

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Denmark-Olar Board Room**  
**Bamberg County, South Carolina**  
**March 2, 2020 – 12:00 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 12:00 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: WIZ 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 February 3, 2020 were unanimously approved as written without objection, and signed by all members present.

The minutes of the special called meeting held February 6, 2020 were unanimously approved as written without objection, and signed by all members present.

**STUDENT SERVICES**

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

- Messiah Brown - ES
- Kierra Glover – MS
- Malik Palmer - HS

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Teacher of the Month**

A certificate and award was presented to Ms. Priscilla Indupalli, representing the high school.

**Construction Update**

No information was provided.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No one signed to address the board.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for discussion.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mrs. Bonaparte commended the principals on the recent Black History Month programs held and expressed appreciation on behalf of the board.

Mrs. Bonaparte stated that, at the recent SC School Board Association meeting, it was stressed that teacher interaction and connection with the students is key for successful learning.

**SECTION 1 - FINANCE**

- **Finance Report**

In Mr. Anderson's absence, the finance report was presented by Dr. Sojourner and received as information.

**SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

- Dr. Johnson presented MAP testing information and explained how the data received from testing is used to determine instruction for students. She also stated that the annual Science Fair would be held March 13 at the elementary school gym. The board received the report as information.

**SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- **Attorney Fees**

Mrs. Goodman moved that the attorney invoice (1) for February 2020 from Boykin and Davis for \$825.00 be paid. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the attorney invoice (2) for February 2020 from Boykin and Davis for \$381.90 be paid. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner stated

-Salary increases for teachers, increased student base costs, SRO funding for each school, and reading coach funding were among the items being discussed in the legislature.

The report was received as information.

**SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Sojourner provided information on the following:

-Basketball season ended with the girls' team advancing to the third round and the boys' team advancing to the second round. She extended congratulations to the teams and coaches.

-Lions Club sponsored a community safety night at the high school which was well attended.

-Commendations on the Black History programs held at the schools

-Congratulated the high school for having earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for 2019

-Science teachers invited to attend the Roper Mountain summer science program

-Upcoming Cognia review (formerly AdvancEd) within the next school year

-Coronavirus information received from the CDC and SC Department of Education posted on the district's website

-Lower Savannah Council of Governments to allow some students to work this summer

-2020 Census information update from Jacoby Hannibal

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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**

Bishop Holman moved that a portion of \$567.00 be taken from the other four board members' remaining travel monies to cover Mrs. Bonaparte's (2019-2020) travel overexpenditure (food, food and gas for her trips to Washington, DC, and Hilton Head). Mrs. Goodman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Employment Recommendations for 2020-2021-**

Pg. 1 – Mrs. Goodman moved that the employment of administrative assistants, custodians (6) and maintenance staff (3) be approved. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Pg. 2 – Mrs. Bonaparte presented a proposal that #1 and #8 work closely together; share information on a daily basis; make sure that work is done in a timely manner; that no one is in control. #8 has been here long enough to have reached a level where, working as #1's assistant, she should be fully aware of what is going on and be able continue doing the job in the absence of #1. If #1 is not able to come in, #8 should be able to perform the duties of #1 in that person's absence. Mrs. Thompson moved to accept the board chair's proposal for #1 and #8. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Pg. 3 – Mrs. Goodman moved that bus drivers #1-13 be approved. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Pg. 4 – Mrs. Goodman moved that food service staff #1-8 be approved. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Pg. 5 – Mrs. Goodman moved that high school staff #1-19 be approved. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Pg. 6 – Mrs. Goodman moved that middle school staff #1-12 be approved.

Mrs. Goodman amended her motion and moved that middle school staff #1-2 and #4-12 be approved. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that elementary school staff #1-25 be approved. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that guidance #2 be reinstated and that #1 and #3 be approved. Mrs. Goodman revised her motion to approve #1-3 for employment. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed by majority vote. (Vote: In favor of the motion – Goodman, Thompson, Bias, Bonaparte; Abstained – Holman) Bishop Holman stated he felt that the recommendation that was made should stand.

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Mrs. Goodman moved that #1-22 be approved. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the principals' recommendations #1-4 for 2020-2021 be approved with discussion held earlier on #1. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the athletic department recommendations #1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 14 be approved. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that two substitutes (initials NI and CW) be approved for employment. The motion was seconded by Bishop Holman and passed by majority vote. (Vote: In favor of the motion – Goodman, Holman, Bias, Bonaparte; Recused – Thompson)

- **Student Personnel Matters**

No action was taken.

- **Contractual Matters**

No action was taken.

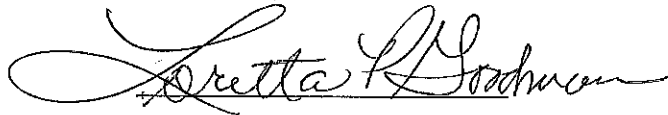
- **Legal Matters/Counsel**

On a motion by Mrs. Goodman, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously passed, the board authorized the superintendent to draft a letter to the City of Denmark proposing the annexation of the current and new elementary schools into the city limits. The board agreed to meet with Mayor Wright on March 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

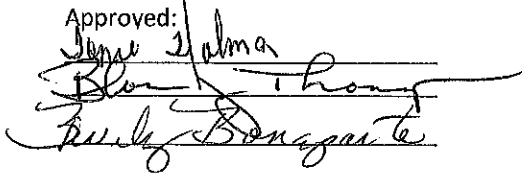
**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:45 p.m.

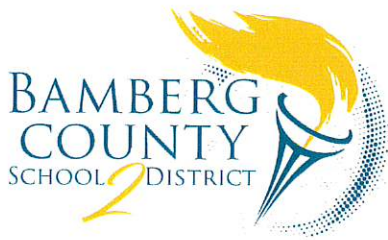
Submitted by,



Approved:



Prepared by  
Deborah Anderson



# Board of Trustees Meeting District Office Board Room

MARCH 2, 2020 - 12:00 P.M.

## AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM *(Action)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES *(Action)*

- Regular Meeting Held February 3, 2020
- Special Meeting Held February 6, 2020

STUDENT SERVICES

- Students of the Month

PRESENTATIONS *(Action if Needed)*

- Teacher of the Month
- 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

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
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RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

- Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters
- Student Personnel Matters
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ADJOURNMENT