

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CALLED TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONE & TWO**  
**Denmark-Olar Board Room**  
**Bamberg County, South Carolina**  
**May 21, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Bamberg District Two Board and Attendees:**

Beverly Bonaparte, Chair  
Blossom Thompson, Vice Chairman  
Loretta P. Goodman, Secretary  
Tonie Holman, Board Member  
Larry Bias, Board Member  
Thelma Sojourner, Superintendent  
Michelle Nimmons, Human Resource Director  
Rodney Anderson, Business Operations Director  
Charles Boykin, Attorney, Boykin & Davis, LLC  
Lynn Smith, Attorney, Boykin & Davis, LLC

**Bamberg District One Board and Attendees:**

Janeth Walker, Board Chair  
Gwendolyn D. Bamberg, Board Member  
John Hiers, Board Member  
Phyllis Schwarting, Superintendent  
Dottie Brown, Interim Superintendent  
Devon B. Furr, Finance Director  
Ricky Padgett, Technology Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Bonaparte called the special meeting to order. In accordance with the SC Code of Laws, 1976, section 30-480(e) as amended, the following had been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of the meeting: WIIZ Radio Station, Barnwell; *The Advertiser-Herald*, Bamberg; and *The Times and Democrat*, Orangeburg.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was conducted with attendance as recorded above.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was observed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The meeting agenda was unanimously approved as written without objection.

**DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS REGARDING CONSOLIDATION  
OF BAMBERG ONE AND BAMBERG TWO SCHOOL DISTRICTS (*Action if Needed*)**

Discussions were held regarding the following:

- Continued availability of the \$3,000,000 in state funds to assist with the consolidation process. It was determined that the funding was included in the 2019-2020 budget and is still available.
- Lack of advantage of savings on operational costs in consolidation of the districts' administration. It was determined that there may not be administrative cost savings realized but the state had determined that small districts will consolidate and it would be to the districts' advantage to have input and direction into how consolidation progresses versus having the state mandate how consolidation will happen.
- Debt for new construction in District Two that will have to be absorbed by the districts. It was determined that, when consolidation happens, the debts incurred will still have to be paid.

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BOARDS OF TRUSTEES  
MAY 21, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.

- The legislation has not been approved to force the consolidation process. It was determined that, even though the legislation has not acted, the state superintendent has said that the \$3,000,000 was available for the consolidation process.

Mrs. Walker asked for clarification on the purpose of the meeting and stated that the Bamberg One board had already voted to move forward with the consolidation process. Mrs. Bonaparte stated that the Bamberg Two board had voted to move forward with the consolidation process.

Mrs. Bonaparte reviewed the revised preliminary consolidation plan and budgeted amounts provided in the \$3,000,000 consolidation plan submitted and approved by the Department of Education. (Attachment 1) The local planning committee, working with a consultant, must review and make any revisions and/or updates and resubmit the plan to the Department of Education. The committee is scheduled to meet on May 27, 2020.

At the next meeting of the two boards and when the boards meet with the legislators, some issues that may need to be addressed include:

- Number of board seats for the consolidated boards
- Appointed or elected boards. It was noted that the terms for two members of each school board will expire in 2022, prior to consolidation, and it needs to be determined if those members will retain their seats until consolidation is complete, if the current board members will be appointed to retain the expired seats, or if the elections will proceed on the established date.
- District lines

The boards agreed to schedule a meeting with the legislators, based on the legislators' availability. Mrs. Walker stated that she would contact the legislators to schedule a meeting in the near future and relay the information to Mrs. Bonaparte.

**ADJOURNMENT**

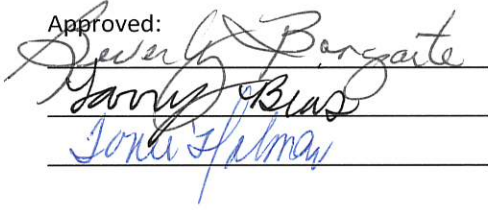
The meeting was adjourned without objection at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by,



Sarah Goodman

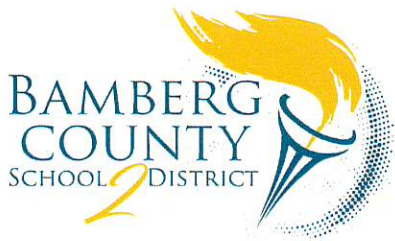
Approved:



Beverly Bonaparte  
Gary Bias  
Joni Hulman

Prepared by:

Deborah M. Anderson



**BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONE & TWO**  
**SPECIAL CALLED TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**62 HOLLY AVENUE - DENMARK, SC**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER OF SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**ROLL CALL**

**APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA *(Action)***

**DISCUSSION OF PROPOSALS REGARDING CONSOLIDATION  
OF BAMBERG ONE AND BAMBERG TWO SCHOOL DISTRICTS *(Action if Needed)***

**ADJOURNMENT**

Attachment 1

Dist	Purpose (District Description)	Amount	Category	Notes	Requests from SCDE	Requests from SCDE if item is selected for funding	Allowable	Disallowed or More Information Needed	Explanation
Bamberg	pre-consolidation costs of staff to be hired by the Consolidation Planning Committee to carry out required pre-consolidation functions, such staff to be determined.	\$ 300,000.00	Consolidation Consultants-Staff Attorneys				\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	Extra staff pay, consulting and legal fees are capped at \$150,000 per consolidation. Funds are being allocated to selection of topical experts to assist all districts consolidating in the areas of policy, personnel, curriculum, facilities, and technology
Bamberg	costs of the operation of the Consolidation Planning Committee, though the members of the Committee would not be compensated for their work separately from the current compensation.	\$ 50,000.00	Consolidation Consultants-Staff Attorneys				\$ -	\$ 50,000.00	See above. Districts may chose which of these line items to fund.
Bamberg	consultants required to carry out required pre-consolidation functions, such consultants to be determined (but may include technology consultants, financial consultants, CPAs, training, etc.)	\$ 300,000.00	Consolidation Consultants-Staff Attorneys				\$ -	\$ 300,000.00	See above. Districts may chose which of these line items to fund.
Bamberg	professional services to work with the Consolidation Planning Committee, the Districts, SCDE, and other stakeholders to carry out pre-consolidation functions, including, but not limited to, legal services, auditing services, facilitator services, community relations services, etc., as needed	\$ 500,000.00	Consolidation Consultants-Staff Attorneys				\$ -	\$ 500,000.00	See above. Districts may chose which of these line items to fund.
Bamberg	professional services to work with the Consolidation Planning Committee, the Districts, SCDE, and other stakeholders to carry out pre-consolidation functions, including, but not limited to, legal services, auditing services, facilitator services, community relations services, etc., as needed.	\$ 100,000.00	Consolidation Consultants-Staff Attorneys				\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	See above. Districts may chose which of these line items to fund.
Bamberg	2-year consulting contracts for senior administration officials who resign/retire/lose their jobs because of consolidation so that they continue to provide guidance and expertise to the consolidated district	\$ 300,000.00	Consolidation Consultants-Staff Attorneys				\$ -	\$ 300,000.00	May reconsider if these were part of terms of a contract that existed before January 2019; however, may be subject to \$150,000 cap above.
Bamberg	bonded debt reduction costs to reduce the consolidated district's bonded debt millage to 80 mills		Debt Service						
Bamberg	IDEA shortfall over 5 years due to consolidation.		Funding Reduction						Checking with OSES.

Dist	Purpose (District Description)	Amount	Category	Notes	Requests from SCDE	Requests from SCDE if item is selected for funding	Allowable	Disallowed or More Information Needed	Explanation
Bamberg	Title I and other federal program shortfalls over 5 years due to consolidation.		Funding Reduction						FYI the Title I program does not project a reduction in funding after consolidation.
Bamberg	Severance payments and/or other required separation costs for those losing their jobs because of consolidation; <b>or new superintendent/interim</b>	\$ 150,000.00	Personnel Costs			Please advise whether these are payments authorized in an employee's contract (prior to January 2019) and are necessary for consolidation.	\$ 150,000.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	teacher recruitment bonuses fund to assist the new district in attracting talent in its first 5 years.	\$ 100,000.00	Personnel Costs			Please advise why this is necessary for consolidation.	\$ 50,000.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	salary equalization over 5 years for all employee categories (teachers, administrators, staff, bus drivers, food service staff, and maintenance staff).	\$ 2,000,000.00	Salary Equalization		<b>OT, PT, Speech in B1</b>		\$ 400,000.00	\$ 1,600,000.00	Willing to cover equalization in the year before consolidation; however, the district will need recurring funds to cover higher salaries.
Bamberg	new district administrative office (approximately 15,000 square feet),	\$ 8,500,000.00	School Facilities-Administration				\$ 8,500,000.00		The legislature routinely excludes administration facilities from state funding, and the SCDE believes this would not be considered "necessary to complete consolidation."
Bamberg	cost of disposing of unused buildings for 3 years after consolidation	\$ 150,000.00	School Facilities-Administration			Please provide more detail on which buildings are unused.		\$ 150,000.00	Will reconsider if more information is provided and this relates neither to administration or athletics facilities.
Bamberg	costs of moving to the new district offices after construction; <b>or renovations to existing space for consolidated staff.</b>	\$ 100,000.00	School Facilities-Administration		<b>B1 building holds 7 people; B2's holds 12; both district offices are full. (Big classrooms as offices.)</b>	Please provide information on costs related to consolidating to one administration building.	\$ 100,000.00		Not approving a new district office, but some staff will likely need to move upon consolidation even if both D.O.s are kept with differing programs.
Bamberg	facilities improvements in Bamberg 1, including \$200,000 to replace HV AC units that are "end of life," \$315,000 to install LED lights throughout the District for efficiency, and \$50,000 to renovate and update the current business lab at the high school.	\$ 565,000.00	School Facilities-Classroom			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in Bamberg 2 on these items.	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 315,000.00	Appears both districts need HVAC upgrades so this is not an equity issue related to consolidation. May reconsider if more information on necessity related to consolidation is provided.
Bamberg	facilities improvements in Bamberg 2, including \$75,000 in maintenance building upgrades, \$50,000 in HVAC upgrades/repairs, and \$37,000 for plumbing upgrades/repairs.	\$ 162,000.00	School Facilities-Classroom		Needs the entire amount to plumbing. DHEC grant for lead testing. VRC to send contact.	Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in Bamberg 1 on these items.	\$ 112,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	Appears both districts need HVAC upgrades so this is not an equity issue related to consolidation. May reconsider if more information on necessity related to consolidation is provided.

