

MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM
719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571
December 13, 2022

Board Members Present: Chairperson-Patricia Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Susan Pridgen, Ms. Ogleretta White, Mr. Donnie Hill 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. John Lewis, Pastor of Bethel AME Church, Britton's Neck, South Carolina. The Board thanked Rev. Lewis for his presence.

Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present: Chairperson Atkinson welcomed to the December 13, 2022 meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Chairperson Atkinson asked for approval of the agenda. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Rev. Brown to approve the December 13, 2022 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Ms. White and Mr. Dozier).

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for November 15, 2022. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mrs. Foxworth to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen).

Marion County School District Special Presentations: Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bunch recognized the December MCSD Superhero Award Recipient. The Board commended the students for their outstanding accomplishments. The Board recognized Mrs. Nadine Foxworth for reaching a new level in FY 21-22.

Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:

Audit and Finance Report: Mr. Larry Finney present the 2022 Financial Audit Report and gave a brief overview. Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the financials for the month of October. This report was presented as information. No executive session requested.

Academic Update: Mr. Michael Stone briefed the Board on Dual Enrollment and creating a partnership with the Continuum. He also gave an update on the Early College Program. Dr. Bunch elaborated on the great things that are happening at the Academy for Careers and Technology. Board concerns and comments were addressed during this time.

Facilities/Operations Report: Mr. Leon Sturkey gave an overview of the operation's report (see attachment). Dr. Bethea briefed the Board on the positive feedback from the new billboards. Mr. Sturkey asked for executive session for two items: bids for the water refill stations and the Adams Outdoors Billboards.

Human Resources Report / Updates – Mrs. Paula Grant requested an executive session for the personnel action consideration. She updated the Board on the Attendance Incentive for all staff.

Superintendent's Report / Update: Dr. Bethea gave a brief update on the happenings in the schools in MSCD. She gave additional updates from each department. Dr. Bethea briefed the Board on upcoming events. The Board comments and concerns were addressed during this time.

Review and Action:

Dr. Bethea presented an out of state / over-night travel for approval:

- JMS Beta Club Convention at Myrtle Beach Convention Center; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request to include an additional male chaperone. Ms. White moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Foxworth. Question by Rev. Brown: chaperone:student ratio and the number of male chaperones. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).
- MaHS Beta State Convention at Hilton Myrtle Beach; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Ms. White moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill) Recused: Vice Chairperson Foxworth.

Chairperson Atkinson presented a request from Rev. Brown pertaining Board holiday bonus. Executive session needed.

Public Participation: Rev. Tony Paige did not show up.

Agenda Items for Next Month / Calendar Reminders: Board members were given the opportunity to express any concerns or comments that they may have. The agenda for January will include travel reimbursements for staff and Board members, meeting with the Delegation and Board Committees. Chairperson Atkinson reminded the Board about upcoming events.

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

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

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

Personnel: Mrs. Pridgen moved that the Marion County Board of Trustees deny the request from staff member A1a (12/13/22 Addendum) to be released for the 2022-2023 contractual obligations, seconded by Mr. Hill and the Board voted (6 Yes - Chairperson Atkinson, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White and Mrs. Pridgen; 1 No – Vice Chairperson Foxworth).

Water Refill Stations: Ms. White moved to approve the proposal presented by Home Depot Pro for Water Refill Stations, seconded by Mr. Hill and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

Personnel: Chairperson Atkinson asked for motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for personnel action. Rev. Brown moved, seconded by Ms. White and the Board voted unanimously

to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

Adams Outdoor: Rev. Brown moved to accept the Adams Outdoor Advertising Billboard site lease contingent on MCSD attorney's completion of required process for lease agreements, seconded by Ms. White and the Board voted unanimously to approve. (Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier, Ms. White, Mrs. Pridgen and Chairperson Atkinson).

Adjournment: Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Pridgen moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier 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 8:22 pm.