

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
August 20, 2024

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mrs. Foxworth. 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. Frederick Johnson. The Board thanked Rev. Frederick Johnson for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Mrs. Foxworth welcomed everyone to August 20, 2024 Marion County School Board Meeting.

Establishment of Quorum: Mrs. Foxworth verified that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to amend the agenda. Ms. White motioned to amend the agenda to include Policy GCQF: Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff under Human Resources, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve amended agenda for August 20, 2024; and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2024 regular meeting. Mr. Weeks moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson; and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Special Called Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting for June 25, 2024. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Ms. White to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Ms. White, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Weeks). 1 abstained (Rev. Brown).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch recognized the 2024 MCSD Summer Graduate and recognized the MCSD Proud Award Recipient. Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bethea presented certificates and pins to Mr. Dozier and Mr. Hill from the SCSBA for reaching new levels in Boardmanship. The Board commended the students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bethea expressed gratitude and appreciation to the students, staff and the Board.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the July 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 all facilities and summer projects in the district. He provided an update on athletics throughout the district. Mr. Jordan provided information on surplus properties, i.e. Britton's Neck and Southside. He also provided information on the bid process and the Department of

Energy Grant and Safety Grant. Mr. Jordan and Dr. Bethea introduced the MCSD Athletics Flow Chart model. The Board asked questions during this time. Executive session was requested for contractual matters.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Wilbanks is asking for executive session for personnel actions. She presented a copy of Policy GBEBA and AR GBEBA-R Staff Dress Code for review and the next steps for the policy. Mrs. Wilbanks also presented Policy GCQF Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff for 1st Reading.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea asked Dr. Holcombe to give an academic update. She provided information on AI and a pilot program Eduply. Dr. Holcombe also explained the Individual Graduation Plan (IGP). Mr. Stone also explained Pathways and IGP. Dr. Holcombe shared a list of programs at the Academy for Careers and Technology. The Board asked questions during this time. She asked the Board to approve the 2nd Reading for Policy IKE: Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students. Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the 2nd Reading for Policy IKE: Promotion, Retention and Acceleration of Students. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Hill. The Board voted, motion carried. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks). Dr. Holcombe updated the board of some preliminary numbers from the Report Card data. The official Report Card comes out in October. Dr. Nickia Burks asked the Board to approve the 2nd Reading for Policy JLCD-B: Assisting Students with Medication. Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the 2nd Reading for Policy JLCD-B: Assisting Students with Medication. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. The Board voted, motion carried. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks). Dr. Bunch gave an update on cell phone policy from the state level. Dr. Bethea asked for support when implementing the cell phone policy; this is a state proviso that is attached to the state budget. Dr. Bethea is recommending a complete policy update through the SCSBA. This is an executive session item. MCSD distributed Chromebooks to K-12 students. Registration is still incomplete...73% completed. Dr. Bethea asked the board to encourage constituents to register their students.

Review and Action:

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

Public Participation – Mrs. Martina Rush, Raise2Reach, LLC spoke on the topic Trauma – Informed Classrooms.

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have. Mr. Hill gave a brief update from the Athletic Committee meeting. Mrs. Foxworth gave updates for upcoming SCSBA meetings.

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

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

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

Personnel: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion. Mrs. Atkinson motioned to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel actions to also include the personnel actions addendum with two exceptions: Staff member A.1.a is not recommended for release at this time due to lack of documentation and Staff member A.3.a is not recommended for release at this time due to lack of documentation, seconded by Ms. White and the Board voted unanimous to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks).

Landscaping: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion. Mr. Weeks motioned to accept Option B for the 2024-2024 landscaping maintenance bid, seconded by Rev. Brown and the vote passed (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks). 1 Nay (Mrs. Atkinson).

Easement: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion. Ms. White motioned to grant the easement approval for Duke Energy, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks)

Attorney-Client Privilege: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion. Mr. Hill moved that the Board waive the attorney-client privilege as to the written statement submitted by Major Prograis relate to Civil Action No.: 2022-CP-33-00362 and any other matter.

Adjournment: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Dozier moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks). The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.