Roy M. Stehle, Director of the Office of Federal and State Accountability, notified the administration that the on-site inspection of November 1, 2016, resulted in no issues of non-compliance out of 588 requirements in Title I, Part A of the No Child Left Behind Act for states and school districts to implement.
- January 23, 2017, is a Staff Development Day. There will be no school on this day for students. [Handout: Staff Development agenda].
- Board members are required to file a State Ethics Commission report electronically in order to avoid a penalty. The new deadline for filing is March 30, 2017. Devon Furr at the District Office is available for assistance, if needed. [Board Packet Enclosure]

**a) Out-of-State Field Trip Request**

Following a review of an out-of-state field trip request, **Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to approve a request from Mrs. Angela Williams, Gifted and Talented teacher, permission to take 17 students to Toxaway, North Carolina, on March 6, 7, and 8, 2017.** The motion passed 5-0.

The students will travel via an activity bus driven by Mr. Larry Haynes. They will be given the opportunity to become involved in activities that teach learning skills such as critical thinking, teamwork and self-discovery. Activities will also incorporate biology, botany, geology, hydrology, and interdependence. The cost per student is \$200. [Board Packet Enclosure]

**b) Request for Locally Board Approved Course at Bamberg Ehrhardt High School**

Following a review of a request from the administration to submit an application for a Computer Course, **Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to approve the submission of an application to the State Department of Education for a Computer Science Information Technology Course (Coding) to be taught at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School and with the understanding that parents will be notified as to whether the course is elective or a core course. The motion passed 5-0.**

**c) Athletics: BEHS Scoreboard**

At the request of the Board, the administration will check on prices for a scoreboard for the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School gym and the football stadium. The present scoreboards are not working properly.

**d) Salkehatchie Consortium Passes for School Board Members**

As suggested by the Board, the administration will check into getting Salkehatchie Consortium passes for Board members.

**e) AT&T Phone Plan Discounts**

As suggested by the Board, the administration will re-check with AT&T in getting discounts on cell phones for District employees.

**f) Administrative/Teacher Conference Attendance**

Noted from the Board was that there are benefits and good exposure for teachers/administrators/ department heads in attending various conferences other than those with the South Carolina Department of Education. Principals should be advised to make sure their staff are given the opportunity to go to other places, learn new things, and bring back information to the district whenever possible.

**9. 2016 Bamberg School District One Audit–Neal Crider, McGregor & Company, LLP Handouts: Annual Financial Report - Year Ended June 30, 2016**

Mr. Neal Crider, auditor from McGregor & Company, noted that the District received a clean opinion on the financial statements. There were no reportable findings in the current year. All financial recordings in last year's audit report have been resolved.

Mr. Crider also noted that under the General Fund Balance, the year began with a deficit of \$289,389.00 which was to be funded from the reserves. The deficit for 2016 is \$487,126.00. This is a combination of prior years, step increases which had no funding, increase in utility costs, costs related to lightning damages, retirement rate increase, and transfers to Food Service Fund to cover deficits in that fund. This year the Food Service had a deficit of \$89,116.00. It has been a trend that there are deficits in Food Service that had to be funded by the General Fund. Food Service should at least break even; however, more is going out than coming in. 2012 was the last year that there was an addition in the Fund Balance. The district finished that year with \$3,036,317.00 in the General Fund. Since then there has been a total of \$820,651.00 in budgeted deficits and \$2,169,260.00 in actual deficits. This brings the fund balance down to \$867,057.00 as of June 30, 2016, which is approximately 7.1% of the 2016-2017 budget. Ideally, this percentage should be approximately 15%. In number of days, there are approximately 26 days of operating room – ideally it should be approximately 60 days. Generally, when the Fund Balance gets this low, the district may see some cash flow issues. Going forward into 2017, the budget was balanced without the use of reserves. Nevertheless, the district had to raise the millage approximately 7 mills which provided approximately \$124,000.00 in additional property tax revenue. With an estimated \$60,000 going into 2016-17 this will be an increase in retirement. In order to avoid a tax increase, the district needs to consider new spending and devise a solution to ensure the Food Service Fund is being properly managed going forward.

**10. Board Salaries/Compensation**

The handouts at the November 2016, Board meeting will be reviewed (Bill 4170 from the General Assembly and Policy BID – Board Member Compensation and Expenses). Nevertheless, a decision to increase Board salaries/compensation cannot be made at this time.

11. **Request for Teacher Salary Study**

At the request of the Board, the administration will contact area school districts to see what they are paying their teachers and make a comparison with this District's salaries.

12. **Human Resources Department Planning**

At the request of the Board, the administration will begin checking into creating a Human Resource position. Also, check with surrounding school districts to see what they are paying this person and their duties.

13. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report of November 2016, and December 2016. Noted was that a meeting was held with Neal Crider, district's auditor, regarding some things that may be implemented for the upcoming year. Due to the dwindling of the fund balance, some cuts may be required. Mrs. Furr suggested that a meeting be scheduled with the Board in order to discuss future financial affairs for the District.

The Board agreed to check their schedules for a time to meet to discuss the future financial affairs for the District.

14. **Visitors' Comments**

Tirrea A. Brown and Susan Wright were acknowledged for comments; however, at the request of Charles Boykin, the district's attorney, their comments were given during Executive Session due to student involvement.

**Neal Crider** waived his right to comment.

**Randall L. Maxwell**, recent retired Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School principal, noted that although he will no longer be employed with the district, he will continue to support it. Working in the district has been a blessing to him and his family. He is thankful to the Board and administration that he served under.

15. **Executive Session**

Board Chair Kedra Rivers called for a **motion to enter Executive Session**. Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded to enter Executive Session**. The motion carried 5-0.

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Superintendent's Evaluation
- b. Personnel Recommendation for Resignation / Employment
- c. Athletics: Coach Proposal/Cheerleading
- d. Student Discipline
- e. Transportation: Compensation/Personnel/Bus Accidents

**Open session:** Trustee John Hiers **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 passed 4-0 [Trustee Janeth Walker was absent during the vote].

**Trustee Tony Duncan announced that there was no action taken on the following (Advisement from Charles Boykin, district's attorney, due to the lateness of the meeting):**

- a) Superintendent's Evaluation and Personnel Recommendation for Termination
- b) Personnel Recommendation for Resignation / Employment
- c) Athletics: Coach Proposal/Cheerleading
- d) Student Discipline
- e) Transportation: Compensation/Personnel/Bus Accidents

**Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Chris Wallace seconded to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed 4-0 [Trustee Janeth Walker was absent during the vote].

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p. m.

Minutes approved:

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Kedra H. Rivers, Board Chair

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Tony E. Duncan, Secretary