

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Denmark-Olar Board Room**  
**Bamberg County, South Carolina**  
**June 14, 2021 – 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  
Deonia Simmons, Interim 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, 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 May 10, 2021, and special meetings held May 28, 2021, and June 9, 2021 were approved as written without objection. The minutes were signed by all board members.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Student Recognitions**

The following End of Course Examination Program scholars were recognized for having achieved A's and B's on the exam:

Jermariah Downing	Joshua Oliver	Kenia Wallace
Sincere Williams	Kyondra Carter	Takoya Daniel
Dontavious Galloway	BreNiyah Gilbert	Brushard Young
Tawanda Manigault	Anthony Rivers	Lakia Robertson
Christopher Sanders	Janaysha Walker	Gabrielle Bennett
Laila Donaldson		

The students received certificates and monetary awards.

- **Retiree Recognitions**

Dr. Sojourner presented plaques to the following persons who were retiring June 30, 2021:

Samella Singleton	Dr. Anna Martin	Vanessa Freeman
Dorothea Black-Roberts	Dr. Ruby Johnson	Michelle Nimmons
Oggretta Tyler	Deborah Anderson	

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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 thanked everyone for their efforts in preparing for the June 8 celebration to honor Dr. Sojourner for fifty years of service. The elementary school auditorium was also named The Thelma F. Sojourner Auditorium. She also congratulated the retirees presented earlier in this meeting.

**SECTION 1 - FINANCE**

- **Finance Report**

Mrs. Oggretta Tyler presented the finance report which was received as information.

- **First Reading of Proposed 2021-2022 FY General Operations Budget**

Ms. Devon Furr presented the proposed FY 2021-2022 General Operations budget totaling \$8,003,375.85, based on information received to date from the state. Mrs. Goodman moved that the proposed budget be given first reading approval. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**SECTION 2 - CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Dr. Ruby Johnson provided the following information:

- Spring student testing had been completed
- School renewal plans had been submitted to the SDE with all reviewed categories met
- Summer programs would be in session June 14-July 8

The report was received as information.

**SECTION 3 - ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

- **Attorney Fees**

Mr. Bias moved that the attorney fees for May 2021 totaling \$5,207.28 be paid. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Legislative Update**

Dr. Sojourner reported that legislators were discussing the following:

- Final consolidation legislation
- School board dissolution
- Equitable school funding
- Teacher shortage

The report was received as information.

- **Second Reading of Policy EBCB-Safety Plans and Drills**

Mrs. Goodman moved that policy EBCB be given second reading approval. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**SECTION 4 - SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Sojourner provided the following information:

- Request for boys' basketball team to travel to Rock Hill, SC, June 18-19, 2021, with 13 students and four chaperones. The team will be attending a basketball camp. Mrs. Goodman moved that the request be granted. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

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-Request for boys' basketball team to travel to Washington, IL, November 22-27, 2021 to participate in a tournament. The team will travel by chartered bus. The coach also requested authorization to conduct fund raisers to offset the cost of the trip.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the team be granted authorization to begin funding activities for the trip. Mr. Bias seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the request for travel to Washington, IL be granted, with proper chaperones. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

-Final furniture and equipment sales would be held June 16 at the elementary school and June 17 at the middle school.

-The awning at the district office had been installed.  
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 returned to Open Session on a motion by Mrs. Goodman, seconded by Mrs. Thompson and unanimously passed.

**ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS**

- **Employment/Personnel Recommendations/Matters**

Dr. Simmons requested that the board approve the employment recommendations presented for RR and SS. Mrs. Goodman moved that the request be granted. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mrs. Goodman moved that the board accept the resignations presented and approve the discussions held for school year 2021-2022. Bishop Holman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

- **Student Personnel Matters**

Dr. Sojourner requested that the board approve transfer requests for the following students: SW, WW, KW, LC, LC, AW, MW. Mrs. Goodman moved that the transfers be approved. Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Contractual Matters**

No action was taken.

- **Legal Matters/Counsel**

No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 6:40 p.m.

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Submitted by,

*Loretta Goodman*

Approved:

*Beverly Bengante*  
*Gladys Thompson*  
*Larry Klaus*  
*June Palmer*

Prepared by  
Deborah Anderson

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