

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
January 28, 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: Pastor Adam Work gave the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Mrs. Foxworth welcomed everyone to the January 28, 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 January 28, 2025 agenda. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Hill 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 28, 2025, monthly meeting minutes. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier and Mr. Hill)

Marion County School District Special Presentations: No recognitions.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the December 2024 financials. This report was presented as information. No executive session was requested.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jason Jordan presented the Operations and Facilities update. The Board asked questions during this time. An executive session was requested for contractual matters.

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 Strategic Compensation Pilot Grant.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea asked Ms. Melonie Gordon to present the 2025-2026 School Calendar and asked for approval for the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Hill). Ms. Gordon discussed plans for the new 5-year cycle for the strategic plan and shared dates for upcoming meetings. The Board will decide which two members will serve on the committee. Mrs. Tasha Legette and Mr. Kevin Owens gave an update on the PowerSchool Breach. Dr. Cynthia Williams-Blaine shared the SDE Turnaround Plans as an action item. The Board asked questions during this time. Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to accept the SDE Turnaround Plans.

Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Atkinson and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Hill). Dr. Tracy Holcombe gave an overview of the Winter Assessments. Dr. Bethea shared make-up days for the inclement weather days. She gave a brief update on the recent happenings in MSCD and finalized her report with Departmental updates.

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

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

- MaHS Cheerleaders – The Cupid Cup Cheer Competition

Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the request. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Hill and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, 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. Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve 2 meetings per month. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks. Several board members asked questions and discussed the said motion. (No – Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson; Yes – Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks). Attorney Boykin briefed the board on adding an agenda item that was not printed on the agenda. The vote for 2 meetings is null and void. Mrs. Foxworth discussed sharing goals with the delegation and Ms. White gave the reminder that was discussed during the Legislative Delegation Assembly meeting. Dr. Bethea stated that graduation will be held outside this year. Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Weeks, and Rev. Brown volunteered to serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. Ms. White and Mrs. Foxworth volunteered to serve on the District Discipline Task Force Committee.

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. Dozier 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.

Contractual Matter - SRO: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Ms. White moved to accept the 2025-2026 predictions for the SRO report, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Hill and Mr. Weeks).

Contractual Matter – TRANE: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Mrs. Atkinson moved to accept the TRANE Energy Savings Project Contract, seconded by Ms. White and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Hill and Mr. Weeks).

Personnel: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Mrs. Atkinson moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel actions for January 28, 2025, except for A.3.a. who has failed to honor the contract and is found in breach of contract. Therefore, the district asks the SDE to take

appropriate action, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, and Mr. Weeks).

Mrs. Foxworth discussed graduation protocols. If the protocol is not in the policy or is not voted on, it will not be honored.

Adjournment: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Mr. Weeks moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. White 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 8:56 pm.