

**MARION COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**719 North Main Street – Marion, South Carolina 29571**  
**November 15, 2022**

**Board Members Present:** Chairperson-Patricia Atkinson, Vice Chairperson-Nadine Foxworth, Rev. Cynthia V. Brown, Mrs. Susan Pridgen, 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. Pauline Godbolt, Pastor of Wise Chapel AME Church, Marion, South Carolina. The Board thanked Rev. Godbolt for his presence.

**Welcome to Staff and Visitors Present:** Chairperson Atkinson welcomed to the November 15, 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 Mrs. Pridgen to approve the November 15, 2022 agenda; and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown and Mr. Dozier).

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting for October 18, 2022 and the Special Called Workshop for October 25, 2022. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Mr. Dozier to approve the minutes and the vote passed. (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Mr. Dozier and Mrs. Pridgen).

**Marion County School District Special Presentations:** Dr. Bunch recognized select students and staff for their outstanding accomplishments. Dr. Bunch recognized the November MCSD Superhero Award Recipient. The Board commended the student for her outstanding accomplishment.

**Reports from Administration / