

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Denmark Olar High School Media Center
Denmark, South Carolina
November 8, 2021
5:00 pm**

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

Board Chairman Beverly Bonaparte called the 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 have been notified of the time, date, place and agenda of the meeting: WHZ Radio Station, Barnwell, 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 September 13, 2021 was approved with previous suggested corrections. The minutes of the regular meeting held October 11, 2021 was approved as written, without objection. The minutes were signed by all board members.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

Denmark Olar Elementary School - Dr. Rhonda Ray stated the current enrollment was three hundred and one (301). There were no confirmed COVID cases amongst staff or students as of November 5, 2021. Dr. Ray advised MAP Data Wall information will be assessed by teachers and they will hold conferences with their students to discuss ways for the students to reach their goals. TE 21 Benchmark Assessments have been completed which will provide more information for teachers to utilize to drive their instruction. Dr. Ray stated math instruction services providers who are working with USC Aiken, have held two sessions virtually with another session to be held this week. Dr. Ray also noted the reading instructional providers are receiving professional development for Literacy for Learning

and will have their first session this Thursday, November 11, 2021. Dr. Ray concluded by reporting that the first School Improvement Council meeting was held virtually on October 26, 2021, with all members present.

Denmark Olar Middle School - Mr. Walter Baker advised that reading professional development was under way and math professional development would begin on November 9, 2021. Mr. Baker stated that Red Ribbon Week had concluded and they did have good participation throughout the week with all activities, including daily trivia contests. Mr. Baker informed the board that benchmark testing was completed last week and he would begin meeting with teachers over the next several weeks to go over the results. Mr. Baker stated, regarding COVID cases, there were zero positive cases and zero quarantines. Mr. Baker announced learning walks with Dr. Lorraine Peoples would begin this week to observe classrooms and teachers. Total current enrollment is one hundred thirty-six (136) students with seventy-four (74) males and sixty-two (62) females.

Denmark Olar High School – Mr. Walter Baker began by stating there would be math professional development with individuals from USC Aiken. Benchmark Testing has been completed and they were encouraged by the results and would now begin meeting with the teams to discuss ways to reach their tier three students. Mr. Baker added that learning walks would also begin at the high school. Mr. Baker further advised there were zero positive cases and zero quarantines with respect to COVID. Total current enrollment is one hundred eighty-nine (189) with more females than males, but no exact number with respect to each at the present time.

ATHLETIC UPDATE

Athletic Director – Coach Littlejohn informed the board that they had no players quarantined or out with COVID at the present time. Coach Littlejohn advised the football team took a loss this past Friday night and had some issues with the scoreboard going out during the game, which is in the process of getting fixed. Coach Littlejohn informed the football team had a great year, finishing 6-3 in the regular season and 4-2 in the region with a total overall finish of 3rd place. Their offense finished 3rd in the state. He stated that they had their first home playoff game in some time and took a loss against McCormick with a final score of 54-24.

Coach Littlejohn recognized the following players:

- Keithan Washington for being selected as Region 3 Player of the Year
- TJ Williams for being selected as Region 3 Linebacker of the Year
- Anthony Bias, Chris Sanders, Jaquari Williams, Brushard Young and Tykeem Ross for being selected as All-Region Players
- Ta’Najya Holman for being awarded the Scholar Athlete of the Year
- Mikiya Stukes for being awarded the High School Heisman

Coach Littlejohn further reported that he was awarded Coaches Choice of the Year Award and concluded by advising of upcoming dates for basketball events.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Dottie Brown congratulated Coach Littlejohn and his team for a job well done in their performance this season and for making the grade on and off the field.

Superintendent Brown reminded all that the monthly administrative roundtables have begun and are in full force.

Superintendent Brown informed that the bus pad has been paved, but the painting of lines and fencing around the pad needs to be completed. Dr. Brown advised that work is now being performed on correcting the drainage problems behind the maintenance building. Superintendent Brown reported that renovations at the district office are coming along well, but due to shipping delays and some items being on backorder, furniture, windows and air conditioning units may not arrive until after Christmas. Superintendent Brown concluded by stating the safety poles being placed around the lights at Denmark Olar High School are progressing nicely and Deputy Superintendent Deonia Simmons is currently working on getting a new entrance sign at that location.

