

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
May 21, 2024

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

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 Pastor Brian Preveaux. The Board thanked Pastor Preveaux for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Foxworth welcomed everyone to May 21, 2024.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Foxworth asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chair Mr. Dozier to approve May 21, 2024 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Hill and Vice Chairman Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Special Called Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called meeting for April 2, 2024. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve April 2, 2024 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Hill and Vice Chairman Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for April 23, 2024. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Mr. Dozier to approve April 23, 2024 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Hill and Vice Chairman Mr. Dozier).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bunch presented the MCSD Proud Award recipient. The Board commended the students and staff for their remarkable accomplishments. Dr. Bunch recognized the Mullins High School MJROTC program as comes to an end after 38 years of service. Mayor Robert Woodbury spoke about his experience with the MJROTC and how it has changed his life. Dr. Bethea expressed gratitude and appreciation to the students and staff.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the April 2024 financials. This report was presented as information. Mrs. Cooper presented 1st Reading for the 2024-25 General Fund Proposed Budget. Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the 1st Reading. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks. The Board voted. Motion carried. (Chairperson Foxworth, Vice Chairman Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Mr. Weeks, Rev. Brown and Ms. White). Mrs. Cooper asked for a Special Called Meeting on June 25, 2024 for the 2nd Reading. Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to accept

the request for a Special Called Meeting on June 25, 2024. Vice Chairman Mr. Dozier moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks. The Board voted. Motion carried. (Chairperson Foxworth, Vice Chairman Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Mr. Weeks, Rev. Brown and Ms. White). No executive session requested.

Facilities/Operations Report: Dr. Bethea asked for executive session for contractual legal matter. Mr. Jordan presented the Operations and Facilities updates to include HVAC renovations, IT Department transition, security upgrades, and new classroom furniture and bathroom renovations. Mr. Jordan shared a copy the Athletic Programs and facilities update and custodial services. Ms. White asked to see the plans for MuHS track.

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

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Tracy Holcombe gave an academic update with iReady diagnostic data. She stated that she will present the retention policy at the June meeting. Dr. Bunch gave an update and shared the draft of the 2024-2025 Code of Conduct. He explained that no major changes have been made, just the format. Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in MCSD. She continued with updates from each department. The district is transitioning to Chromebooks. She highlighted Policy KHE. Public Relations is working on revamping or add an administrative rule. She also highlighted Policy JICA Dress Code (school uniform). Dr. Bethea briefed the Board on upcoming events. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time. Dr. Bethea asked for executive session regarding a contractual matter from the county, personnel actions, an initiative and legal matter concerning facilities.

Review and Action:

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

Dr. Bethea presented overnight/out of state travel for approval:

- JMS Beta Club – Beta Club National Convention – Savannah, GA
- MuHS Band – Howard University – Washington, DC
- MaHS JAG – Washington, DC Tour – Washington, DC
- MaHS Senior Trip – Carowinds – Charlotte, NC
- MaHS Boys Basketball – Camp of Champions – Upward Bound Star Center–Spartanburg, SC

Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the requests. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. The Board voted. 1 Abstained (Rev. Brown), 6 Yea (Mrs. Atkinson, Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mr. Hill and Mr. Weeks). Motion carried.

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. No committee updates. Chairperson Foxworth suggested to revamp the committees: Athletics Committee (Vice Chair Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill and Mr. Derrick Weeks), Facilities Committee (Ms. O. White, Mr. D. Weeks and Chairperson Foxworth), Capitol Sales Tax/Workforce Housing Committee (Ms. O. White, Mrs. P. Atkinson). Attorney Boykin briefed the Board on establishing committees. Attorney Goodwyn highlighted Policy BDE.

Policy BD: Organization of the Board: Chairperson Foxworth brought forth the concern that pertained to the voting and nomination of board members and if it was done correctly and according

to policy. Chairperson Foxworth read the policy pertaining to board member qualifications she also read an email from the SCSBA stating the number of hours that have been acquired by Mr. Kevin Dozier (see attachments).

Mr. Weeks would like get information on feathered flags for the schools.

Mr. Dozier asked which board member questioned his qualifications. Rev. Brown explained that the SCSBA will send out a certificate and a pin once you reach certain levels. No one could remember if he was presented a certificate. *(Please see amendment given by Rev. Brown) See attachment.*

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

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

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

Surplus Property: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion. Mrs. Atkinson moved that we accept the request for the sale of the 2.79 acres, Britton's Neck Baseball Field at the determined fair market value. Seconded by Ms. White. Vice Chair Mr. Dozier recused himself. The Board voted. The motion passed. (Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Atkinson).

Personnel: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion. Ms. White moved that employee A.4.A on Personnel Actions Addendum be submitted for breach of contract to the state board of education and for a review and if appropriate, a hearing and suspension of this educator's certificate in accordance with the law for failing to honor their contract with Marion County School District for the 2023-2024 school year and all other personnel actions are approved. Seconded by Mr. Hill. The Board voted. The motion passed. (Chairperson Foxworth, Vice Chair Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Atkinson).

Adjournment: Chairperson Foxworth asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Atkinson, Vice Chair Mr. Dozier, Mr. Weeks, Mr. Hill and Ms. White). The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

ADMENDMENT TO THE MAY 21, 2024 MINUTES

The following statements need to be added to the May 21, 20204 Minutes:

When Mr. Dozier asked which board member questioned his qualifications, Chairperson Nadine Foxworth read the Agenda Item submitted by Reverend Cynthia Brown and acknowledged that she had made the inquiry. (It should be noted that Reverend Brown's Agenda Item was submitted in a Group Text. This Group includes Chairperson Nadine Foxworth, Ms. Patricia Atkinson, Mr. Derrick Weeks, Mr. Kevin Dozier, Ms. Ogleretta White, Mr. Donnie Hill, Reverend Brown and Superintendent, Dr. Kandace Bethea. Reverend Brown's identity was never concealed; hence, Mr. Kevin Dozier had access to her identity prior to his posing the question as to who had questioned his qualifications.)