

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Denmark-Olar Board Room**  
**Bamberg County, South Carolina**  
**December 12, 2016 - 5:00 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Thelma Sojourner, Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bias called the meeting to order at 5:00 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the regular meeting held at 5:00 p.m. on November 14, 2016 were unanimously approved as written without objection. All board members present signed the approved minutes.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

- **Students of the Month**

The following Students of the Month were presented with certificates and plaques by Bishop Holman and Dr. Sojourner:

- Veronica Johnson, Elementary School
- Jerome Owens, Middle School
- Kalia Glover, High School

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Teacher of the Month**

Sandra Moody was recognized as the Teacher of the Month, representing the high school. Ms. Moody received a certificate from the district and a gift card, courtesy of South State Bank of Denmark.

- Dr. Sojourner recognized Deon Branch, high school science teacher, who was selected by the National Society of High School Scholars as a Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction for excellence in teaching and for the encouragement of and dedication to the academic success of students at Denmark-Olar High School. Ms. Branch was nominated for recognition by one of her students.

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**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No one signed to address the board.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tim Williams, architect with Stevens and Wilkinson, stated that a committee met on December 7, 2016 to review proposals received from four general contractor companies. Following presentations from all companies and extensive questions and answers, the most highly rated company was Thompson Turner of Columbia, with all members of the committee in agreement. He recommended that the board ratify the committee's decision to contract with Thompson Turner for the district's building project. Jennie Kirk, Director of Preconstruction, and Nate Spells, General Contractor, with Thompson Turner were present at the meeting and stated that they would be meeting with the architectural firm to begin development of site plans. Mrs. Goodman moved that the board accept the recommendation to employ Thompson Turner as general contractors for the district's building project. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. A contract is to be drafted and provided to the district's administration for signatures.

Don Altman, consultant with the district, updated the board on the process of meetings with administration, architects and contractors to create the building design according to budgetary constraints. He stated his hope that site preparation could begin in the summer of 2017 with construction beginning in the fall of 2017, if there are no adverse weather conditions.

Mr. Altman announced to the board that he would be retiring from consulting after 45 years and that he felt confident that the team selected for the building project will give the best service. He thanked the board and administration for the opportunity to work with the district. Dr. Sojourner and the board expressed their appreciation to him for the service he provided throughout the process.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

No report was provided.

**SECTION 1 - FINANCE**

- **Finance Report**

Mr. Anderson presented the monthly finance report which was received as information.

- **FY 2016 Audit Report**

The FY 2016 audit findings were presented by Steve Luoma of McGregor Company. He stated that the audit was of unmodified opinion and materially correct as stated, with a fund balance of \$1.77 million which is equivalent to three months operational reserve. He attributed the increase in part to postponed facilities projects and some projects that were completed under anticipated cost. He also stated that the food service program balance had increased significantly. The report was received as information.

**SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Dr. Johnson stated that the afterschool program would begin the second week of January 2017; the district-wide science fair would be held February 10; and that a spelling bell was scheduled for March 17. She also stated that the Read to Succeed Program would be mandating the retention of third grade students who are not proficient in reading, based on the January 2016 test data. The report was received as information.

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**SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- **Attorney Fees**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the attorney fees for November 2016 for \$4,299.24 be paid. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Thompson and passed unanimously.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner reported that the Education Oversight Committee's changes in school evaluations were incomplete and that an update would be provided as information becomes available.

**SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Sojourner provided the following:

- A request from Ms. Branch to travel to the USC Junior Science Symposium January 19, 2017 where three students would be presenting science papers. The students would be staying overnight at the USC Inn. Mrs. Goodman moved that the trip approved with proper chaperones. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
  - A request for the senior class to travel to Orlando, FL, April 27-30, 2017. Mrs. Goodman moved that the request be granted with proper chaperones. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
  - The middle school's Annual Dinner Theatre was scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.
  - The elementary school's Christmas program was scheduled for Wednesday, December 14 at 1:00 p.m.
  - The district's holiday drop-in was scheduled for Friday, December 16 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
  - A high school student was one of 56 selected for a USC scholarship, "Raise Me," for \$2,000 over four years of college
  - Presented pictures from a JROTC presentation held during the previous week
  - High school's recognition as a SC High School League Gold School based on stellar athletic behavior during the 2016 football season
  - High school's *Guidance Gazette* highlighting school activities
  - Updated athletic schedules
- 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**  
No action taken.
- **Student Personnel Matters**  
No action taken. Dr. Sojourner stated that there may be a need to schedule a special meeting to address a student personnel matter.

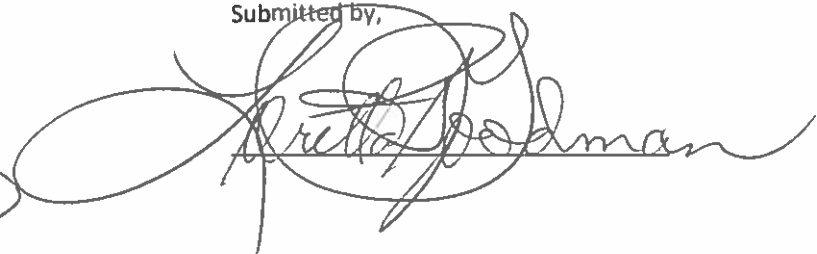
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- **Contractual Matters**  
No action taken.
- **Legal Matters/Counsel**  
No action taken.

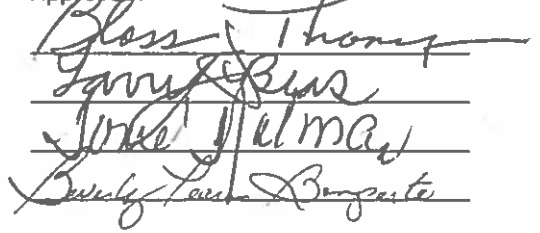
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 6:52 p.m.

Submitted by,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Rodman". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Approved:

Four handwritten signatures in black ink, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures appear to be: "Gloss Thompson", "Gary Bus", "Mike Helman", and "Dwight Paul Bengate".

Prepared by:  
Deborah M. Anderson

# BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT TWO

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
DISTRICT OFFICE BOARD ROOM  
DECEMBER 12, 2016 - 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 November 14, 2016

### STUDENT SERVICES

- Students of the Month

### PRESENTATIONS

- Teacher of the Month

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS *(Action if Needed)*

- Recommendation of Proposed Contractor ..... Tim Williams, Stevens & Wilkinson

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *(Action if Needed)*

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

- Finance Report ..... Rodney Anderson
- FY 2016 Audit Report ..... Steve Luoma, McGregor & Company

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

### SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION *(Action if Needed)*

- 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