

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
February 9, 2026
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 Cathy Griffin seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
4. **Approval of Minutes for January 12, 2026**
Trustee Cathy Griffin moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to accept the January 12, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.
5. **School Reports: Mandy Edwards, Denise Miller, Jordan Smith, Dr. Shannon Johnson, Harriet Davis, and Dr. Deonia Simmons.** [Board Packet Enclosures]
 - Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
 - Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Jordan Smith
 - Denmark-Olar Elementary School –Principal Dr. Shannon Johnson
 - Denmark-Olar Middle School – Principal Harriett Davis
 - Denmark-Olar High School – Principal Dr. Deonia Simmons

Interim Superintendent Dennis R. Ulmer, Jr. presented all school reports in the absence of principals.

6. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**
Interim Superintendent Dennis R. Ulmer, Jr. reviewed the athletic report as presented for Bamberg County School District in the absence of Athletic Director Robert Williams. [Board Packet Enclosure]
7. **Student/Staff Recognition and Superintendent's Report**
Interim Superintendent Ulmer noted the following:

- a) Mr. Ulmer announced that the districtwide communication platform, MyPowerHub, officially launched on Monday, February 2, 2026. He noted that MyPowerHub operates in conjunction with the PowerSchool Parent Portal and does not require a separate application. However, due to a recent update to the PowerSchool Mobile app, users must re-authenticate their accounts to access the new functionality. Mr. Ulmer advised that parents needing assistance with login credentials should contact their child's school for support.
- b) Mr. Ulmer concluded his report with an update on district enrollment, noting a total of 1,748 students as of January 28, 2026. He advised that the decline was due in part to several early graduates in December.

8. **Approval: 2026-2027 School Calendar**

Mr. Ulmer presented the 2026–2027 draft calendar for first reading. He highlighted that the calendar not only meets the minimum requirement for make-up days but also includes two additional inclement weather make-up days, based on the district's experience with school closures in the past. He further noted that the calendar incorporates the required professional development days and retains both fall and winter breaks, provided those days are not needed for make-up. He advised that the proposed calendar reflects a teacher start date of July 27, 2026, and a student start date of August 3, 2026, with the last day of school scheduled for May 25, 2027.

Trustee Harriett Coker moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to accept the 2026-2027 draft calendar for first reading, as presented. The motion carried 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

9. **RFP Request for Custodial Services (Action Needed)**

Mr. Ulmer informed the Board that he would like to explore the possibility of contracting custodial services across the district and speak with potential vendors to evaluate available options. He advised that outsourcing custodial services could potentially result in cost savings, improved building cleanliness, and enhanced preventative maintenance. Therefore, he requested the Board's approval to allow the district to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for custodial services.

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Jennifer Bunch seconded, to accept the recommendation of Interim Superintendent Dennis R. Ulmer, Jr. to issue an RFP for custodial services to further explore custodial options. The motion carried 9-0.

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

- a. BEHS FCCLA – State Leadership Conference – North Charleston, SC – March 18, 2026-March 20, 2026 (Charity Gavin, FCCLA Advisor)
- b. Professional Development Request – EDCon 26: Cyber.org Conference – Reno, NV – June 16, 2026-June 18, 2026 (Contrilla Anderson, CATE Teacher)
- c. Professional Development Request – EDCon 26: Cyber.org Conference – Reno, NV – June 16, 2026-June 18, 2026 (Blanch Johnson, CATE Teacher)

Following a review of the requests for out-of-state and overnight travel, **Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded, to approve the following requests: the request of FCCLA Advisor Charity Gavin for BEHS FCCLA to attend the State Leadership Conference in North Charleston, SC, March 18, 2026–March 20, 2026; and the professional development requests of CATE teachers Contrilla Anderson and Blanch Johnson to attend EDCon 26: Cyber.org Conference in Reno, NV, June 16, 2026–June 18, 2026.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

11. **Second Reading – BCSD Policy – Section D – Fiscal Management**
a. DDB – Online Fundraising

Mr. Ulmer presented policy DDB for second reading.

Following a brief discussion, **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, the motion to approve the second reading of Policy – DDB – Online Fundraising as presented.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

12. **First Reading – BCSD Policy – Section D – Fiscal Management**
a. DJ – Purchasing – Procurement Code Exemptions (Addendum to District Procurement Policy)

Mr. Ulmer presented policy DJ for first reading.

