

**Bamberg County School District  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Bamberg County School District Office  
November 8, 2025  
6:00 p.m.**

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

**Absent:** None

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. **Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

3. **Approval of Agenda**

**Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Adrienne Blume seconded, to approve the agenda as presented.** The motion passed 8-0. [Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg was not present at the time of the vote.]

4. **Approval of Minutes for October 6, 2025**

During a brief discussion, Trustee Harriet Coker noted an error and requested that all motions be corrected from “9-0” to “8-0.” **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded, to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2025 meeting with suggested amendments.** The motion carried unanimously, 8-0. [Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg was not present at the time of the vote.]

5. **Presentation to Bamberg County School District Students for Participation in the GoSciTech Summer Program: Ms. Zaria O’Bryant, SC Governor’s School of Science and Mathematics.**

Interim Superintendent Dennis R. Ulmer advised that Ms. Zaria O’Bryant was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. On her behalf, Interim Superintendent Ulmer presented plaques to the following schools in recognition of their students’ selection and participation in the GoSciTech Residential Scholars Summer Program: Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School students Robert Hurst IV and Angeliyah McMaster, and Denmark-Olar Middle School students Shawnae Murray and Nevaeh Sweat.

[Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg arrived at the meeting at 6:13 p.m.]

6. **School Reports: Dr. Shannon Johnson, Harriet Davis, Dr. Deonia Simmons, Mandy Edwards, Denise Miller, and Jordan Smith.** [Board Packet Enclosures]

- Denmark-Olar Elementary School –Principal Dr. Shannon Johnson

November 3, 2025

- Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Harriett Davis
- Denmark-Olar High School Principal – Principal Dr. Deonia Simmons
- Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith

Each principal presented a detailed review of their respective school's report card, including ratings and plans to improve future performance.

The Board extended its appreciation for the hard work taking place across Bamberg County Schools.

7. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Principal Jordan Smith reviewed the athletic report for Bamberg County School District in the absence of Athletic Director Robert Williams [Board Packet Enclosure]

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

Interim Superintendent Ulmer noted the following:

- a) Mr. Ulmer thanked all coaches and community members who supported athletic events thus far this year and reported that there have been few incidents.
- b) Mr. Ulmer advised that the Bamberg County School District report card was released at 10:00 a.m. that morning and that he would issue a statement to the community addressing the results. He explained that the district report card serves as a summary of each school's individual report card. Mr. Ulmer further noted that the district's exceptional administrators, teachers, and students have contributed to the significant growth experienced over the past three years.
- c) Mr. Ulmer concluded his report with an update on district enrollment, noting a total of 1,771 students as of October 29, 2025.

9. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trips:**

- a. Denmark-Olar Boys Basketball Team – High School Basketball Showcase -- Augusta, GA – November 29, 2025 (Marcus Rivera, Head Basketball Coach)
- b. Denmark-Olar Boys Basketball Team – Inaugural Chester Christmas Classic – Chester, SC – December 19, 2025-December 21, 2025 (Marcus Rivera, Head Basketball Coach)

Following a review of the requests for out-of-state travel, **Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to approve the request for the Denmark-Olar Boys Basketball Team to attend the High School Basketball Showcase in Augusta, Georgia, on November 29, 2025, and the Inaugural Chester Christmas Classic in Chester, South Carolina, from December 19–21, 2025.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Second Reading – BCSD Policy – Section I – Instruction**

- a. **IJND – Artificial Intelligence Responsible Use**

Mr. Ulmer presented policy IJND for second reading.

Following a brief discussion, **Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded, the motion to approve the second reading of Policy IJND – Artificial Intelligence Responsible Use.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

11. **Second Reading – BCSD Policies – Section K – School – Community – Home Relations**
  - a. **KF – Community Use of School Facilities**
  - b. **KF-E(1) – Community Use of School Facilities**

Mr. Ulmer presented policies KF and KF-E(1) for second reading.

Following a brief discussion, **Trusty Cathy Griffin moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, the motion to approve the second reading of Policies KF – Community Use of School Facilities and KF-E(1) – Community Use of School Facilities.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

12. **First Reading – BCSD Policy – Section E – Support Services**
  - a. **EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles**

Mr. Ulmer presented policy EEAG for first reading.

Following a brief discussion, **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, the motion to approve the first reading of Policy EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

13. **First Reading – BCSD Policy – Section J – Students**
  - a. **JKE-R – Expulsion of Students**

Mr. Ulmer presented policy JKE-R for first reading.

Following a brief discussion, **Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Trustee Jeni Bunch seconded, the motion to approve the first reading of Policy JKE-R – Expulsion of Students with proposed changes.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

14. **Decision of December 2025 Board Meeting (Action Needed)**

Mr. Ulmer presented the Board with a request to cancel the December 2025 Board meeting due to the lack of agenda items resulting from the holiday schedule.

After a brief discussion, Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Trustee Adrienne Blume seconded, to cancel the December 2025 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 9–0.

15. **Approval of 2026 Board Calendar (Action Needed)**

Mr. Ulmer submitted the 2025 Board Calendar for review. [Board Packet Enclosure]

After a brief discussion and suggestions for future meetings, **Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded, to schedule the January 2026 Board**

November 3, 2025

**meeting for January 12, 2026. Further, Trustee Jeni Bunch moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to table action on the 2026 Board Calendar until the January 12, 2026 meeting.** Both motions passed unanimously, 9-0.

16. **Monthly Financial Report**

Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for Bamberg County School District for FY 2025-2026 as of October 2025, for review. [Board Packet Enclosure]

**Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Vice Chair Naomi Eckels seconded, the motion to accept and approve the Financial Report for October 2025, as presented.** The motion passed 9-0.

17. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

18. **Executive Session**

**Board Chair David Corder called for a motion to enter Executive Session. Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Adrienne Blume seconded, the motion to enter Executive Session.** The motion carried 9-0.

Board Chair David Corder noted that the Board would be moving into Executive Session to discuss Employment/Personnel Matters Related to: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, Matters Related to Release of Students, and Student Expulsion Appeal Hearing.

**Open session: Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Vice Chair Naomi Eckels seconded, the motion for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting.** The motion carried 9-0.

19. **Action on Executive Session Items**

**Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, the motion to accept and approve Agenda Item 18(b) to Discuss Matters Related to Release of Students for students 1, 2, and 3.** The motion passed 9-0.

**Trustee Adrienne Blume moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, to uphold the decision of the district hearing officer regarding the student expulsion appeals for students 1 and 2 under Agenda Item 18(c) to Discuss Student Expulsion Appeal Hearing.** The motion passed 9-0.

With respect to Agenda Item 18(a)(1) to Discuss Personnel Recommendations for Hire, and Agenda Item 18(a)(2) to Discuss Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, there was no action taken.

20. **Board Member Comments**

- Trustee Adrienne Blume extended congratulations to Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School teacher Mrs. Vanessa Glover-Robinson for being named the district's Teacher of the Year.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Page 5 of 5

November 3, 2025

- Board Chair David Corder extended holiday greetings to all staff and students, wishing them a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. He further wished everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday break and a smooth return to work in the new year.

21. **Adjourn**

**Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Adrienne Blume seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting.** The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Minutes approved:

---

David Corder, Board Chair

---

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary