

**MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571**  
**April 27, 2023**

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

**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 the Rev. Cynthia Brown. The Board thanked Rev. Brown for the invocation.

**Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present:** Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the April 27, 2023 Special Called Budget Workshop Meeting.

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mr. Kevin Dozier to approve the April 27, 2023 agenda; Ms. White called for a point of order...she stated that the Board voted to have a protocol established for going over the agenda with Dr. Bethea but at the last meeting the protocol was not followed. The Chair should have asked one of the other Board members to attend the meeting. Chairperson Atkinson stated that Vice-Chairperson Foxworth attended the meeting. Ms. White stated that the motion specifically said "the Chair and another Board member". The policy and the wording was not clear to all the Board member. The Board is also waiting on clarity from Attorney Boykin as to where to add the verbiage to Policy BD: AR BD-R Organization of Board. Rev. Brown stated that the verbiage was made clear and voted on during the meeting. Chairperson Atkinson stated that the minutes and the recording will be checked for clarity. The Board voted unanimously to approve the April 27, 2023 agenda. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Chairperson Atkinson).

**Finance - Proposed Budget Workshop:** Dr. Bethea presented Mrs. Angel Cooper for the 2023-2024 Budget Overview. She also stated that an official public notice will be provided in May and the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading will also be in May. Mrs. Cooper began the presentation with the House projections...to fund classrooms based on a statewide average student/teacher ratio and to increase salaries to be more competitive. She also gave a breakdown of preliminary revenues and transfer revenues. Also included in the presentations was Phase I of the Salary Study and Competitive Edge Adjustment...the lowest salary schedules will increase by 5% and all other scales will increase by 2%. Mrs. Cooper also gave the projections for teacher pay, bus driver, administration step increase, classified step increase, health insurance (effective 1/1/2024), state retirement increase and teacher supply increase. She explained the breakdown of expenditures for the 2023-2024 school year based on revenue and showed a comparison from the 2022-2023 school year. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Mrs. Cooper stated that the preliminary budget will be on

the May 16, 2023 agenda and the public hearing will be at 5:00 on May 16, 2023. The final budget presentation will be on June 13, 2023. Chairperson Atkinson asked for an explanation of the budget process as it relates to administrators needs and wants. Mrs. Cooper gave a brief explanation the process which begins in February. Dr. Bethea further explained that each administrator is given a form to prioritize the needs and wants of the school. They are given a date and time to meet during the budget process to discuss what is on the form. Ms. White asked about monies from the s

**Human Resources:** Mrs. Paula Grant requested an executive session for the personnel action consideration.

### **Review and Action:**

Dr. Bethea presented an out of state travel for approval:

- CBSA STEAM Quest –
- MaHS JAG – STEM -
- JMS, PMS, CBSA Academy of Excellence Incentive –

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

**Executive Session:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for Personnel. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth 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. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Ms. White 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:** Mrs. Pridgen moved that employee A.4.a with initials TC as represented in the Personnel Actions Addendum for April 27, 2023 Board meeting be reported to the SC State Department of Education for breach of contract and that the SC State Department of Education take any appropriate action for failure to comply with contractual obligations, seconded by Ms. White and the Board voted (6 Yes - Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen; 1 No – Vice Chairperson Foxworth). (See attachment)

**Personnel:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel action. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

Ms. White asked Chairperson Atkinson to ask for volunteers to sit in on the meeting with Dr. Bethea. After much discussion, Vice Chairperson Foxworth will sit in on the meeting

**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, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill). The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.