Following a brief discussion, **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, the motion to approve the first reading of Policy – DJ – Purchasing – Procurement Code Exemptions (Addendum to District Procurement Policy) as presented.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

13. **First Reading – BCSD Policy – Section E – Support Services**
a. ECAE – District Intellectual Property, Logos, Trademarks, and Mascots
b. ECAE-R – District Intellectual Property, Logos, Trademarks, and Mascots

Mr. Ulmer presented policy DJ for first reading.

Following a brief discussion, **Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Jennifer Bunch seconded, the motion to approve the first reading of Policy – ECAE – District Intellectual Property, Logos, Trademarks, and Mascots and ECAE-R – District Intellectual Property, Logos, Trademarks, and Mascots, as presented.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosure]

14. **South Carolina Association of Governmental Organizations (SCAGO) Bond Resolution (Action Needed)**

Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr proposed reissuing the SCAGO Bond in order to maintain the current millage rate for one year and prevent fluctuations. Ms. Furr explained that the SCAGO Bond is approved on an annual basis and further noted that, if approved, the bond would assist the district in addressing more costly maintenance needs.

After brief discussion, **Trustee Harriet Coker moved and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded to approve issuance of the annual SCAGO Bond, as presented.** The motion passed 9-0.

15. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Trustee Harriet Coker moved, and Trustee Adrienne Blume seconded, the motion to accept and approve the Financial Report for January 2026, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

16. **Visitors' Comments**

Ms. Michelle Martin, Chairwoman of Bamberg County Council, expressed interest in discussing the bond resolution in greater detail. She was advised to contact Chief Financial Officer Devon Furr for further clarification, to address any questions, and to obtain additional information.

17. **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 District CATE Programs, Personnel, Superintendent Matters Related to: Superintendent's Evaluation, Employment/Personnel Matters Related to: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, and Matters Related to Release of Students.

Open session: Trustee Adrienne Blume 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.

18. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Harriet Coker seconded, to accept the Interim Superintendent's recommendation and grant him the authority to move forward as needed with regard to Agenda Item 17(a), Discussion of District CATE Programs; to accept and approve Agenda Item 17(d)(1) Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employee a; and Agenda Item (17)(d)(2) Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employees a, b, c, d, and e. The motion passed 9-0.

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, the motion to accept and approve Agenda Item 17(e) to Discuss Matters Related to Release of Students for student a. The motion passed 9-0.

With respect to Agenda Item 17(b) Discussion of Personnel and Agenda Item 17(c)(1) Superintendent's Evaluation, no action was taken.

19. **Proposal to Convert Denmark Schools to a K-12 Campus (Action Needed)**
After being presented with all information necessary to make an informed decision, **Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded the Interim Superintendent’s recommendation to convert Denmark Schools to a K–12 campus.** The motion passed 8–1, with Trustees Blume, Bunch, Bamberg, Griffin, Board Chair David Corder, Vice Chair Eckels, Coker, and Secretary Hurst in favor, and Trustee Sanders-Govan opposed.
20. **Board Member Comments**
- Trustee Harriet Coker expressed her appreciation to the Board for the potted plant sent to her during the loss of her sister. She also thanked the IT department for their continued hard work in ensuring seamless streaming of board meetings.
 - Trustee Adrienne Blume thanked CFO Devon Furr for her financial report and expressed appreciation for all the hard work and effort put forth.
 - Trustee Jeni Bunch thanked County Council Chair Michelle Martin for her attendance and comments during the meeting. She also thanked Ms. Furr for her financial insight and for answering questions.
 - Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg thanked the administration of Bamberg County Schools for their dedication to the district and students, acknowledging the hard work and stress involved, and expressed appreciation for being part of a reliable team.
 - Trustee Cathy Griffin praised teachers for their stamina and commitment, noting that both students and the Board depend on them.
 - Vice Chair Naomi Eckels thanked the entire district for their tireless work, congratulated the boys’ and girls’ basketball teams on winning their regions, and expressed excitement for the upcoming spring sports season.
 - Secretary Cynthia Hurst thanked the Board for their collaboration, Mr. Ulmer for his reports, Ms. Furr for addressing all questions, and everyone for prioritizing the best interests of the district.
 - Board Chair David Corder encouraged everyone to persevere as spring break approaches, acknowledging the challenges of their work and expressing gratitude for everyone’s efforts.
21. **Adjourn**
Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Vice Chair Naomi Eckels seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes approved:

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David Corder, Board Chair

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary