

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
February 21, 2023

Board Members Present: Chairperson-Patricia Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Ogleretta White, Mr. Donnie Hill 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 the Rev. Cynthia Brown. The Board thanked Rev. Brown for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed to the February 21, 2023 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to approve the February 21, 2023 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Revised Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for January 17, 2023. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, 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 January 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:

PACE Center for Girls: Dr. Bethea explained that the Marion County Healthcare Foundation partnered with the PACE Center for Girls. MCSD is focusing on a partnership and mentor program for middle school girls. We will begin a pilot program in our district as an effort to help with behaviors and social/emotional needs of the students. She introduced Mrs. Lisa Spears. Mrs. Spears gave a brief history and the foundation of the program and how it will benefit the district.

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the January 2023 financials. This report was presented as information. Dr. Bethea further explained the tax revenue process from prior years because the Board had concerns about the revenue totals. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a comparison of revenues over/under expenses from the prior school year. Mrs. Cooper also presented the proposed budget timeline to include a Special Called Board meeting on April 25, 2023 for a review of the budget information prior to finalizing the preliminary figures; finalizing the salary schedules, revenue projections and expenditure estimates for the SY 23-24. Mr. Finney will be in district on March 21, 2023 at 4:30 for a Finance Budget Session. Dr. Bethea highlighted the salary

study and how the salary schedule drives the district. They are working to advance the salary schedule across the district for certified staff and support staff. She mentioned that recommendations will be forthcoming. Mrs. Cooper requested approval to update the Out of District Travel Request for Meal Reimbursement rate to mirror the State travel policy. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the updated Out of District Travel Request for Meal Reimbursement rate. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Ms. White. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mr. Hill). Mrs. Cooper presented the Emergency Pay Procedure as information to be reviewed by the Board. Rev. Brown asked the Board to look at Policy DKC: Expense Authorization / Reimbursement and to consider changing the verbiage on the last line just in case there is an emergency or extenuating circumstance (see attachment). Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to bring Policy DKC: Expense Authorization / Reimbursement to the March 21, 2023 Board meeting. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mr. Hill). No executive session requested.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jordan gave a brief Operations and Facilities update. He informed the Board that they are working on forming a committee to develop a 3 year plan for facilities. Once developed, there will be a Board Workshop to prioritize the plans. Dr. Bethea explained that in the 3 year plan not only the deferred maintenance of the district's need but looking configurations for some of our school. Mr. Jordan briefed the Board on the Food and Nutrition update. They are perusing RFPs for a food service management company. The bids will be sent out by March 1. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Vice Chairperson Foxworth asked for an update on the metal detectors. Mr. Jordan and Dr. Bethea assured that they are on backorder. She also asked if The County has responded about the building.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant presented personnel actions for approval. She explained that the personnel actions are longer than usual because it is in response to Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions as recommended. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this recommendation; and the Board tabled the motion until after executive session. Mrs. Grant provided an update for the Attendance Incentive. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in the schools in MSCD. She gave additional updates from each department. Dr. Bunch gave a brief update on the Discipline Task Force. Dr. Bethea briefed the Board on upcoming events. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Dr. Bethea requested executive session for personnel action.

Review and Action:

Dr. Bethea presented an out of state / over-night travel for approval:

- ACT – 2023 SC HOSA State Leadership Conference; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).
- MES – Lego Competition; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Ms. White. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).

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. Rev. Brown expressed concerns and gave suggestions for future Board Policies. Chairperson Atkinson reminded the Board about upcoming events.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for Personnel / Superintendent Evaluation. Ms. White 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. Vice Chairperson Foxworth 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: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the personnel actions as recommended. Mr. moved, seconded by Vice Chairperson Foxworth to approve this recommendation; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Pridgen, Vice-Chairperson-Foxworth, Ms. White, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson-Atkinson).

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Chairperson Foxworth 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 8:18 pm.