

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Denmark-Olar Board Room**  
**Bamberg County, South Carolina**  
**July 13, 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 June 8, 2020 were unanimously approved as written without objection and signed by all members present.

The minutes of the special meeting held June 16, 2020 were unanimously approved as written without objection and signed by all members present.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Employee Recognitions**

Mozell Beard, bus driver, was presented a 30-year service pin  
Diane Parler, lunchroom operator, was presented a retirement plaque  
Queenie Sanders, teacher aide, was presented a retirement plaque and a 15-year service pin

- **Construction Update**

Todd McElveen from Thompson Turner Construction Company provided updates and progress made in the construction/renovation of the new school facilities. He stated that they experienced work stoppage in early June due to COVID19 infection among the crew and additional delays due to a Michigan plant slowdown in production of casework for the project due to COVID19.

He provided photos of the facility, including artwork for the front of the high school, and completed classrooms and other areas. The original completion date was August 5. The anticipated completion date for the school facility and maintenance shop has been moved to the end of September 2020.

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The board requested that the order of names on the proposed architectural plaques be changed to list the board of trustees first, followed by the superintendent, business director, architect firm and general contractor.

The board scheduled a tour of the facility for Thursday, July 16, at 10 a.m.

The report was received as information.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for discussion.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

No report was provided.

**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

-Special Services students' virtual summer session which ended July 3

-Elementary students, grades 1-3, on-site Academic Recovery Camp which began July 13 with 20 students in attendance. The camp was scheduled to run for 12 days.

-Online technology training for certified teachers running June 17-August 12

-Parent/staff survey on school opening with approximately 100 surveys received, indicating the majority of the respondents in favor of waiting for CDC guidance before returning students to school. Although notice of the survey was provided by email, district website, school notification and Facebook, the board felt that surveys should have been mailed to parents because everyone does not have access to technology. Dr. Johnson stated that she would mail the surveys to parents.

The report was received as information.

**SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- **Attorney Fees**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the June 30, 2020 attorney invoice totaling \$1,655.25 be paid. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner stated

-The SCSBA's August School Law Conference would be conducted virtually

-Legislature is not currently in session

-State Department of Education's recommendations are still being discussed on how to start the school year using information developed by the Accelerated Task Force for direction on school opening.

The report was received as information.

- **First Reading of Proposed Policies Updates**

-EBC-R(1) – Remote Work

-EBC-R(2) – Remote Instruction

-EBA-R(3) – Virtual Board Meetings

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Mrs. Goodman moved that the three proposed policies updates be given first reading approval. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Sojourner provided the following:

- The district did not have an alternative program during 2019-2020 after the merger of the Orangeburg districts. Previously, the district's students were transported to Orangeburg 4 for service. Discussions are being held with Bamberg 1 to house a joint alternative school program in a pod at our current middle school site. Bamberg 1 may provide an assistant principal to oversee the program with Bamberg 2 providing teachers. The two districts are still finalizing plans and information will be provided to the board at the next meeting.
- The largest group of student bus riders reside near the new school facility and will no longer be eligible to ride the buses to school. Because highway 78 is a busy road, the district will need to hire a crossing guard for the safety of our students.
- A committee has been formed to help determine how to open the new school and activities such as ribbon cutting, etc. The committee will meet on July 14.
- Counts of COVID are rising in Bamberg County with July 13 statistics at 15 new cases and 1,532 new cases statewide.
- The Department of Education requires that K-8 students be assessed to determine their learning/retention status since March. Teachers who come in to conduct the assessments will be paid at their regular daily rate of pay.

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**

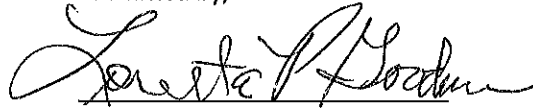
- **Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters**  
Mrs. Goodman moved that employment recommendations presented be accepted. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Student Personnel Matters**  
No action was taken.
- **Contractual Matters**  
No action was taken.
- **Legal Matters/Counsel**  
The board stated that a virtual meeting with Representative Justin Bamberg and the boards of trustees of Bamberg 1 and Bamberg 2 is scheduled for August 3, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

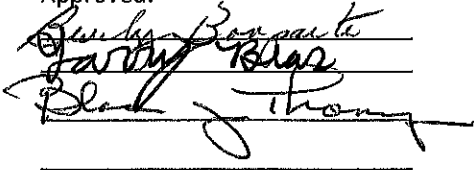
The meeting was adjourned without objection at 7:30 p.m.

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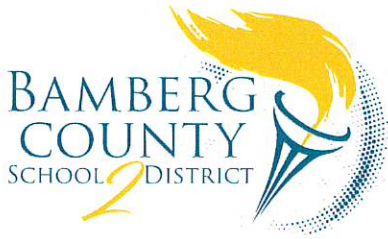
Submitted by,



Approved:



Prepared by  
Deborah Anderson



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

**JULY 13, 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 June 8, 2020
- Special Called Meeting Held June 16, 2020

**PRESENTATIONS**

- Employee Recognitions
- Construction Update

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** *(Action if Needed)*

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

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

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

- Finance Report

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

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

- Attorney Fees
- Legislative Update
- First Reading of Proposed Policies Updates
  - EBC-R(1) - Remote Work
  - EBC-R(2) - Remote Instruction
  - EBC-R(3) - Virtual Board Meetings

**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**