

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Denmark-Olar Board Room
Bamberg County, South Carolina
December 7, 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 November 9, 2020 were unanimously approved as written without objection and signed by all members present.

The minutes of the special called meeting held November 23, 2020 were unanimously approved as written without objection and signed by all members present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for discussion.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Bonaparte thanked Dr. Simmons for handling a recent matter and thanked board members for their prayers while she was away.

SECTION 1 - FINANCE

- **Finance Report**

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

- **FY20 Audit Report**

Steve Luoma of McGregor and Company provided a draft copy of the FY20 audit report to board members. He stated that the report was still in draft format and that the State Department of Education had extended the submission deadline from December 1 to January 15 due to the COVID pandemic, but that the audit was complete and he did not anticipate that any changes would be made. Mr. Luoma gave an overview of the FY20 audit which included the following:

- The audit opinion was an unmodified, clean statement and was materially correct, the highest level issued for audits
- The general fund balance, as of June 30, 2020, was \$5.7 million and was unassigned for future use. The general fund balance had increased by \$978,190 from the previous year.
- Debt service fund balance was just over \$2 million, with \$500,000 having been used for debt reduction
- Capital projects had a balance of \$2.8 million
- The food service program experienced a growth of \$73,494 from the previous year and had a \$293,989 balance
- Combined school student activities accounts had a balance of \$56,703
- Four findings cited in the FY19 audit report had been corrected in FY20.

He noted that some areas could still be improved upon but did not rise to the level of deficiencies or findings. Mr. Luoma stated that, in previous years, he had met with board members individually to review the audit report prior to public presentation, but the pandemic posed some issues with meetings. He stated that board members could contact him with any questions or concerns they may have regarding the audit.

The report was received as information.

SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- In Dr. Ruby Johnson's absence, Dr. Sojourner stated that MAP testing was being conducted in the schools. The report was received as information.

SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- **Attorney Fees**

No action was taken because no invoice was received from the attorney's office in time for the board meeting.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner stated the legislators had returned to session to determine committee assignments and that Senator Brad Hutto had recently been appointed minority senate leader. She stated that legislators would be in session in January and that the matter of the consolidation of schools may be discussed at that time. Dr. Sojourner stated that the final consolidation plan had been submitted to the Department of Education.

SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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Dr. Sojourner provided the following:

- Meetings had been held with the school nurses on COVID testing in the schools. It was determined that, due to the details required and the risks involved in testing, the district would not administer tests on site but would allow DHEC to continue to conduct testing at the six nearby available sites. The district would continue to receive information from DHEC.
 - The district is following the SC High School League and governor's office mandates relative to COVID 19 and the allowed spectator capacity, social distancing and overall safety. She stated that some misinformation had been circulating regarding season tickets for athletic contests. Attendance at games have been limited by high school league and state mandates; however, persons could purchase season tickets to ensure their attendance at the games, but a limited number of individual tickets could also be purchased, not exceeding the total number of spectators allowed in the venue.
 - The high school's parking lot should be completed upon return from the holidays
 - Updated DHEC information on quarantining and other safety matters
 - The number of legislative changes as a result of the November elections
 - COVID disease activity by county
 - December 18 virtual instruction, student lunch distribution and dismissal
 - Annual turkey/bonus distribution scheduled for December 18 beginning at 8:30 a.m.
 - Planning in progress for second semester with regard to COVID – constant disinfection done weekly by a professional company and daily by district staff, and sanitation stations available in efforts to provide a clean, sanitary environment for students and staff
 - Limited registration for SCSBA Annual Convention Board Chair Workshop in February.
- 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 returned to Open Session on a motion by Mrs. Goodman, seconded by Mr. Bias and unanimously passed.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the January 19, 2021 meeting date be changed to January 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. due to the scheduled inclement weather day. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- **Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters**

Mrs. Goodman moved to accept the resignation of LG effective December 21, 2020. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that SNM, who was employed beginning November 19, 2020, be given a \$250 Christmas bonus. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the matter concerning employee KB be addressed with the district's attorney. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

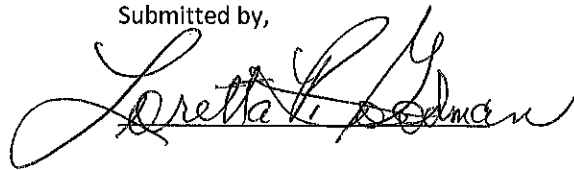
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- **Student Personnel Matters**
No action was taken.
- **Contractual Matters**
No action was taken.
- **Legal Matters/Counsel**
No action was taken.

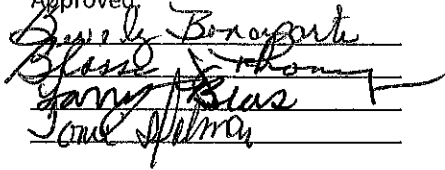
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 6:55 p.m.

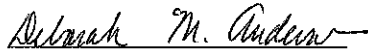
Submitted by,


Loretta P. Rodman

Approved:


Beverly Bonagante
Blaine Anthony
Gary Blas
Joni Helman

Prepared by
Deborah Anderson


Deborah M. Anderson



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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021 - 9:00 A.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM *(Action)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Action)*

- Regular Meeting Held December 7, 2020

PRESENTATIONS *(Action if Needed)*

- School Board Month Recognition

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

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