

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
September 17, 2024

Board Members Present: Mrs. Nadine Foxworth, Mrs. Patricia Atkinson, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown (audio), Ms. Ogleretta White, Mr. Donnie Hill, Mr. Derrick Weeks and Mr. Kevin Dozier.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: Mrs. Foxworth called the board meeting to order. 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 Rev. Franklin Washington.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Mrs. Foxworth welcomed everyone to the September 17, 2024 Marion County School Board Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda / Meeting Minutes: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the agenda for September 17, 2024 and the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Dozier).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bethea and Dr. Bunch introduced the new principals for the 2024 school year. The MSCD Proud Award Recipient could not attend this meeting but will be recognized at the October meeting. Dr. Bethea was recognized for being elected the 2024-2025 President of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) Superintendents' Board.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

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

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). He also gave an update on the Duke Energy Grant. The Board asked questions during this time. Executive session was requested for contractual matters.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Dr. Bethea asked for executive session for personnel actions. Dr. Bethea asked for approval for Policy GCQF Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff for 1st Reading. Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to approve the 1st Reading for Policy GCQF Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks and the vote passed. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White, Mr. Weeks and Mr. Dozier).

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea asked Mrs. Kim Stone to give an academic update on STEM Labs and STEAM for the district. Mrs. Stone also gave a brief update on the Robotics/Lego League. Dr. Bethea stated that a formal announcement about sponsorships for the Lego League will be made at the October meeting. The Board asked questions during this time. Dr. Bethea gave

general updates from throughout the district (safety walks, safety and security, Wednesday Walks with the Board, cell phone policy, Free to Focus).

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. Mrs. Atkinson moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier. Motion carried. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks)

Dr. Bethea presented out of state travel for approval:

- MuHS Band – Winston-Salem State University – Winston-Salam, NC
- MuHS Band Competition – E.E. Smith High School Gotham City Invitational 2024
- MuHS Band – Historic Hillside Homecoming Parade, Durham, NC

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

No Public Participation

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were allowed to express any concerns or comments they may have. Ms. White gave a brief update from the Workforce Housing Committee. Mr. Hill announced the Athletic Committee for October. Mrs. Foxworth gave updates for upcoming SCSBA meetings and county events.

Attorney Charles Boykin briefed the board on sanctions. He reminded the Board on how to conduct themselves while serving as elected officials. Ms. White suggested creating a policy on sanctions.

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

Open Session: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to come out of executive session. Mrs. Atkinson 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, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks).

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

Personnel: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion. Mrs. Atkinson motioned to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel actions on September 17, 2024 with the exception to the personnel actions addendum addressing staff member A1a for breach of contract according to the laws of South Carolina Board of Education. seconded by Mr. Weeks and the Board voted unanimous to approve. (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks).

Legal Counsel: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion. Mr. Hill moved that we authorize the District's attorney to appear as legal counsel for the employee discussed in executive session pursuant to the District's duty under SC Code Ann. 59-17-110, in accordance with the attorney's Rules of Professional Conduct, seconded by Ms. White and the vote passed (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks).

Adjournment: Mrs. Foxworth asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mr. Weeks to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Mrs. Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mr. Hill, Mrs. Atkinson, Ms. White and Mr. Weeks). The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.