

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Denmark-Olar Board Room
Bamberg County, South Carolina
January 13, 2020 – 7:00 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 7:00 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 as written without objection.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular meeting held December 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. were unanimously approved as written and signed by all members present.

STUDENT SERVICES

Dr. Sojourner and Mrs. Bonaparte presented certificates and plaques prepared for the following Students of the Month:

- Hannah Stewart- ES
- Trae Ellis - MS
- Leviticus Bell - HS

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher of the Month

A certificate and award was prepared for Mr. Jaya Konka, representing the middle school. Mr. Konka was not present at the meeting and Mr. Baker accepted his awards.

School Board Month Recognition

- Dr. Sojourner presented to Mr. Bias a certificate and pin from the SC School Board Association for 15 years of service on the board of trustees.
- Dr. Sojourner presented to each board member a service pin from the SC School Board Association and a gift from the district.
- The board members signed a certificate of ethics principles which will be displayed in the board room.
- Dr. Sojourner stated that Stevens and Wilkinson had provided some treats for the board.

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Construction Update

No report was presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one signed to address the board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for discussion.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mrs. Bonaparte stated that she had visited the construction site and had some concerns that she would address during Executive Session.

SECTION 1 - FINANCE

- **Finance Report**

Mr. Anderson provided the finance report which was received as information.

- **FY19 Audit Report**

Steve Luoma, auditor with McGregor and Company, presented the FY19 audit findings which included:

-Unmodified Opinion –Clean report and materially correct in regard to accounting principles

-General fund balance of \$4,736,220 which included an increase of \$958,906

-Capitol projects fund balance of \$1,855,247 which included an increase of \$1,491,358

-Food service net balance of \$220,495 which included an increase of \$46,921

-\$18,756,000 of the USDA construction loan (approximately half of the loan) had been spent

The board had no questions and the report was received as information.

SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

- Dr. Johnson provided the following information:

-January 16 – State wide ELA testing begins

-January 21 – Waterford Upstart Group, the provider of student laptops, will conduct family events with awards for students for their participation in the program

-January 22 – SDE will hold meetings with districts participating in the Waterford program

-January 13 – Benchmark testing began

The board received the report as information.

SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

- **Attorney Fees**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the attorney invoice for December 2019 from Boykin and Davis for \$2,865.19 be paid. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner stated

-The governor was introducing for next school year \$3,000 increases for teachers along with step increases. The increase would also include some paraprofessional and classified staff.

-Discussions being held regarding changing the number of teacher employment days from 190 days to 195 days

-Discussions being held regarding a uniform school start date

-Legislative discussions regarding an amendment to use funds to support private schools (Bill 556).

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The report was received as information.

SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Sojourner provided information on the following:

- Basketball games were playing well
- New uniforms look good
- Choice Bus visited the district – The program encourages students to make good choices in life
- Security cameras have been installed at the district office
- Schools are being equipped with ID verification security equipment
- Discussions held with principals regarding focus sessions, student performance and curriculum
- Limiting travel in order to having teachers present in the district for instruction
- Ongoing staff development through the Salkehatchie Consortium.

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 Bishop Holman 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 the employment recommendation for JD as boys' basketball coach be approved. Mr. Bias seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
- **Student Personnel Matters**
No action was taken.
- **Contractual Matters**
No action was taken.
- **Legal Matters/Counsel**
No action was taken.

Mrs. Bonaparte announced the following board meeting schedule:

February 3, 2020	5:00 p.m.
March 2, 2020	12:00 noon
April 6, 2020	7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

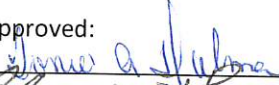
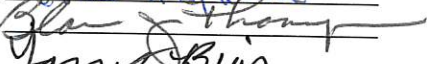
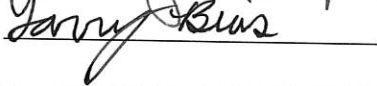
The meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by,

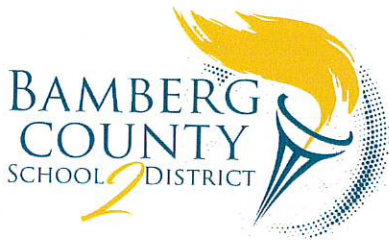


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Approved:

Prepared by
Deborah Anderson



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

JANUARY 13, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM *(Action)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Action)*

- Regular Meeting Held December 9, 2019

STUDENT SERVICES

- Students of the Month

PRESENTATIONS *(Action if Needed)*

- Teacher of the Month
- School Board Month Recognition
- Construction Update

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS *(Action if Needed)*

NEW BUSINESS *(Action if Needed)*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT *(Action if Needed)*

SECTION 1 - FINANCE *(Action if Needed)*

- Finance Report Rodney Anderson
- FY19 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