

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

Board Members Present: Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Mrs. Patricia Atkinson, Ms. Ogleretta White, 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: Ms. Amy Brown gave the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Mrs. Foxworth welcomed everyone to the March 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 March 18, 2025 agenda. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier, and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, and Mr. Hill).

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the February 18, 2025, monthly meeting minutes. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier, and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, 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 Recognitions: On behalf of the South Carolina School Board Association, Dr. Bethea presented service awards to Ms. Ogleretta White and Rev. Cynthia Brown and Mr. Derrick Weeks received a certificate of completion.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the February 2025 financials. This report was presented as information. Mrs. Cooper presented a resolution for the 2025 General Obligation Bond as an action item; funds will be used for summer projects and capital items. Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the GO Bond Resolution. Mr. Weeks moved, seconded by Mr. Hill. The motion will be held until after the Facilities/Operations Report. Mr. Dozier asked for a meeting to learn how to understand the financial report; line by line. Mrs. Atkinson asked for a detail report and comparison of the budget. Mrs. Foxworth suggested to have the information ready for the Budget Workshop.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jason Jordan explained to the Board which project and schools are targeted for summer projects. Dr. Bethea asked for a printed copy of the summer projects for the Board. The Board tabled the vote for the GO Bond Resolution until they receive a printed copy of the breakdown for the summer projects. Mr. Jordon presented the Operations and Facilities update; the new activity bus is in, and the other one will be in next week. Construction on the track field at Marion High School is almost complete. The track will be ready next week to host events. Surplus properties

and landscaping contracts will be discussed during the executive session. The Board shared questions and concerns during this time. The Board agreed to table the discussion for landscaping contracts and surplus properties.

Human Resources Report / Updates: Mrs. Stacy Wilbanks asked for executive session for personnel actions.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Mr. Michael Stone gave an academic update for high school accountability with the four-year graduation rates, projections, and college and career readiness projections. The Board asked questions during this time. Dr. Bethea gave a brief update of 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. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, and Mr. Weeks)

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

- MuHS Band – Battle of the Bands – Salisbury, North Carolina
- MuHS Band – National Memorial Day Parade – Washington, DC

Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the field trip requests. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Ms. White, and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks)

No Public Participation

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were allowed to express concerns or comments. Ms. White would like to combine the Workforce Housing and Facilities Committee and schedule a meeting. Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve having two meetings per month. Mr. Weeks moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. The Board voted 5 Yes (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Weeks, Mrs. Atkinson and Ms. White; 1 No (Mr. Hill). Mr. Dozier made suggestions for utilizing the football and baseball fields at Creek Bridge. The Board asked questions during this time.

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

Open Session: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to come out of executive session. Mr. Weeks moved, seconded by Ms. White 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.

Finance: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Ms. White moved to approve the 2025 General Obligation Bond Resolution, seconded by Mr. Hill, and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (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 March 18, 2025, to include the Personnel Actions Addendum and Professional Staff Recommendations for employment, seconded by Mr. Dozier, and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Ms. White, and Mr. Weeks).

Adjournment: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion. Ms. White 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 9:55 pm.