

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Richard Carroll Elementary School
November 19, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Board Chair Christopher “Chris” Wallace, Vice Chair Janeth Walker, Secretary Tony E. Duncan, Trustee Julia “Kim” Berry and Trustee John L. Hiers.

Absent: None

1. **Call meeting to order:** Chair Chris Wallace 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**
Vice Chair Janeth Walker moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to approve the Minutes of October 15, 2018, as presented. The motion passed 5-0.
5. **School Reports: Stacey Walter, Denise Miller, and Dennis Ulmer**
Hand-outs: School Reports (Reviewed by Principals)
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Stacey Walter
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School –Principal Denny Ulmer
6. **Student/Staff Recognitions and Superintendent’s Report**
Superintendent Schwarting noted the following:
 - a. **Makeup School Days**
Makeup school days were noted incorrectly at the October 15, 2018, board meeting. Instead of June 6th, 7th, and 10th, as makeup days for students, the correct dates are January 7th, June 5th, and 6th and Professional Development days are June 7th and 10th.
 - b. **Report Card Release Date Extended**
Superintendent Schwarting noted that the new school report cards that were scheduled to be released on November 15, 2018, have been postponed tentatively until Thursday, November 29. Also, the administration does not know the current ranking of its schools due to some changes that have been made. Board members were provided with suggested questions to ask regarding the report cards. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Superintendent Schwarting also noted the following:

- The district's current student enrollment is 1,318 which is down by approximately 42 students and that translates to the loss of approximately \$101,000.00. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Clemson University will sponsor summer camps for students throughout the state; however, the students will have to pay for their enrollment.
- Local school districts are working on "Shared Services" through the Salkehatchie Consortium. Participating schools are Allendale, Bamberg 1 and 2, Barnwell 19 and 29, and Hampton 2. A conference call to discuss future plans with Mollie Spearman, State Superintendent of Education, and the superintendents of the consortium are scheduled for Monday, November 26, 2018. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- The administration is considering the employment of an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) to work at Richard Carroll Elementary School under the current RN (Registered Nurse). The operation of having one school nurse is not working effectively due to the size of the student enrollment and duties required. Funding for this position is not in the current budget.
- The Legislative Advocacy Conference for board members is scheduled for December 7, and 8, 2018, in Charleston, South Carolina.
- Sarah Catherine Williams, new employee and experienced special education teacher, has been leading some afternoon staff development sessions with Special Education teachers who are using a unique learning system.

7. **First Steps Update – Pauletta Plowden**

Ms. Pauletta Plowden, Executive Director of Bamberg County First Steps for the past 19 years, noted that her program received national recognition as a Blue Ribbon Affiliate effective October 1, 2018. This recognition helps the program to bring awareness to the importance of high quality parents and high quality childcare for children to ensure that they are ready and prepared for school and the future. The Bamberg County First Steps program provides services that include home visits, group connections, child screening and connections to community resources, bi-monthly home visits by a highly trained and certified Parent Educator, and monthly books and educational resources for parents and children. Also, the program offers monthly family group connections, DSS Certified Professional Early Care Teachers Training and Development, DSS childcare scholarships to working families, 4K classes to private providers, MOMMYCISE Health and Wellness Camps, Financial Literacy Workshops, Community Baby Showers, Baby Car Seats Clinics, Santa's Little Helpers Toys, Food and Clothing Project, Community Yard Sales, and a Back to School Supplies Bash each year.

Bamberg County First Steps is funded annually through a renewal application process through the state office of South Carolina First Steps. The program receives many grants. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Policies: Second Reading – Policies IKF – Graduation Requirements, IKF-R – Graduation Requirements Administrative Rule, and JLDBB-R Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Vice Chair Janeth Walker moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to accept policies IKF – Graduation Requirements, IKF-R – Graduation Requirements Administrative Rule, and JLDBB-R Suicide Prevention, Intervention, and Postvention for seconded reading as presented by Superintendent Schwarting. Motion passed 5-0.

8. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr noted that she was not able to make changes to the budget under “Smart Fusion” in order to provide a new budget for the Board; however, she will present a new Budget at the next Board meeting. Also, she noted that the district’s audit should be completed in time for the next Board meeting. [Board Packet Enclosures]

Superintendent Schwarting responded to Chair Chris Wallace’s question regarding the balance on hand of the Abbeville money, that the administration is more than half way in spending it. An updated report will be provided for the Board at the next meeting.

9. **Visitors’ Comments**

Mr. Jeremy Hutson and Mrs. Elizabeth Hutson, parents, noted that they were present to only seek answers regarding their son who was struggling with math and to express concerns regarding the manner their son was talked to in class by the teacher. Also, to express concerns regarding the teacher’s method of grading. They requested to be informed of issues that teachers may have with their children as they occur, rather than waiting until the end of the school year to discover the child has failed and leaving them wondering how could this have been prevented.

Superintendent Schwarting noted that in response to the parents’ concern regarding their child, that the teacher has offered to help the student around 7:25 a. m. and at the beginning of lunch period every day. The student would be allowed to go to lunch and ride the bus home in the afternoons.

Mr. Ken Ahlim, parent, noted that he believes it would be helpful if the administration could post policies on the District’s website or provide a link to locate them prior to presenting them at a Board meeting in order to aide him in being more comfortable in asking questions.

10. **Executive Session**

Chair Chris Wallace called for a **motion to enter Executive Session**. Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Trustee Kim Berry seconded to enter Executive Session**. The motion carried 5-0.

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Superintendent’s Evaluation

Open session:

Vice Chair Janeth Walker **moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting**. The motion passed 5-0.

11. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Chair Chris Wallace noted that there was no action taken on Superintendent Phyllis Schwarting's evaluation. She received a positive evaluation and it will be worded by him and the district's attorney, Allison Hanna, and made available for the public.

12. **Adjourn**

Chair Chris Wallace announced that the Board will not meet in December 2018, and the January 2019, meeting has been changed from Monday night, January 21st (Martin Luther King Holiday) to Tuesday night, January 22nd.

Vice Chair Janeth Walker **moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to adjourn the meeting**. The motion passed 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p. m.

Minutes approved:

Christopher Wallace, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary