

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
April 18, 2023

Board Members Present: Chairperson-Patricia Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Ogleretta White, Mr. Donnie Hill, Susan Pridgen and Mr. Kevin Dozier.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chairperson Atkinson. In accordance with the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (d) as amended, the local media was notified of the time, date and place of the meeting. Ms. Deciera Gause stated that the media was notified of the meeting and a copy of the agenda was also provided.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Rodney McCorkle. The Board thanked Rev. Dr. McCorkle for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the April 18, 2023 meeting.

Establishment of Quorum: Chairperson Atkinson verified that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve the April 18, 2023 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Code of Conduct Workshop for March 2, 2023, the Special Called Legislative Delegation Roundtable for March 20, 2023 and the Regular Meeting for March 21, 2023. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Mr. Dozier).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bunch recognized the March MCSD Superhero Award Recipient. The Board commended the students for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bethea expressed gratitude and appreciation to the students and staff.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the March 2023 financials. This report was presented as information. Mrs. Cooper presented Policy DKC: Expense Authorization/Reimbursement for 1st Reading. Chairperson Atkinson asked if the Board had questions about the revisions of the policy. The Board discussed what would be considered proper documentations. Dr. Bethea agreed to consult with the attorney for examples of proper documentation and bring it back to the May 16, 2023 meeting for 2nd Reading. No executive session requested.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jordan gave a brief Operations and Facilities update.

Food Service Management Company RFP proposals were submitted. The committee will meet and evaluate the proposal and make selections to be presented at the May Board meeting.

Landscaping Bids have been posted. A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held and the bids are due on April 27, 2023. Selections will be presented at the May Board meeting.

Weapon Detection Systems have been delivered. There will be a training on April 24, 2023. All SROs, and at least one administrator from each school will be in attendance.

Facilities 3 Year Plan – Brownstone Construction will provide estimates for prospective projects. A workshop with the Board will be planned once all estimates and budgets are received. Other projects planned for this summer includes painting new classes at ACT, MIS and possibly one other school; repaving at AEL and the playgrounds at EPS and AEL. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Rev. Brown requested a copy of the Facilities/Operations report be given to the Board prior to the meeting. Ms. White suggested adding another weapons detection system to the elementary schools. Ms. White had concerns about the paving projects. Mr. Jordan explained that Brownstone Construction will handle the procurement and execution of the project. Mr. Dozier asked about the future plans for the Central Services Annex Building and offered a suggestion to renovate it for teacher housing. Dr. Bethea explained the protocol for such a project and securing a teacher recruitment grant. She also explain that the teacher recruitment grant can be very limited. Ms. White mentioned a workforce grant that other districts are exploring as it relates to teacher housing. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth inquired about the billboard near Walmart. Mr. Jordon responded by saying the construction of the billboard is in process and should be up by August or September.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant presented personnel actions and Support Staff Recommendations for approval. She is not asking for executive session. Dr. Bethea asked for special permission to add personnel actions to the Special Called Budget Workshop agenda on April 27, 2023. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions as recommended. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the recommendations; Rev. Brown had a question for Mrs. Grant. Dr. Bethea suggested executive session. Chairperson Atkinson said the voting will be done after executive session. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the support staff recommendations. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the superintendent's support staff recommendations; the motion carries. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Mr. Dozier) Ms. White asked about long-term substitutes. Do they qualify for benefits or bonuses?

Academics and Accountability: Dr. Bethea explained that iReady data will be presented at the May 16, 2023 Board meeting.

Policy JLIB: Student Dismissal Precautions - Ms. Gordon is asking for 2nd Reading approval on the amendment to Policy JLIB: Student Dismissal Precautions. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to accept the 2nd Reading on the amendment to Policy JLIB: Student Dismissal Precautions. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to accept the amendment to Policy JLIB and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Mr. Dozier).

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in the schools in MSCD. She acknowledged the Fine Arts Department on a phenomenal job with the Art in the Park event. She gave additional updates from each department. Dr. Bethea briefed the Board on upcoming events. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time.

Review and Action:

Dr. Bethea presented out of state travel for approval:

- MaHS – Senior Trip to Carowinds;
- MuHS Senior Day Trip to Carowinds and South Park Mall

- PMS - Distinguished Gentlemen trip to Carowinds

Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this requests. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).

Dr. Bethea presented Student Transfers and Releases to the Board for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the request. Vice-Chairperson moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Chairperson Atkinson). Ms. White asked iReady and the child care providers and how they are contacted.

No Public Participation

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have.

Policy BD: AR BD-R Organization of the Board – Attorney Boykin is reviewing the amendments to the policy and determining the best placement. This will be discussed at the May meeting.

Chairperson Atkinson reminded everyone about the SCSBA Day at the Capitol on April 19, 2023. She also reminded the Board of the Special Called Budget Meeting on April 27, 2023 at 5:30. Ms. White asked if the auditor will be present. The auditor will be here at 4:30.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for Personnel / Legal Personnel Briefing / Contractual Matters / Professional Services. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Chairperson Atkinson).

Open Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to come out of executive session back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

Chairperson Atkinson stated that no action was taken in executive session.

Personnel: Chairperson Atkinson restated the open motion to approve the personnel action recommendations. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the motion and the Board voted to approve the personnel recommendations. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth, Ms. White, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson-Atkinson).

Contractual Matter: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion. Ms. White move that the RFP be done for the Bond Attorney, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen, Ms. White and Mr. Hill). The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.