

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
April 23, 2024

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 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. Marvin Hemingway. The Board thanked Rev. Hemingway for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to April 23, 2024.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Vice Chairperson moved, seconded by Ms. White to approve April 23, 2024 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for March 19, 2024. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill and Mr. Dozier).

Oath of Office Administered to Elected Marion County Board Members: Attorney Boykin administered the oath to returning members Mrs. Nadine Foxworth and Ms. Ogleretta White and the newly elected member Derrick Weeks. Their terms will expire April 2028. After welcoming members to the Board meeting, Attorney Boykins briefed the Board on the rules and the legality of the certification and its' effective date. He stated that the new members could vote on all items except for finance on tonight. After the briefing the new members took their seats at the Board table.

Election of Officers: Attorney Boykin stated that all seats were vacant and the floor was now open for the election of officers. Mr. Weeks nominated Mrs. Nadine Harris Foxworth as Chair. There were no other nominees for Chair. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Ms. White to close the nomination; and the Board voted to approve Mrs. Nadine Harris Foxworth as Chair. Chairperson Foxworth asked for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Ms. White nominated Mr. Kevin Dozier as Vice Chairperson. There were no other nominees for Vice Chairperson. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. O. White to close the nomination for Vice Chairperson. The Board voted to approve Mr. Kevin Dozier as Vice Chairperson. Motion carried. (Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks, Mrs. Atkinson and Mr. Dozier)

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch presented the MCSD Proud Award recipient. Dr. Bunch also recognized select students and staff for their outstanding

accomplishments. The Board commended the students and staff for their remarkable 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 2024 financials. This report was presented as information. No executive session requested.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jason Jordan presented the Operations and Facilities update. Mr. Jordan updated the Board on future plans for the GO Bonds. He also informed the Board on the status of the Southside property. Mr. Jordan briefed the Board on all facility projects in the district (completed and in progress). The Board received a requested copy of the 2022 Facilities Assessment Overview. An update was given on the transportation office at CBSA. Ms. White asked to see the reports (2022 Facilities Assessment).

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Wilbanks asked for executive session for personnel actions. Mrs. Wilbanks gave an update on the Marion County Healthcare Foundation Grant.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in MCSD. She continued with updates from each department. Dr. Bethea briefed the Board on upcoming events. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Dr. Bethea asked for executive session regarding a contractual matter from the county, personnel actions, an initiative and legal matter concerning facilities.

Review and Action:

Dr. Bethea presented Student Transfers and Releases to the Board for approval. Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the request. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. Motion carried. (Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Mr. Weeks and Ms. White).

Dr. Bethea presented overnight/out of state travel for approval:

- MaHS Softball Team – Collegiate Game – Clemson, SC (retroactive)
- MuHS Senior Trip – Carowinds / South Park Mall – Charlotte, NC
- MuHS Spanish II Class – Mi Tierra Restaurant – Charlotte, NC
- PMS Distinguished Gentlemen – Youth Day/Carowinds – Charlotte, NC
- JMS Cheer Team – Carowinds – Youth Day/Carowinds – Charlotte, NC

Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the requests. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks. The Board voted. Motion carried. (Mrs. Atkinson, Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mr. Hill and Mr. Weeks).

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. No committee updates. Chairperson Foxworth suggested to revamp the committees to include the new board member. Chairperson Foxworth also suggested revisiting Policy BD.

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

Open Session: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Ms. White to come out of executive session back into open session;

and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Atkinson).

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

Personnel: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion. Ms. White moved that we deny employee A1a's request to be released for the contract at this time. I further move that all other personnel actions are approved, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve the motion and the Board voted unanimous to approve. (Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Atkinson).

Special Called Meeting: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion. Mr. Weeks moved that we have a Special Called Meeting, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the motion and the Board voted unanimous to approve. (Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Atkinson).

Adjournment: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Weeks, and Ms. White). The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.