

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL CALLED LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION ROUNDTABLE
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
March 20, 2023

Board Members Present: Chairperson-Patricia Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Ogleretta White, Mr. Donnie Hill, Susan Pridgen and Mr. Kevin Dozier.

Call to Order & Notification of Board Workshop: The Board meeting was called to order at 5:34 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 the Rev. Cynthia Brown. The Board thanked Rev. Brown for the invocation.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed everyone to the March 20, 2023 Special Called Legislative Delegation Roundtable.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Rev. Brown called for a Point of Order. (See attachment) Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve the March 20, 2023 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen and Ms. White) Rev. Brown abstained.

Legislative Updates and Discussions: Chairperson Atkinson asked Sen. Williams and Rep. Atkinson if this was their first appearance with MCBOE for open dialog. Sen. Williams stated this was their first appearance and they are always open to have a discussion. He also stated that The House completed the budget and is now in the Senate.

Dr. Bethea stated that she and her team usually meet with The Delegation before they go into session in January to discuss any bills that might have an impact on education statewide as well as locally. They talked about the needs of the district (human capital needs to facility needs). During the last meeting the topics were: teacher salary, the need for incentives to attract teachers to a rural community, the need for something additional for rural communities, salary study and the need to advance salaries, school choice and scholarships, early childhood education, the need for afterschool care, school report cards and growth, college and career program expansions and capital projects.

Rep. Atkinson stated that The House voted to give every teacher a \$2500 raise. The goal in the next 5 years is to raise the base salary close to \$50,000. They are also focusing on how to attract teachers to rural areas and housing for teachers in rural areas.

Chairperson Atkinson shared a copy of a booklet from SCSBA Delegation Assembly which outlines resolutions that are voted on by Board Members.

Each Board Member was given an opportunity to ask questions and/or give feedback to The Delegation. Mr. Hill has concerns about raises for the veteran teachers. Sen. Williams said the General Assembly is trying to address the issues of recruiting new teachers and the retention of teachers simultaneously. Sen. Williams referred to some additional funding that was given to the

District to be used to raise teacher salaries. Dr. Bethea explain that she along with many other districts received communication from the State that there was a funding error with the funding model throughout the state and the projections were wrong. Mrs. Pridgen had concerns about private schools getting public school funds. Both Sen. Williams and Rep. Atkinson are opposed to private schools getting public school funds. Dr. Bethea talked about accountability. They are not held to the same standards as the public schools. Rep. Atkinson said that he filed a Bill that would change the public Charter Schools playing sports against 1A and 2A schools. Attorney Boykin gave feedback. Rev. Brown asked about funding for Marion County School District. Sen. Williams explained that the funding are given to the smaller rural districts. Ms. White expressed concerns about being more competitive with facilities and salaries for recruitment. Sen. Williams explained that it is hard to compete with our neighboring counties. Chairperson Atkinson has concerns about movement on the Corridor of Shame. She asked if the Inland Ports beneficial for Marion County. Sen. Williams assured her that the Inland Ports are beneficial.

Sen. Williams and Rep. Atkinson reiterated to The Board to always reach out to them if there are any questions or concerns.

Chairperson Atkinson thanked the Delegation for attending the Roundtable Discussion.

Executive Session: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to go into executive session for a legal matter. Mr. Dozier moved, seconded by Ms. White to approve the request; and the Board voted unanimous to approve. (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

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

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

Chairperson Atkinson asked for any further discussions. Rev. Brown asked for The Board Secretary to contact The Board Members individually for Special Called Meetings. She also would like to reschedule the Auditor. Mr. Hill reminded the Board to create a policy for the Delegation.

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request; and the vote was unanimous (Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen, Ms. White and Mr. Hill). The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.