

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
November 19, 2024

Board Members Present: Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Mrs. Patricia Atkinson, Ms. Ogleretta White, Rev. Cynthia Brown, Mr. Derrick Weeks 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: Elder Octavia Johnson gave the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Mrs. Foxworth welcomed everyone to the November 19, 2024, 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 November 19, 2024 agenda. Mr. Weeks moved, seconded by Ms. White and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks).

Approval of Minutes: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the October 15, 2024 minutes. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bethea and Mrs. Susanne Elvington recognized the MSCD Proud Award Recipient.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Finance Report: Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the October 2024 financials. This report was presented as information. No executive session was requested. Mrs. Cooper introduced Mr. Alan Thompson, the auditor, to present the audit report. Mr. Thompson reviewed and highlighted some key information from the report. The audit report showed an overall clean report, and no findings. Dr. Bethea thanked the Finance Department and the entire District team for operating a large budget and, having no findings on the audit report.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Jason Jordan presented the Operations and Facilities update. Mr. Jordan briefed the Board on all facility projects in the district (completed and in progress). 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.

Student Services Update: Dr. Bethea asked for approval for Policy JICJ Possession/Use of Personal Electronic Devices in School for 2nd Reading. Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to approve the 2nd Reading for Policy JICJ Possession/Use of Personal Electronic Devices in School. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Ms. White and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, and Mr. Weeks).

December 2, 2024 will be a soft start to Policy JICJ.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea shared information from the district's perspective on how to RESET (reflect, evaluate, strategize, engage, transform) the process to improve our state data. Dr. Bethea gave general updates from throughout the district (SCDOT Sidewalk Project, Family Literacy Night, and Continuity of Service stipend). The Board asked questions during this time.

Review and Action: Trip Requests will be discussed during the executive session.

No Public Participation

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were allowed to express concerns or comments. Mrs. Atkinson would like to establish a strategic plan for the board. Mrs. Foxworth would like to discuss in the executive session.

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

Open Session: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to come out of executive session. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to come out of executive session back into open session; and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson, 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 motioned to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel actions and personnel actions addendum for November 19, 2024, with an exception for A2b's submission of intent to resign will not be recommended for release at this time, seconded by Mr. Weeks and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson and Mr. Weeks).

Field Trip Requests: Approvals will be done at the Thursday, November 21, 2024 Special Called Board Meeting.

Adjournment: Mrs. Foxworth requested a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Ms. White to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Rev. Brown, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks). The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.