

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School
February 23, 2016
6:30 p.m.

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

Absent: None

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair Kedra Rivers 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, Section 30-4-80(e), as amended, 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 Janeth Walker **moved and Vice Chair Chris Wallace seconded to approve the agenda as written.** The motion passed 4-0 [Trustee Tony Duncan arrived later].
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Trustee John Hiers **moved and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded to approve the January 19, 2016, minutes as presented.** The motion passed 4-0 [Trustee Tony Duncan arrived later].
5. **School Reports: Stacey Walter, Sandra B. Glover, Randall L. Maxwell**
Hand-outs: School Reports (Overviewed/Reviewed by Principals):
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Stacey Walter
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Sandra B. Glover
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Randall L. Maxwell
6. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent's Report**
Superintendent Schwarting reported the following:
 - Renovations from the fire are completed in the Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle school gym. The insurance company paid \$269,257.00 for the fire incident. The District will be left to absorb \$184,339.00. The insurance adjuster was questioned regarding not having paid anything on a steel beam that had to be installed.
 - Phyllis Overstreet noted that the Budget Sequester (Spring of 2013) has impacted Title I funds. The District's allocations dropped \$99,057.00. Title I is the largest pot of federal money that schools receive to serve disadvantaged students. Although the District received cuts, it has been able to maintain six classroom teachers in Title I and one classroom aide. With another 5% cut, the administration will still probably be able to maintain its staff; however, there would be no money left to purchase instructional supplies. Allocations are coming later each year which affects the administration's planning.

Updated information on assessments used for Federal and State Accountability are as follows (Handout):

- For students in **grades 3-8**, SC Ready is a new English Language Arts and Math test by DRC. This test replaces the ACT Aspire test. It is not a timed test and it has limited accommodations for students with IEPs or 504 plans. Testing dates are April 26-27, 2016.
 - Students in **grades 4-8** will continue to take the SC PASS for science and social studies. Testing dates are May 11-12, 2016.
 - The SC Alt assessment for social studies and science/biology remains the test for significantly cognitively disabled students. Students identified for alternative testing cannot exceed 1% of the district's overall Special Education population.
 - End of course exam for English 1 and Algebra 1 is accepted as the **high school** accountability assessment by the federal Department of Education. Students will be expected to take these two assessments by the 11th grade.
 - The impact of reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act remains in place (95% participation) – no opting out; however, there may be more flexibility regarding assessments.
 - The WorkKeys assessment remains in place as a state requirement for all 11th grade students. Also, these students will be offered the opportunity to take the ACT college entrance exam at no cost on April 19th. All 9th graders will be required to take the US Citizenship exam as a mechanism to measure civics learning.
 - Requirements to transition to all Computer-Based testing by the 2016-2017 school year remains in place. Currently, the District does not have enough computers to test in the time frame given.
- Professional contracts must be given out no later than April 15, 2016, and returned by April 25.
 - The administration will meet on February 24, 2016, regarding internet security.
 - According to the South Carolina Department of Revenue, the District's 2016 Index of Taxpaying Ability is 0.00083. The lower the number is, the less chances the district is able to finance its educational programs with local money.
 - The District's student enrollment as of February 1, 2016, is 1,424.
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Guidance Department publishes a monthly calendar with school activities. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - Per requested of the Board, a roster of the students and chaperones who are taking the Bamberg-Ehrhardt Band field trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, on April 29-30, 2016, has been provided for all Board members. SLED checks have been performed on the chaperones. [Board Packet Enclosure]
 - Major John H. McDonald, JROTC instructor, requested permission to take 41 students and 4 chaperones on an educational trip to Washington, DC, on March 28-30, 2016. Funding for the trip is being requested from the US Army Cadet Command. The estimated cost for each cadet is approximately \$200. [Handout]

Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded to approve a field trip for Bamberg-Ehrhardt JROTC students to Washington, DC, on March 28-30, 2016.** The motion passed 5-0.

- Legislative Updates are: Raising the student-base cost from \$2,220.00 to \$2,370.00; adding .15% to the weighting of students enrolled in dual credit courses (beneficial to the district); provide a 2.5% cost of living increase for full day 4-K programs; the Abbeville Districts which this district is one of (40 districts) is being looked at to get additional funding for technology; the possibility of an appointed versus an elected state Superintendent; and the Freedom of Information Act – lessening the response days from 15 to 10.
- The District is experiencing some fiber issues with the Internet System that may require replacing some fiber at the District's expense. Nine of the ten fibers in three or four areas are not working. The administration believes some of the fibers were not well-made from the beginning which will be hard to prove.
- A Career Planning Guide that includes all courses with a brief description is published by Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School's guidance department. Students use this book in planning their IGPs and looking for their career cluster. [Handout]
- The administration is currently working on the District's Literacy and School Renewal Plans for the next five years. Board members will be invited to participate in the planning process.

