

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees
SCSBA Basics of Boardmanship Training
Bamberg County School District Office
September 17, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

Members present: Board Chair David Corder, Vice Chair Naomi Eckels, Secretary Cynthia “Cindy” F. Hurst, Trustee Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Trustee Jeni Bunch, Trustee Harriet H. Coker, Trustee Tonya A. Sanders-Govan, and Trustee Cathy Ayer Griffin.

Absent: None.

Others Present: Gwen J. Hampton, SCSBA Director of Leadership Development (Presenter)

1. **Call meeting to order:** Board Chair David Corder 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, The Bamberg County Leader, WIIZ 97.9 FM, WBSC-LP 102.3 FM, and the Bamberg County School District website have been notified of the time, date, place, and agenda of this meeting.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 5-0. [Trustee Jeni Bunch, Trustee Cathy Griffin and Trustee Tonya Sanders-Govan were not present at the time of the vote.]

[Trustee Jeni Bunch, Trustee Cathy Griffin, and Trustee Tonya Sanders-Govan arrived to the training at 2:02 p.m.)

3. **Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Gwen Hampton introduced herself, after which each board member stated their name and shared their years of service on the current board. Ms. Hampton then outlined the goals she intended to accomplish through the training.

4. **Board Superintendent Relationship**

Ms. Hampton facilitated an interactive discussion with the board on best practices for fostering a strong board/superintendent relationship, the importance of establishing common goals, the characteristics and potential consequences of a strained partnership, and the distinct responsibilities of the superintendent versus the board.

5. **Good School Board Governance Practices**

Ms. Hampton reviewed several key topics related to best school governance practices, including the importance of understanding Section B of Board Policies; identifying and avoiding micromanaging; quorum requirements and potential violations; ethical standards; appropriate use of social media and related cautions; proper procedures for school and district office visits; handling board member requests; addressing community complaints effectively; and maintaining confidentiality during executive sessions.

6. **Comments and Questions**

Ms. Hampton opened the floor for comments and questions, emphasizing that although each board member was elected to represent a single district, once serving on the board, they represent the interests of the entire county. She cautioned against meeting solely with individual districts, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a countywide perspective. She stated that while the consolidation of districts can be challenging, board members should present a united front regardless of individual opinions and take responsibility for helping the community work together to ensure a smooth transition.

7. **Session Evaluation**

Ms. Hampton concluded the training by providing board members with a training evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the session, gather feedback on useful information obtained, solicit suggestions for improvement, and determine whether members' expectations had been met.

Board Chair David Corder expressed his appreciation to Ms. Hampton for the informative training, commending her for the excellent delivery of the material, and further thanked the South Carolina School Board Association (SCSBA) for their continued support.

8. **Adjourn**

Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Trustee Jeni Bunch seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Minutes approved:

David Corder, Board Chair

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary