

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Denmark-Olar Board Room  
Bamberg County, South Carolina  
September 14, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Beverly Bonaparte, Chairman  
Blossom Thompson, Vice Chairman  
Loretta P. Goodman, Secretary  
Tonie Holman  
Larry Bias

**Also Present:** Thelma Sojourner, Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Bonaparte called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. In accordance with the SC Code of Laws, 1976, section 30-4-80(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 without objection.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting held August 10, 2020 were unanimously approved as written without objection and signed by all members present.

The minutes of the special meeting held August 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. were unanimously approved as written without objection and signed by all members present.

The minutes of the special meeting held August 31, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. were unanimously approved as written without objection and signed by all members present.

**PRESENTATION**

Mrs. Anna Chappelle presented a gift from her family, an ELMO, to Dr. Peeples for use by the elementary school staff.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for discussion.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mrs. Bonaparte commended Dr. Sojourner and staff on the ribbon cutting held September 13 for the new school facility.

MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.

**SECTION 1 - FINANCE**

- **Finance Report**

Oggretta Tyler provided the finance report which was received as information.

**SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

- Dr. Ruby Johnson provided information regarding

LEAP testing at the three schools:

-Elementary school tested 290 of 297 students

-Middle school tested 130-135 students, with 18 remaining untested

-High school tested 50 of 55 students

Hybrid schedule to begin September 21 with the following counts

-Elementary school – 79 of 317 students

-Middle school – 44 of 152-153 students

-High school – 100 of 174 students

To date, only one teacher indicated underlying issues which caused a decision to deliver instruction off site virtually.

The report was received as information.

**SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- **Attorney Fees**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the attorney fees for August 2020 totaling \$7,282.02 be approved for payment. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner stated

-Legislature scheduled to return to session on September 15 with discussions on 2020-2021 state budget and the second phase of CARES Act.

The report was received as information.

- **First Reading of Proposed Policies/Updates**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the following policies be given first reading approval:

-DA - Fiscal Management Goals & Objectives

-DBJ - Budget Transfers

-DI/DIE & DI/DIE-R - Fiscal Accounting Audit

-DJD - Expense Authorization/Reimbursement

-DKA - Payroll Procedures/Schedules

-EB-R - Maintaining Health Environments

-EEA-R - Student Transportation

Mr. Bias seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Second Reading of Proposed Policies/Updates**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the following policies be given second reading approval.

-ADD - Face Covering

-JE-R - Student Attendance

-IHA-R - Opt-out of Onsite Instruction

-IHA-E - Opt-out of Onsite Instruction Form

-KI-R - Visitors to School Facilities

-KI-E - Notice (to visitors to school facilities)

-GBAA-Sexual Harassment (Staff)

-GBAA-R - Sexual Harassment (Staff)

-GBAA-E1 - Sexual Harassment (Staff)

MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.

- JIAA-Sexual Harassment (Students)
  - JIAA-R - Sexual Harassment (Students)
  - JIAA-E1 - Sexual Harassment (Students)
- Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Sojourner provided the following:

- Condolence to Mrs. Bonaparte in the loss of a family member
  - Extension of virtual instruction by another week, to begin on September 21 instead of September 14, with hybrid and virtual instruction
  - Lunches will be provided to persons under 18 years of age
  - SCSBA voting delegate and alternate had been selected and submitted. Mrs. Bonaparte will serve as the voting delegate with Mrs. Thompson serving as the alternate delegate.
  - Recent Bamberg County COVID activity still designated as high in all categories. Dr. Sojourner stressed that the district must be cognizant and report all incidents of known infection.
  - Request from Feed My Sheep Ministries to use the school facilities for its annual Thanksgiving lunch with the meals being prepared at the school for take outs to be delivered and some persons eating onsite or, possibly, with tables being set up outside the school for drive up delivery with no one eating in the facility, depending on the status of COVID incidence. Mrs. Goodman moved that permission be granted for the Ministry to prepare the Thanksgiving meal as outlined in the letter of request. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
  - SCSBA's Risky Business seminar would be conducted virtually on October 15. Board members were asked to notify Mrs. Anderson if they wanted to be registered to participate.
  - Sanitizing of all of the old school buildings had been completed with the new facilities scheduled to be sanitized on September 15
  - High school students, Jaela Tyler and Kalia Glover, were recipients of the Dr. Doretha Pressey Academic Scholarship receiving \$18,000 and \$12,000 respectively to be awarded over the course of four years.
  - Seven pieces of student art had been professionally framed and hung in the high school hallway and the elementary school office of the new school facility
  - Hotspots had been delivered to students and Verizon has indicated that difficulties should be minimized
  - Bob Damrom had made a bond deposit to help reduce the millage/tax rate for 2020-2021
  - New Chromebooks from USDA will soon be ready for students
  - Congressman Clyburn is working to get greater bandwidth in the area to help with virtual instruction.
- The report was received as information.

