

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School
January 25, 2021
6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

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 Times and Democrat Newspaper and the Bamberg School District One Website have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**
Trustee Tony Duncan moved and Vice Chair John Hiers seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to accept the December 14, 2020, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

4. **School Reports: Stacey Walter, Denise L. Miller, Dennis R. Ulmer, SPED Updates (Dottie Brown).**
In exercising extra precautions for COVID-19, the principals attended virtually; however, Interim Superintendent Dottie Brown reviewed all school reports as presented.
[Board Packet Enclosures: School Reports / Handout]

5. **Athletic Report: Robert Williams**
In the absence of Coach Robert Williams, Mrs. Brown reviewed the athletic report as presented. [Board Packet Enclosure]

6. **Student/Staff Recognition Superintendent's Report**

Mrs. Brown noted the following:

- a) **Reduction in Out-of-District Tuition Fee**

At the recommendation of the administration's request to make some changes in how the district charges students who are paying out-of-district fees starting with the 2021-2022 school year, **Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to accept Option 3; however, he proposed to change the fee for the first child to \$2,505.00 instead of \$2,000.00, keep the fee of \$1,500.00 for the second child, keep the \$1,000.00 fee for the third child, and Free for additional children. The motion passed 4-1 [Nay-Trustee Tony Duncan].**

- b) **2021 School Board Recognition – Review of the Ethical Principles**

The Board reviewed the Ethical Principles that were adopted by the 1986 SCSBA Delegate Assembly as presented. (Board Packet Enclosure)

In observance of School Board Recognition month, Mrs. Brown reminded Board members to pay attention to the personal message that is posted outside of each school and to pay attention to their social media pages. Also, Mrs. Brown placed at each Board member's seat a card made by individual classes at Richard Carroll Elementary School and a book from a donor at Richard Carroll Elementary School. Inside each book was a personal note for their services.

c) **Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) Report**

Each Board member is required to file the 2021 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) report electronically. [Board Packet Enclosure]

d) **Boeing Impact Report**

Bamberg School District One was featured in the 2020 Impact Report of the MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness program. Ms. Lara Buss was involved in helping the schools with gardening, habitat environment, farm to table exercises, and agriculture programs. [Board Packet Enclosure]

7. **2020 Bamberg School District One Audit - Neal Crider, McGregor & Company**

Mr. Neal Crider, auditor, noted that the District received a "clean opinion" on the financial statement. There were no internal weaknesses or significant deficiencies related to internal control on financial reporting. The IDEA and the child nutrition cluster in Food Service were identified and tested this year. A "clean opinion" was issued on compliance for the major programs. There were no material weaknesses or significant weakness relating to internal control over the major programs nor were any major compliance findings on the major programs. The General Fund ended with a decrease in the Fund Balance of \$254,812.00 which comes to a total of \$981,358.00 which is essentially 26 days of operations as opposed to the 30 days' requirement set forth by the SDE. This figure includes the transfer of \$51,869.00 in Food Service Fund Profit through paying the loan to the General Fund. It appeared that a substantial portion of the decrease contributed to payroll raises/increases. The IRS subsidized \$1,160,386.00 in interest on school Bonds this year. The District paid \$508,853.00 out of pocket interest on Bonds. The balance in the sinking Principle Fund was \$9,439,131.00 as of June 30th. Overall, the District had a solid year.

8. **Consolidation Plan Updates**

Mrs. Brown noted that the District's Consolidation Plan has been submitted to the SDE (Molly Spearman's Office) and she has been receiving feedback.

9. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for FY 2020-2021 as of December 2020, for review. Ms. Furr noted that she hopes to have some more allocations soon. She is dealing with some financial issues as a result of COVID and a decrease in student enrollment. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Vice Chair John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to accept the Finance Report for December 2020, as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

10. **Visitors' Comments**

Mr. Ken Ahlin inquired about the District getting an Email Platform to receive notifications regarding Board meetings; the possibility of publishing some of the documents pertaining to a Board meeting prior to the meeting; and he wanted to know if the District offers a Home Economics / Life 101 course.

Mrs. Brown responded by stating that the course Home Economics name has changed; however, the District offers Financial Fitness, Human Growth and Development, Accounting, and Health which were covered in the old Home Economics class.

Ricky Padgett, Director of Technology, responded by stating that he is waiting to hear from web hosting companies but have not received pricing because of additional cost. He is looking into offering Live Streaming so documents can be viewed on a screen at meetings.

The Board welcomed, wholeheartedly, Devon Furr and Jannette Stokes back after their being out with COVID-19.

11. **Executive Session**

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

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Personnel Updates
- b. Personnel Recommendation for Resignation

Open session: Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

12. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Trustee John Hiers moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to approve under Agenda Item 11 (a-2) Personnel Updates the request to accept Personnel Advertisements; and to accept under Agenda Item 11 (b) Personnel Recommendation for Resignation the resignation for personnel #1, #2, #3, and #4 as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

13. **Adjourn**

Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg moved and Trustee Naomi Eckels 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