

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Denmark-Olar Board Room
Bamberg County, South Carolina
March 1, 2021 – 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
Charles Boykin, Attorney

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, 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 February 1, 2021, and special meetings held February 5, 2021 and February 16, 2021 were approved as written without objection. The minutes were signed by all board members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Bonaparte introduced recently elected Bamberg County Sheriff, Kenneth Bamberg. Sheriff Bamberg offered his assistance and service to the district when needed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Bonaparte reported that three board members attended the SCSBA Annual Convention held February 17-21, 2021 in Hilton Head. She briefly shared information on topics covered during the conference.

SECTION 1 - FINANCE

- **Finance Report**

Mrs. Oggretta Tyler presented the finance report which was received as information. She also reported that, effective February 22, 2021, in conjunction with the shared finance staffing services agreement with Bamberg District One, Devon Blume had begun her duties in District Two.

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SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Dr. Johnson shared that:

- The district is actively participating in the state testing program and that ELL, Gifted and Talented, and ACT assessments had been administered during the past week and that SAT, Career Readiness, MAP and SCAIt testing would begin soon.
- Work was being done on the district's strategic plan for submission by April 30. The report was received as information.

SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- **Attorney Fees**

No attorney invoice was received for action at this meeting.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner reported that the legislation was discussing -

- Teacher and staff vaccination administration and that the Denmark Family Health Center had consented to administer the vaccine on site to district staff
- Teacher step increase and, if approved, would be retroactive to last school year to the current year
- Education Accountability Act with regard to underperforming schools
- Seat belts on school buses
- Safe Harbor legislation
- Teacher student loan forgiveness.

The report was received as information.

- **First Reading of Policies**

- DGD – Credit Card Use (Update)
- DJD – Expense Authorization/Reimbursement (Update)

Mr. Bias moved that policies DGD and DJD be given first reading approval. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Sojourner provided the following information:

- Recognized Jennifer Sanders, high school math teacher, who had achieved National Board Certification status
 - Update on COVID related absences in the schools
 - Summer program being considered to recapture learning loss
 - Efforts to increase school lunch participation
 - Acknowledged Dr. Anna Martin for her recognition by the National Honor Society for the mural the high school's art students designed for the front of the high school
 - Anticipated information from SDE on national testing status for 2020-2021
 - Jerry Coleman, Class of 1984, and the Coleman family's support of the district through scholarships, provision of water, masks, sanitizer and cleaning supplies
 - Several students were recognized for their participation in garden programs at the middle school
 - On March 3 vaccines scheduled to be administered at the train depot and COVID testing to be provided at the Denmark Police Department from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - US Census Bureau provided a certificate for the district's participation in the census.
- 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

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- Legal Matters/Counsel
The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously approved.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The board returned to Open Session on a motion by Mrs. Goodman, seconded by Bishop Holman and unanimously passed.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- **Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters**
Dr. Sojourner requested that the 2021-2022 employment recommendations be accepted. Mrs. Goodman moved that the recommendations be approved. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Due to the pending retirement of Dr. Sojourner, Mr. Bias moved that Dr. Deiona Simmons be selected to serve as interim superintendent, effective March 1, 2021, with terms of employment as discussed and to provide assistance to the district during consolidation planning. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

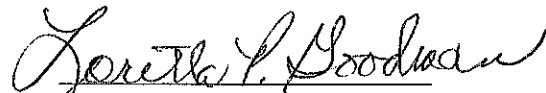
By consensus, the board agreed to meet on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

- **Student Personnel Matters**
Mrs. Goodman moved that the release requests for students GG and AG be approved. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Contractual Matters**
No action was taken.
- **Legal Matters/Counsel**
No action was taken.

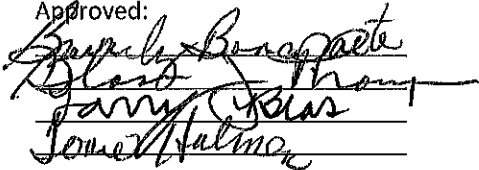
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted by,

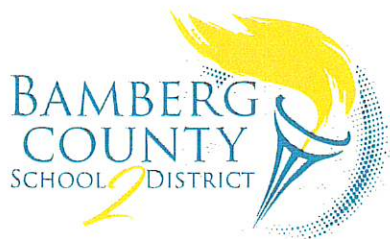


Approved:



Prepared by
Deborah Anderson





Board of Trustees Meeting District Office Board Room

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AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM *(Action)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Action)*

- Regular Meeting Held February 1, 2021
- Special Meeting Held February 5, 2021
- Special Meeting Held February 16, 2021

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 Reading of Policies
 - DGD - Credit Card Use (Update)
 - DJD - Expense Authorization/Reimbursement (Update)

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