

MEDIA RELEASE
March 24, 2021

Simmons Named Interim Bamberg District Two Superintendent



Dr. Deonia Simmons has been named the Interim Superintendent for the Bamberg School District Two, effective March 1, 2021, by unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees at its regular meeting held Monday, March 1.

Dr. Simmons is a 1988 graduate of Denmark-Olar High School. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Voorhees College in Denmark, SC, where he majored in biology and minored in chemistry. Dr. Simmons earned his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and his Doctoral Degree in Organizational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He is currently enrolled at Luther Rice College and Seminary where he hopes to earn a Master's Degree in Divinity.

Dr. Simmons began his educational career in Nassau County, FL, where he served as a science teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Middle School Principal. After several successful experiences in Nassau County, Dr. Simmons relocated back to his native South Carolina to serve as Superintendent of Hampton County School District Two. Following his tenure at Hampton School District Two, Dr. Simmons served as the Director of the Beaufort-Jasper Academy for Career Excellence in Ridgeland, SC. Due to his varied educational experiences, Dr. Simmons was recruited by Atlantic Education Partners, a national educational consulting firm in Chicago, IL, to serve as a Senior Education Consultant. His primary responsibility was to provide leadership to the schools the organization served in Chicago. He led the turnaround efforts in some of Chicago Public School's lowest performing high schools.

Dr. Simmons serves as Denmark-Olar High School Principal and is familiar with the District's operations. He is well thought of by staff members and the community. Consolidation of the Bamberg County School Districts is in our immediate future, and Dr. Simmons will serve and assist the District to move forward through this transition. Our goal is to have our District and our students fully prepared for the consolidated District.

The appointment of Dr. Simmons to the position of Interim Superintendent was made following the announcement of the June 30 retirement of Superintendent Dr. Thelma Sojourner, who is leaving the district after 50 years of service.

The Board will look to Dr. Sojourner and Dr. Simmons to work closely together to ensure a smooth and seamless transition. In addition, the Board would like to thank the staff and community for their continued support. The Board expresses their appreciation to Dr. Simmons for agreeing to assume these responsibilities as Interim Superintendent at this critical juncture.