Superintendent Brown congratulated Dr. Shannon Johnson for a successful Medicaid Audit for the Special Education Department.

Superintendent Brown advised Dr. Deonia Simmons was working with Phyllis Overstreet and others on getting the accreditation/monitoring review complete. Superintendent Brown thanked Deputy Superintendent Simmons and all involved for their hard work in getting this accomplished.

Superintendent Brown updated the board on the sale of the properties and reported that sale of the properties is under way and she is currently waiting on delivery of the contracts for the board's review before the end of executive session.

SECOND READING – UPDATED POLICIES:

- a. Policy KB – Parent and Family Engagement in Education
- b. Policy KBB – Parent Rights and Responsibilities

Superintendent Brown presented Policies KB and KBB for second reading.

Secretary Loretta P. Goodman moved and Vice Chair Blossom Thompson seconded to approve for second reading of Policy KB – Parent and Family Engagement in Education and Policy KBB – Parent Rights and Responsibilities as presented. The motion passed 5-0. [Board Packet Enclosures]

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Devon Furr presented the Financial Report for FY 2021-2022 as of October 2021, for review. Ms. Furr noted she is currently working with the auditor, Steven Luoma with McGregor and Company, LLP, on the financial audit. [Board Packet Enclosure]

Board Chair Beverly Bonaparte presented the October legal bill from Boykin and Davis, LLC, in the amount of \$2,700.56.

Trustee Larry Bias moved and Trustee Tonie Homan seconded to approve payment to Boykin and Davis, LLC, in the amount of \$2,700.56, as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Board Chair Beverly Bonaparte reported that she attended SCSBA's Risky Business Conference on behalf of the school board. Mrs. Bonaparte further advised that the conference was very informative and a good learning experience.

Board Chair Beverly Bonaparte announced and commended Superintendent Dottie Brown on her hard work in receiving her doctorate in Special Education and Leadership with a concentration in Education Administration and Superintendancy.

Mrs. Bonaparte informed Coach Littlejohn that the board fully supports him and the entire athletic program.

Board Chair Beverly Bonaparte concluded by commending the principals on a wonderful job they continue to do for the schools and announced that November is Principals' Month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board Chair Beverly Bonaparte called for a motion to enter Executive Session. **Secretary Loretta Goodman moved and Trustee Larry Bias seconded to enter Executive Session.** The motion carried (5-0).

Board Chair Beverly Bonaparte noted that the Board would be moving into Executive Session to discuss Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters (If Needed), Student Personnel Matters (If Needed), Contractual Matters (If Needed), and Legal Matters/Counsel (If Needed).

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Secretary Loretta P. Goodman moved and Trustee Tonie Holman seconded for the Board to come out of Executive Session and return to the regular session of the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

ACTION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Matters

There was no action taken on **Agenda Item 13 (a) Employment/Personnel Recommendation /Matters (If Needed)**, as there were no recommendations presented at this time.

Student Matters

Superintendent Brown made the recommendation to accept the transfer of student DB to attend school in Bamberg School District Two.

Secretary Loretta P. Goodman moved and Trustee Tonie Holman seconded for the Board to approve **Agenda Item 13 (b) Student Personnel Matters (If Needed)** for student DB. The motion passed 5-0.

Contractual Matters

There was no action taken on **Agenda Item 13 (c) Contractual Matters**, as there were no matters presented at this time.

Legal Matters

There was no action taken on **Agenda Item 13 (d) Legal Matters/Counsel (If Needed)**, as there were no matters presented at this time.

Bamberg School District Two December Board Meeting

Superintendent Brown requested that due to a conflict with the December board meeting date and other various activities during the month that the board consider cancelling the December meeting.

Secretary Loretta P. Goodman moved and Vice Chair Blossom Thompson seconded to cancel the regularly scheduled December meeting, resume meetings in January 2022 (for a time to be determined) and to continue meetings on the first Monday of each month beginning February 2022. The motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Loretta P. Goodman

Approved:

Beverly Bonaparte
Shirley Thompson
Jerry Bias
Joni Halman

Prepared by:
Jessica D. Moody

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