**SECTION 5 - EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the board enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters
- Student Personnel Matters
- Contractual Matters
- Legal Matters/Counsel

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously approved.

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The board voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

**ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

- **Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters**

Mrs. Goodman moved that employment recommendations presented, with the exception of FH, be approved. Investigation of FH would be continued. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.

- **Student Personnel Matters**

Mrs. Goodman moved to reinstate expelled high school student, MAG, for the 2020-2021 school year. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the requests for release of the following students be granted: KS, PF, Jr., SJG, MWG, CG, AT and AT. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Contractual Matters**

No action was taken.

- **Legal Matters/Counsel**

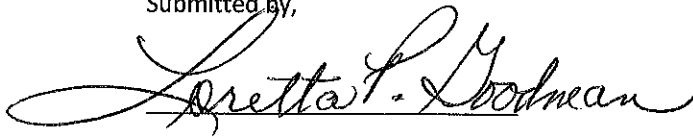
No action was taken.

Mrs. Goodman moved that, previously, the board authorized a \$1,000 Christmas bonus for all full-time employees; however, due to COVID-19, the Christmas bonus would be increased by an additional \$500, a total of \$1,500, for all full-time employees and board members, and that employees receive a written explanation that this is a one-time only bonus. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed unanimously.

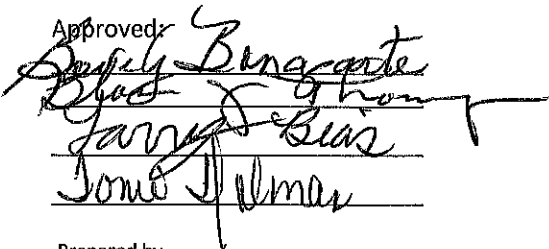
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:41 p.m.

Submitted by,



Approved:



Prepared by  
Deborah Anderson



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
District Office Board Room**

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2020 - 5:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM (Action)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Action)**

- Regular Meeting Held August 10, 2020
- Special Called Meeting Held August 27, 2020
- Special Called Meeting Held August 31, 2020

**PRESENTATION**

- Gift from Former Student

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Action if Needed)**

**NEW BUSINESS (Action if Needed)**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Action if Needed)**

**SECTION 1 - FINANCE (Action if Needed)**

- Finance Report . . . . . Oggretta Tyler

**SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION . . . . . Dr. Ruby J. Johnson**

**SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION (Action)**

- Attorney Fees
- Legislative Update
- First Readings of Proposed/Revised Policies
  - DA - Fiscal Management Goals & Objectives
  - DJD - Expense Authorization/Reimbursement
  - EB-R - Maintaining Health Environments
  - DBJ - Budget Transfers
  - DKA - Payroll Procedures/Schedules
  - EEA-R - Student Transportation
  - DI/DIE & DI/DIE-R - Fiscal Accounting Audit
- Second Readings of Proposed Policies/Updates
  - ADD - Face Covering
  - IHA-E - Opt-out of Onsite Instruction Form
  - GBAA-Sexual Harassment (Staff)
  - JIAA-Sexual Harassment (Students)
  - JE-R - Student Attendance
  - KI-R - Visitors to School Facilities
  - GBAA-R - Sexual Harassment (Staff)
  - JIAA-R - Sexual Harassment (Students)
  - IHA-R - Opt-out of Onsite Instruction
  - KI-E - Notice (to visitors to school facilities)
  - GBAA-E1 - Sexual Harassment (Staff)
  - JIAA-E1 - Sexual Harassment (Students)

**SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT (Action if Needed) . . . . . Dr. Thelma Sojourner**

**SECTION 5 - EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters
- Student Personnel Matters
- Contractual Matters
- Legal Matters/Counsel

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

**ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

- Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters
- Student Personnel Matters
- Contractual Matters
- Legal Matters/Counsel

**ADJOURNMENT**