

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Denmark-Olar Board Room
Bamberg County, South Carolina
July 20, 2021 – 1:00 P.M.

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

Also Present: Dottie Brown, Superintendent
Deonia Simmons, Deputy Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Bonaparte called the Special called meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

In accordance with the SC Code of Laws, 1976, section 30-4-80 (e) as amended, the following has been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of the meeting: WHZ Radio Station, Barnwell, and the Time 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

Ms. Goodman moved that the board accept the agenda.

Ms. Thompson seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the regular board meeting held June 14, 2021, Called meeting held June 21, 2021 and the called meeting held July 15, 2021 were approved as written without objection. The minutes were signed by all board members.

INTRODUCTION

-Mrs. Brown introduced Dr. Rhonda Ray, new principal at the Denmark Olar Elementary School.

SCHOOL- PRINCIPAL REPORTS

- Denmark Olar Elementary School – Dr. Rhonda Ray stated the projected enrollment is 293 students. No confirmed COVID -19 Cases for staff or students.
Summer School Recovery Camp 149 Enrollment; 114 Promoted and 8 retained
PreK -13 enrollment, K-14 Enrollment, 1st Grade 27 Enrollment (25 promoted and 2 retained), 2nd Grade 19 enrollment, (14 promoted and 5 retained), 3rd Grade 19 enrollment (18 promoted and 1 retained), 4th Grade 25 promoted and 0 retained), 5th Grade 32 (promoted 32 and 0 retained).

- Denmark Olar Middle School – Mr. Walter Baker stated current enrollment overall- 152, no confirmed COVID cases during summer school recovery.
Summer School Academic Recovery concluded July 13 due to weather.
Students received intensive instruction in Math and ELA.
Total students participated 70 ; total students that need to pass to be promoted 64; and student successfully completed summer school is 58 and total students retained 6 and 6 just wanted to come.
Open house is scheduled for the week of August 9 and will also issue computers on August 9.
Modified block (90 minutes) to ensure more seat time of ELA and Math.
- Denmark Olar High School – Mr. Walter Baker stated current enrollment overall – 197, no confirmed COVID cases during summer school recovery
Summer school recovery 9th Grade – 34, 10th Grade 5 and 11th Grade 2.
Total students successfully completed – 40 and students that did not successful completed is 1.
Back to school events – summer reading assignments due on August 16;
Freshman Orientation Wednesday, August 4 at 2:00 pm, Sophomore and Junior Orientation Thursday, August 5, at 5:00 pm and Senior Orientation Thursday, August 4 at 5:00pm.

ATHLETIC REPORT

- Mr. Littlejohn stated he would like to thank everyone for their support and everything that have did for our student athletes.
Football - 25 players
Boys Basketball- 12 players, Girls Basketball – 11 players
Volleyball – 11 players
Soccer (Coed) – 18 players
Boys Track- 20 players. Girls Track- 15 players
Cheerleading - 12 participating
- Process of selling tickets (online, at gate, etc.)
At the moment he have not heard from the SCHSL about fan capacity for the upcoming season. I have a scheduled meeting with the SCHSL at the Coaches Clinic July 25th – 28th to discuss this matter other issues. After the meeting I can put together a detailed plan of action for the process of selling tickets.
- COVID updates, he is unaware of any COVID 19 positive cases from our players and coaches.
- Terence Jones, girls' basketball coach named Region Coach of the Year
- Hercules Davis, Boys basketball coach name Region Coach of the Year
- Jarvis Littlejohn, selected to Coach in the High school Biltz All Star game
- Zach Davis – committed to play basketball with USC
- Trenton Williams Jr. has a football scholarship offer s from Newberry College.
- Anijia Jones – has a basketball scholarship offer from (Southwestern University , Agnies Scott College, Denmark Technical College, Allen University and New Jersey City University)
- Aijaion Wroten has a basketball scholarship offers from Denmark Technical College
- Aveion Walker a rising 9th grader has been selected for a scholarship offer from Savannah State University.
- Christopher Sanders finished 5th in the state championship 100 meter dash.
- All Region /All State we had 12 All Region and 1 All state performers

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

-Boardmanship Institute Recognition:

Mrs. Brown presented Ms. Bonaparte with the SCSBA Certificate with pin for reaching new levels.

- a) Mrs. Brown stated she received series of memos from the South Carolina Department of Education as follow.

Proviso 1.104 Consolidation Funding:

She and Ms. Furr received emails from Ms. Betsy Carpenter regarding the additional consolidation Funds that are available for the district that already in the consolidation process. An application has been submitted for the district for funding's.

Proviso 1.108 COVID-19 Guidance:

CDC Guidance is changing... has not issued a release date.

Proviso 1.108 passed into law prohibiting from mandating face covering in buildings and buses for the school year 2021-22.

HOTSPOTS:

The South Carolina Department of Education funding provided hotspots to families this year effective August 1, 2021 will end.

However Dr. Simmons and Mrs. Brown has been working with Ms. Furr with an ESSER grant funding will approve the additional cost to cover for the families that are in need of these devices.

- b) As of July 1st administration continues making progress and will give updates as changes occur.
c) Vacant properties will discuss further in executive session.

Handouts:

- 1) District Profile consulted with Dr. Johnson regarding the 2019-2020 Special Education District Profile that went out publicly. This profile rates areas in the performance of the Special Education as they continue to work on goals.
- 2) Substitute Teacher's Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 9:00 am -11:00 am at the Richard Carroll Elementary School.

FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Furr stated she did not have a report due to she is in the process of closing for auditing. Also going forward, the board is normally paid once per month to change to twice per month. Payroll/Benefits are going forward, just be patient with us as we enter in new position with new process and procedures.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Ms. Boneparte state she attended the South Carolina Caucus of Black School Board members on Friday and Saturday. It was a great conference.

Focus on: How to get the community involved in supporting Schools?

Suggestion- to have the board members talk with churches and businesses in the community to support our schools.

Also on Saturday, South Carolina Caucus of Black School Board awarded Dr. Thelma Sojourner Recognition as Superintendent with a plaque (she was the 3rd to be recognized).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Goodman moved that the board leave open session to enter Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Personnel Matters
- Student Matters
- Legal Matters
- Contractual/Property Matters

The motion was seconded by Ms. Thompson and unanimously approved.

Return to open Session

The board returned to Open Session, motion by Ms. Goodman to take action necessary on the following matters and seconded by Ms. Thompson and unanimously passed.

ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Matters

- No action needed

Student Matters

- Mrs. Goodman moved to grant consent for AC, AC and AFJ to continue at their present school or transfer school to attend school of their choice. Second by Ms. Thompson and unanimously passed.

Legal Matters

- No action needed

Contractual Matters

- Mrs. Goodman requested that the board to vote as a team on giving Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent consent to venture into the cost (contractor) renovation of the district office. Second by Ms. Thompson and unanimously passed.
- Mrs. Goodman requested that the board to vote as a team on giving Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Simmons consent to have Kyle Michelle draft a sign in proper proportion to the location where the sign will be properly place. Second by Ms. Thompson and unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Submitted by,

Leetta P. Goodman

Approved:

Joni A. Halman
Jerry Blas
Sharon Thompson
Reverly Borgeante

Prepared by:
Edrie M. Breeland

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