

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED TRUSTEES MEETING
BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONE & TWO
Denmark-Olar Board Room
Bamberg County, South Carolina
May 3, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Bamberg District Two Board and Attendees:

Beverly Bonaparte, Chair
Blossom Thompson, Vice Chairman *(via phone)*
Loretta P. Goodman, Secretary
Tonie Holman, Board Member
Larry Bias, Board Member
Dr. Deonia Simmons, Interim Superintendent

Bamberg District One Board and Attendees:

Janeth Walker, Chair
Gwendolyn Bamberg, Board Member
John Hiers, Board Member
Naomi Eckels, Board Member
Tony Duncan, Board Member *(arrived at 7:08 p.m.)*
Dottie Brown, Interim Superintendent
Devon Blume, Finance Director
Ricky Padgett, Technology Director

Also in Attendance:

Gene Wittwer, Consolidation Consultant
Charles Boykin, Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Bonaparte called the special meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Goodman moved that the boards enter Executive Session for the discussion of the following:

- Discussion of Consolidation of Districts - Personnel
- Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters
- Student Personnel Matters
- Contractual Matters
- Legal Matters/Counsel

Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The boards returned to Open Session on a motion by Mr. Bias, seconded by Bishop Holman, and unanimously passed.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Consolidation of Districts – Personnel

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
BAMBERG ONE & BAMBERG TWO
BOARDS OF TRUSTEES
MAY 3, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the boards of trustees accept the shared services agreement between Bamberg Districts One and Two, as prepared for the consolidation of the two districts, designating Mrs. Dottie Brown as Superintendent for Districts One and Two, and Dr. Deonia Simmons as Deputy Superintendent for Districts One and Two, effective July 1, 2021 (school year 2021-2022). The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the boards of trustees accept the shared services agreement between Bamberg Districts One and Two, as prepared for the consolidation of the two districts, designating Ms. Devon Furr as Finance Director for Districts One and Two, and Mr. Ricky Padgett as Technology Director for Districts One and Two, effective July 1, 2021 (school year 2021-2022). The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Mrs. Bonaparte read into record a press release dated May 3, 2021. (Attachment 1)

-Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters

No other action was taken.

-Student Personnel Matters

No action was taken.

-Contractual Matters

No action was taken.

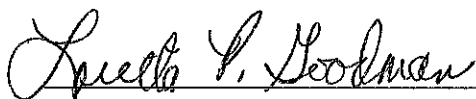
-Legal Matters/Counsel

No action was taken.

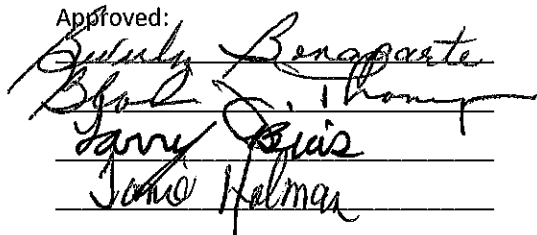
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by,


Specta P. Goodman

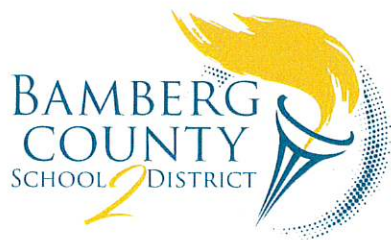
Approved:


Gwendolyn Benaparte
Brad D. Thompson
Jarry Lewis
John Helmer

Prepared by:

Deborah M. Anderson


Deborah M. Anderson



BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONE & TWO

**SPECIAL CALLED TRUSTEES MEETING
62 HOLLY AVENUE - DENMARK, SC**

MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021 - 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA (*Action*)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Discussion of Consolidation of Districts
- Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters
- Student Personnel Matters
- Contractual Matters
- Legal Matters/Counsel

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

ACTION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Consolidation of Districts
- Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters
- Student Personnel Matters
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ADJOURNMENT

PRESS RELEASE
May 3, 2021

Bamberg County School District One and Denmark-Olar School District Two Consolidation

For the past year, Bamberg County School District One and Denmark-Olar School District Two have worked towards consolidation keeping two things in mind, reducing the decline in pupil population, and creating opportunities for academic success for every student of Bamberg County. District representatives are proud to announce that the consolidation plan submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education was approved.

In planning for consolidation, the Districts sought to keep student achievement and success at the forefront of the planning process. In doing so, the Boards of Trustees are pleased to announce the selection of Ms. Dottie Brown to serve as Superintendent and Dr. Deonia Simmons to serve as ~~Superintendent-Elect~~ ^{Deputy Superintendent}. Ms. Brown has served the students of Bamberg County for 23 years, which includes her role as the special education coordinator, serving the District's most vulnerable student population. Dr. Simmons, a native of Denmark, South Carolina, has also served the students of Bamberg County, most recently as Principal of Denmark-Olar High School.

With the leadership of Bamberg County School District ready to serve, the District seeks to build a stronger consolidated District. This will include a plan to address declining student enrollment by working to recruit talented educational professionals committed to the District's future and strengthening the communities of Bamberg County.

The Board of Trustees of both Districts would like to thank the consolidation planning committee, teachers, administrators, and community leaders who assisted in these efforts. The Districts will move forward in its mission to serve the community by educating the children and future leaders of Bamberg County.