7. **Athletic Concerns**

Handouts: Explanation of items in fireproof cabinet, itemization of sport fundraisers, attendance at sports events, concessions, and itemized financial report from all sports.

In response to some concerns from some Board members, written reports and verbal responses to the concerns were provided by Principal Randy Maxwell, Secretary Robin Chavis, and Athletic Director Tracey Fleming.

In reference to a break-in in the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School's office on Friday night, January 29, 2016, it was noted that approximately \$3,801.00 was taken from a security box. No checks were taken. The alarm had not been set due to in and out traffic with sports. The cameras allowed the police department to make the arrest of two young men – one was a student of Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – a third has not yet been apprehended. Once this case comes to court, restitution will be made for this money. Ordinarily this amount of money would not have been in the office but Mrs. Chavis did not have time to take a deposit to the bank before leaving to go out of town. Nevertheless, some money is always kept in the office for the operation of certain activities, change for students, postal mailings, aide for students, athletic funds, loose change, and to purchase small items for the school.

Also noted in response to a concern was that the number of tickets sold at athletic events is given to Tracey Fleming, athletic director, and he and Resource Officer Gatlin drop it in the night deposit at the bank. The money and tickets are reconciled by Mrs. Chavis. The number of people at a game does not tell how much money should be collected because some people have passes or some may leave a softball game and walk over to a baseball game. Mrs. Chavis also gives an itemized report from the athletic events to Athletic Director Tracey Fleming each time money is turned in to the office.

Also noted was that concessions at football games goes to the Band Booster Club. During the recent basketball season, the boys' basketball team took over the concession because no one else would take it. This money was used to purchase a basketball shooting machine and the balance was deposited in the school's account. Nevertheless, next year during basketball season, concessions will be handled by the girls' basketball team.

Also noted was that in most cases, students who participate in fundraisers give their money to their coach and the coach turns it in to the District Office. However, there was one case where the District's Finance Director maintained the records because no one would do it.

Athletics is self-supporting. The District does not give athletic teams money. \$4,000.00 is put in the athletic budget and it is used primarily for medical supplies and dues for coaches.

Vice Chair Chris Wallace noted that he would like to see an itemized report from each sport event at each Board meeting and he would like to see the waiting time at the concession stand decrease.

Finally, it was agreed with the Board and the administration that the administration will seek to get a better security system, better safe system, secondary person to make deposits, and give the coaches written procedures for reporting money at the beginning of each fiscal year and have them sign off to it.

8. **First Reading: 2016-2017 Bamberg School District One Calendar**

For information, Superintendent Schwarting reviewed a draft copy of the 2016-2017 school calendar and noted that it was aligned with Orangeburg Consolidated School District Four due to students from this District who attend school at the Cope Career Center. The final reading will come at the March 2016, Board meeting.

9. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for January 2016.

10. **Visitors' Comments**

Mrs. Jasie M. Kinard noted that she is still being told that there is a teacher at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School who does not return test papers nor record test grades in a timely manner. Also, she has been informed that there is a teacher who does not interact with students – allows music in the class -- when students don't understand a question, the student is told to read it.

Board member Janeth Walker thanked Mrs. Kinard for bringing her information to the Board's attention and she felt sure that the principal and Superintendent Schwarting will address those issues.

11. **Executive Session**

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

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Personnel: Retirees; Protocol for Theft
- b. Discipline: Bus Incident
- c. Employment Recommendations
- d. Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation

Open session: Vice Chair Chris Wallace **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.

A. Personnel: Retirees; Protocol for Theft

Trustee Janeth Walker announced that there was no action taken on "Personnel: Retirees; Protocol for Theft".

B. Discipline: Bus Incident

Trustee Janeth Walker announced that there was no action taken on "Discipline: Bus Incident".

C. Employment Recommendations

Trustee Janeth Walker moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to accept the Superintendent's employment recommendations. The motion passed 5-0.

D. Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation

Trustee Janeth Walker announced that there was no action taken on the "Discussion of Superintendent's Evaluation".

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Kedra H. Rivers, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary