

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
February 18, 2025

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Meeting: Mrs. Foxworth called the board meeting to order. Under the S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (d) as amended, the local media was notified of the meeting's time, date, and place. Ms. Deciera Gause stated that the media was notified of the meeting and a copy of the agenda was also provided.

Invocation: Bishop Brian McKnight gave the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Mrs. Foxworth welcomed everyone to the February 18, 2025, Marion County School Board Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the February 18, 2025 agenda. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White and Mr. Hill).

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the January 21, 2025, Special Called Workshop minutes and the January 28, 2025, monthly meeting minutes. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier and Mr. Hill)

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bethea and Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments and the MSCD Proud Award Recipient.

Special Presentation: Mr. Creigory Adams with the Marion County Sheriff's Department gave a presentation on the latest opioids that's affecting the county.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the January 2025 financials. This report was presented as information. No executive session was requested. Mrs. Cooper asked for approval for a fund transfer (Technology/Athletics). Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the fund transfer. Mr. Derrick Weeks moved, seconded by Mr. Hill and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Dozier and Mr. Hill) 1 Nay – Rev. Brown.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jason Jordan presented the Operations and Facilities update. Mr. Jordan gave a brief update on the Centenix Emergency Response System. The Board asked questions during this time.

Human Resources Report / Updates: Mrs. Stacy Wilbanks presented the personnel actions. An executive session was requested for personnel actions. Mrs. Wilbanks gave an update on the rehiring procedures for non-certified instructional staff and staff retention (5 year increment incentives). Mrs. Wilbanks asked for approval for the designation of hearing officer. Mrs. Foxworth request a motion to

approve the designation of hearing officer. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. Mrs. Atkinson asked for the process of obtaining the hearing officer. Attorney Boykin explained the process. The vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Dozier and Mr. Hill)

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea briefly updated the recent happenings in MSCD and finalized her report with Departmental updates. She highlighted that State Superintendent Ellen Weaver was in the district visiting ACT and NMP. Dr. Holcombe gave an academic update for the Early Childhood Programs. The Board asked questions during this time. Mrs. Crouner gave an update on Parenting/Family Engagement. Dr. Bethea continued with updates from the Legislative Delegation meeting.

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. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks)

Dr. Bethea presented the out of state / over-night travels:

- MuHS Army JROTC – Army JROTC Cadet Staff Ride to 82nd Airborne Museum and Airborne/Special Operations Museum
- MuHS Band – North Carolina Strawberry Festival
- MuHS Band – National Memorial Day Parade
- MuHS JAG – College Tour
- ACT First Robotics – First Robotics Competition – District Event
- ACT First Robotics – First Robotics State Championship Event
- MaHS Softball Team – Duke Softball Stadium

Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the field trip requests. Mr. Weeks moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. Rev. Brown requested a breakdown of boys and girls from the list of students from the MuHS Band National Memorial Day Parade trip. Mrs. Atkinson amended the motion to approve with the understanding that the final approval would come once the Board could see the breakdown of male/female students and comparable chaperones, seconded by Mr. Weeks and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks)

No Public Participation

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were allowed to express concerns or comments. Mrs. Foxworth presented a request to have 2 meetings per month. The Board requested a financial breakdown of the cost for additional monthly meetings. Rev. Brown expressed concerns about following Robert's Rule of Order and violating executive session. Mrs. Foxworth clarified that the meeting followed protocol and executive session was not violated. Requested information should allow a 2 week timeframe for turnaround. Mr. Weeks asked for clarity on the School Resource Officers. Ms. White explained her stance on School Resource Officers and community policing. The board requested a status update from each entity by the next meeting.

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

Open Session: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks to come out of executive session back into open session; and the

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

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

Personnel: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Mrs. Atkinson moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel actions for February 18, 2025, to exclude staff A.2.b. for failing to honor the contract and being found in breach of contract. Therefore the district requests the SDE to take appropriate action, seconded by Ms. White and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Ms. White, and Mr. Weeks).

Adjournment: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Mrs. Atkinson moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Hill and Mr. Weeks). The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.