Reduce numbers of international teachers

Reduction in force needed.

Explained comparing B1 to new facility in B2

Mostly plumbing issues

Not as updated in B1 as in B2.

Dist	Purpose (District Description)	Amount	Category	Notes	Requests from SCDE	Requests from SCDE if item is selected for funding	Allowable	Disallowed or More Information Needed	Explanation
Bamberg	Fire alarms	\$ 10,500.00	School Facilities-Health & Safety			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 10,500.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	Upgrade security cameras; existing cameras are 7 to 8 years old; to equalize security between districts.	\$ 192,000.00	School Facilities-Health & Safety			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 192,000.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	Security fence - removed.		School Facilities-Health & Safety			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ -		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	Emergency radio repeaters - removed,		School Facilities-Health & Safety			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ -		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	Additional Power/School Costs	\$ 20,000.00	SIS				\$ 20,000.00		
Bamberg	Docescan/Etrieve	\$ 15,000.00	Software Needs			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 15,000.00		Get to one system; necessary for consolidation
Bamberg	SmartFusion/Harris	\$ 7,500.00	Software Needs			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 7,500.00		
Bamberg	1-1 computing devices	\$ 430,000.00	Technology-1:1		Please explain why, if the goal is compatibility with existing district equipment, there are requests for new in both?	Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 430,000.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	technology improvements in Bamberg 2, including \$325,000 to pay for Chromebooks that are compatible with Bamberg 1 and to fully implement the 1-1 initiative,	\$ 325,000.00	Technology-1:1		Please explain why, if the goal is compatibility with existing district equipment, there are requests for new in both?	Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 325,000.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.

Dist	Purpose (District Description)	Amount	Category	Notes	Requests from SCDE	Requests from SCDE if item is selected for funding	Allowable	Disallowed or More Information Needed	Explanation
Bamberg	technology improvements in Bamberg 1, including \$534,675 for new interactive panels that are compatible with Bamberg 2	\$ 534,675.00	Technology-Classroom		Please explain why, if the goal is compatibility with existing district equipment, there are requests for new in both?	Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 534,675.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	interactive panels. Removed.		Technology-Classroom		Please explain why, if the goal is compatibility with existing district equipment, there are requests for new in both?	Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ -		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	equalize network infrastructure on the same platform in Bamberg 1 as Bamberg 2 (which includes \$183,000 to upgrade current Netgear switches to Cisco Meraki, \$84,000 to upgrade current Aerohive wireless access points to Cisco Meraki access points, and \$33,000 to upgrade UPS Power backups throughout the district)	\$ 300,000.00	Technology-Network/Infrastructure		Technology Funding		\$ 203,325.00		
Bamberg	new data center at the district level	\$ 50,000.00	Technology-Network/Infrastructure			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 50,000.00		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	new firewall at the new district office	\$ -	Technology-Network/Infrastructure			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ -		Although listed as "allowable," items that are not necessary to complete consolidation will not be approved.
Bamberg	maintenance vehicles for the new district, as neither district has adequate maintenance vehicles today.	\$ 80,000.00	Vehicles			Please provide information on why these costs are necessary for consolidation and the status in each district	\$ 80,000.00		Will reconsider if more information is provided demonstrating this is necessary to complete consolidation. If neither has adequate vehicles, it does not appear to be an equity between districts issue.
Bamberg TOTAL		\$ 15,241,675.00			Totals		\$ 3,000,000.00	\$ 12,095,000.00	\$ 15,095,000.00
					Allocation		\$ 3,000,000.00		
					Balance		\$ -		