

**Bamberg County School District
Board of Trustees Meeting
Bamberg County School District Office
June 1, 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 Adrienne Blume seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed 8-0. [Trustees Tonya Sanders-Govan was not present at the time of the vote.]

[Trustee Tonya Sanders-Govan arrived at the meeting at 6:02 p.m.]

4. **Approval of Minutes for May 1, 2026, May 4, 2026, and May 14, 2026.**

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, to accept the May 1, 2026, May 4, 2026, and May 14, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

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

- Denmark-Olar Elementary School – Principal Dr. Shannon Johnson
- Denmark-Olar Middle School – Interim Superintendent Dennis R. Ulmer, Jr., in the absence of Principal Harriett Davis
- Denmark-Olar High School – Interim Superintendent Dennis R. Ulmer, Jr., in the absence of Principal Dr. Deonia Simmons
- Richard Carroll Elementary School – Principal Mandy Edwards
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School – Principal Denise Miller
- Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School – Principal Denise Miller in the absence of Principal Jordan Smith

6. **Truancy Report/Update: Denise Robinson-Crosby**

Truancy Officer Denise Robinson-Crosby reviewed the truancy report as presented for Bamberg County School District. [Board Packet Enclosure]

7. **Athletic Reports: Robert Williams**

Principal Denise Miller reviewed the athletic report as presented 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 took a moment to recognize and congratulate all athletic teams for their outstanding accomplishments during the 2025–2026 school year.
- b) Mr. Ulmer advised that The Budd Group had begun work in the district's facilities, getting a head start on summer deep-cleaning efforts throughout the buildings. He noted that the company has maintained constant communication with the District Office and that he has received no complaints regarding their services.
- c) Mr. Ulmer Mr. Ulmer reported that End-of-Course (EOC) assessment results remain under embargo until October 1, 2026. He noted that school report cards will also be released at that time; therefore, no assessment data was available for reporting.
- d) Mr. Ulmer thanked everyone involved in the year-end programs and graduation ceremonies and expressed his appreciation for their efforts in making the events successful.
- e) Mr. Ulmer reminded everyone about the District's Summer Lunch Program, which is being offered from June 1, 2026, through June 25, 2026, at Denmark-Olar School, Richard Carroll Elementary School, and Bamberg-Ehrhardt Middle School. He noted that free lunches are available to all children 18 years of age and younger.
- f) Mr. Ulmer provided an update on district enrollment, noting a total of 1,758 students as of May 27, 2026.

9. **Request for Out of State/Overnight Trip**

- a. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC – JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge – Ft. Jackson, SC – June 5, 2026-June 11, 2026 (Major John McDonald, JROTC Instructor)
- b. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Football Team – UNC Campus Tour/7 on 7 Tournament – Charlotte, NC/Rock Hill, SC –June 19, 2026-June 21, 2026 (Corey Crosby, Head Coach)
- c. Professional Development Request -- National Association of Agricultural Educators Region 5 Conference – Wilmington, SC – June 28, 2026-July 1, 2026 (Bayleah Varnadoe, Agriculture Instructor)
- d. Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Volleyball Team – Volleyball Camp – Wofford College – Spartanburg, SC – July 13, 2026-July 15, 2026 (Faron Mixon, Head Coach)

- e. Professional Development Request – ACTE National Conference – New Orleans, LA -- December 2, 2026-December 6, 2026 (Kathy Summers, CTE Instructor)

Following a review of the requests for out-of-state and overnight travel, **Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Secretary Cynthia Hurst seconded, to approve the following field trip and professional development requests: the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, June 5–11, 2026; the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Football Team UNC Campus Tour and 7-on-7 Tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Rock Hill, South Carolina, June 19–21, 2026; the National Association of Agricultural Educators Region V Conference in Wilmington, North Carolina, June 28–July 1, 2026, for Bayleah Varnadoe, Agriculture Instructor; the Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Volleyball Camp at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, July 13–15, 2026; and the ACTE National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, December 2–6, 2026, for Kathy Summers, CTE Instructor.** The motion passed 9-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

10. **Monthly Financial Report**

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

Secretary Cynthia Hurst moved, and Trustee Cathy Griffin seconded, the motion to accept and approve the Financial Report for May 2026, as presented. The motion passed 9-0.

Ms. Furr requested that the Board schedule a follow-up budget work session to continue the budget development process.

Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed to hold a budget work session on June 10, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

11. **Visitors' Comments**

None.

12. **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 Accept Legal Advice in Relation to Superintendent Evaluation and Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year, to discuss Employment/Personnel Matters Related to: Personnel Recommendations for Hire, Personnel Recommendations for Resignation, and Matters Related to Release of Students.

Open session: Secretary Cynthia Hurst 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.

13. **Action on Executive Session Items**

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Adrienne Blume seconded, the motion to accept and approve Agenda Item 12(b)(1) to Discuss Personnel Recommendations for Hire for employees a, b, c, and d; Agenda Item 12(b)(2) to Discuss Personnel Recommendations for Resignation for employee a; and Agenda Item 12(c) to Discuss Matters Related to Release of Students for students 1 through 14.

With respect to Agenda Item 12(a) to Accept Legal Advice in Relation to Superintendent Evaluation and Contract for the 2026-2027 School Year, no action was taken.

14. **Board Member Comments**

- Trustee Adrienne Blume congratulated the students, staff, principals, bus drivers, and graduates on the successful completion of the school year. She encouraged graduates to continue moving forward one step at a time and wished everyone a wonderful June. Trustee Blume also encouraged students enrolled in summer courses to approach their studies with the same level of dedication and seriousness they demonstrate during the regular school year.
- Trustee Jeni Bunch congratulated everyone on reaching the end of the school year. She reminded families about the district's Summer Lunch Program and extended her best wishes to students, teachers, administrators, and staff for a safe and enjoyable summer.
- Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg expressed appreciation to the administrators, teachers, bus drivers, cafeteria staff, and all employees who contributed to a successful school year. She congratulated students on their promotions to the next grade level and graduates on their accomplishments, wishing them continued success in their future endeavors. Trustee Bamberg encouraged everyone to enjoy a safe and restful summer and return energized for the new school year in August.
- Trustee Cathy Griffin shared how proud she was of the graduates and encouraged them to take advantage of the many opportunities that lie ahead. She also recognized students who worked diligently toward their personal goals throughout the year and expressed hope that they would continue to receive encouragement from their families and teachers. Trustee Griffin gave special recognition to the JROTC cadets for their professionalism and outstanding appearance during graduation ceremonies and thanked teachers, administrators, and supporters for their dedication.
- Vice Chair Naomi Eckels thanked the teachers, administrators, staff, and all employees who work tirelessly to support student success. She congratulated students on their promotions and extended best wishes to the Class of 2026 as they pursue their future goals. Vice Chair Eckels also recognized the district's athletic teams for their accomplishments during the school year and wished everyone a safe and restful summer.

- Trustee Harriet Coker echoed the comments of her fellow board members and specifically commended the JROTC programs for their hard work and outstanding performance throughout the year. She stated that the cadets deserved significant recognition for their efforts and wished everyone a pleasant summer.
- Secretary Cynthia Hurst agreed with the sentiments expressed by her colleagues and noted that congratulations were in order for the entire school community. She stated that the district experienced a successful year and highlighted the academic progress achieved in several areas. Secretary Hurst thanked everyone whose hard work contributed to those accomplishments, congratulated student-athletes on their successes, and encouraged students to continue learning throughout the summer.
- Trustee Tonya Sanders-Govan thanked all district employees for their service and dedication in their various roles. She congratulated students on their promotions and graduations, encouraging them to continue striving for success and to always do their best. Trustee Sanders-Govan also recognized the accomplishments of the district's athletic programs, including state championship and runner-up finishes. She reminded families about the Summer Lunch Program and encouraged students to take advantage of the meals offered. Additionally, she gave special recognition to her niece, McKenzie Sanders, for a job well done.
- Board Chair David Corder stated that Bamberg County School District has much to celebrate and be proud of. He praised the district's graduation ceremonies as some of the best he had attended, noting their organization, professionalism, and the exemplary conduct of students. Board Chair Corder also recognized the outstanding contributions of the JROTC program and the band to the ceremonies. He highlighted the district's athletic achievements, including multiple state championships and back-to-back state titles for the girls' track team. Additionally, he noted encouraging academic progress reflected in i-Ready assessment data and encouraged the community to recognize the many positive accomplishments taking place throughout the district.

15. Adjourn

Vice Chair Naomi Eckels moved, and Trustee Gwendolyn Bamberg seconded, the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Minutes approved:

David Corder, Board Chair

Cynthia Hurst, Secretary