

Bamberg School District One
Minutes of Regular Meeting of Board of Trustees
Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School
May 16, 2016
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.
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 Tony Duncan **moved and Trustee Janeth Walker seconded to approve the agenda as written.** The motion passed 5-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes**
Trustee John Hiers **moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to approve the April 18, 2016, minutes as written.** The motion passed 5-0.
5. **Election of Officers for 2016**
Superintendent Phyllis Schwarting presided during the election of Board Chair and Trustee Kedra Rivers presided during the election of Board Vice Chair and Secretary (May 2016 – April 2017).

Trustee John Hiers **nominated Trustee Kedra H. Rivers as Board Chair.** The motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Janeth Walker **nominated Chris Wallace as Board Vice Chair.** The motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Janeth Walker **nominated Tony Duncan as Board Secretary.** The motion passed 5-0.
6. **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

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

Superintendent Schwarting reported the following:

- The District's Strategic 5-year Plan has been updated and submitted. The Plan included information on Student Academic Achievement, Read to Succeed, Teacher Quality, School Climate, and Technology. The District is preparing to do state testing on computers in 2017.
- The T&D Newspaper published an article regarding the District's soccer team winning lower state and moving on to play on Friday, May 13, 2016, at Irmo High School in Columbia for the state Class A title. (May 11, 2016 – Page 1B)
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Guidance Department published a calendar that includes the activities of the school for the month of May. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- The District's student enrollment as of May 1, 2016, is 1,412. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Following a review of a request from Jake Stewart, wrestling coach, for an out-of-state trip for the wrestling team, Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Vice Chair Chris Wallace seconded to approve the request to allow Jake Stewart, wrestling coach, and 14 students to travel to the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga on June 9-13, 2016, to participate in a wrestling camp provided a roster of the students and chaperones are submitted to the Board prior to departing.** The motion passed 5-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Following a review of a request from Mrs. Contrilla Murdaugh, FBLA teacher, for an out-of-state trip for FBLA students, Trustee John Hiers **moved and Trustee Tony Duncan seconded to approve the request to allow Mrs. Contrilla Murdaugh, FBLA advisor, and 4 students to travel by car to Atlanta, Georgia, on June 29-July 2, 2016, to attend the National FBLA Conference provided appropriate releases are obtained and a roster of the students travelling are submitted to the Board prior to departing.** The motion passed 5-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- The 2015-2016 "On-line Teacher Survey Responses" for each school, the district, and the state were reviewed. Board members will review the results and bring back any questions to the next Board meeting. [Board Packet Enclosure]
- Lonnie Carter, CEO of Santee Cooper, and his assistant, Arnold Singleton, from Ehrhardt, South Carolina, have significant positions with Santee Cooper. These are fine young men are from Ehrhardt and this school district.

8. **Request for Locally Board Approved Course**

Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School requested the approval for a Math Ready course for elective credit beginning with the 2016-2017 school year. The Readiness Course is designed to assist students who are assessed as "unready" for postsecondary education. Eventually, this course will become a state offered course.

Trustee John Hiers **moved and Vice Chair Chris Wallace seconded to approve the request of the addition of a Math Ready elective credit course at Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School.** The motion passed 5-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Parents will be informed in advance that this is an elective credit course.

9. **Requests: “Raising Kings for Outreach” and “Go Tell Evangelism Crusade”**

Ms. Whitney Thomas representing her ministry, “Raising Kings for Outreach”, requested permission via telephone to use the football stadium on July 19, 2016, from 9:00 a. m. – 12:00 p. m. to help support single mothers who are raising boys. During this time, there will be a doorway fee and vendors. The ministry is a 501-C3 organization.

Superintendent Schwarting noted that this request is a little contrary to the Board’s Policy because the policy doesn’t allow money to be collected for events. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Mr. Kent Kirkland, spokesman for the “Go Tell Evangelism Crusade”, along with Mrs. Michelle Grimes (Child Evangelism Fellowship), Reverend Chris Murray (Light of the World Baptist Church), Reverend Charlie Lucas (First Baptist Church), and Rufus McCaskell (Cornerstone Baptist Church) were in attendance to request the use of the Leon Maxwell Stadium (gym depending on the weather) to hold a crusade on October 9-12, 2016. Also, the Sunday following these dates they would like to return and have access to water for baptism. The crusade will be a community crusade with churches from several denominations and ethnic backgrounds participating. Rick Gage operates the crusade.

In response to the two requests, the Board responded by stating that the administration would consult the District’s legal counsel, Boykin and Davis, for advice and Superintendent Schwarting will notify them of the results.

10. **First Reading:**

- Policy GBEEA – Social Media
- Policy IKA – Grading/Assessment Systems
- Policy IKA-R Administrative Rule
- Policy JBAB – Student Gender and Orientation

Superintendent Schwarting reviewed for first reading Policy GBEEA – Social Media (structure for employee use of social media.), Policy IKA – Grading/Assessment Systems (grading and assessment of student academic progress – a mandated change with the current grading system for the high school which can also be used at the elementary and middle schools), Policy IKA-R Administrative Rule and Policy JBAB – Student Gender and Orientation (to foster a learning environment that is safe and free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying and to assist in the educational and social integration of transgender students.). [Board Packet Enclosures]

Attorney Charles Boykin noted that it is not likely that Policy JBAB - Student Gender and Orientation can be altered. Teachers will be asked to take the lead in making sure this policy is enforced because they are better prepared to keep everyone informed. Anyone who may have specific questions regarding this policy is asked to contact Attorney Charles Boykin or Attorney Shawn Eubanks.

Superintendent Schwarting noted that significant questions regarding Policy JBAB – Student Gender and Orientation may be brought back to the next Board. Also, if the policy is approved, the administration will provide proper training and legal counseling within the training so everyone will understand the legal ramification of it.

11. **Monthly Financial Report**

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for April 2016. All items overspent were listed in the report. The most recent item overspent is Data Processing Services due to the resignation of the IT Director. The interim person fulfilling this position is a subcontractor who is now working more days. This overage will be offset by what was budgeted for the prior IT Director. As requested, "etc." will no longer be used as descriptive items in the financial report. Instead, all items will be identified individually.

Board members were requested to schedule a Budget Work Session, perhaps, the first week of June 2016. Suggestive dates should be emailed to Devon Furr or Mrs. Jannette Stokes at the District Office.

12. **Visitors' Comments**

Mr. Ken Ahlin noted that there was a change in coaching status today (May 16, 2016) and his son's name was mentioned in the complaint. He also expressed concerns regarding Policy JBAB – Student Gender and Orientation being enforced by the state. He believes this is a confusing issue. He noted further that if the District approves this policy, it will lose some children – included would be his, and it wouldn't be due to anything that administration did wrong. He asked that some thought be put into this policy. He is sure that there are some other avenues that can be provided to accommodate these type students. He doesn't hate these type people – they are just different. He also noted that 23% of the population will have to suffer if the policy is approved and he suspects that he is not the only parent who feels this way.

Attorney Charles Boykin noted that the question about funding is a question but he suspects that the aggression will go both ways. His counsel to everyone is to put forth time to at least understand much about the situation.

13. **Executive Session**

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

The purpose for entering executive session was to discuss:

- a. Legal Briefing by Attorney on Personnel Matter(s)
- b. Teacher/Personnel Hearing
- c. Employment Recommendations

Open session: Trustee Tony Duncan **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) **Legal Briefing by Attorney on Personnel Matter(s)**

B) **Teacher/Personnel Hearing**

C) **Employment Recommendation**

Trustee Tony Duncan **moved and Trustee John Hiers seconded by announcing that there was no action taken under (A) Employment Recommendations, and (B) Teacher/Personnel Hearing. And, to accept under (C) Employment Recommendations the resignations of employees listed and to accept the employment of the employees listed for the 2016-2017 school year as presented.** The motion passed 5-0.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Minutes approved:

Kedra H. Rivers, Board Chair

Tony E. Duncan, Secretary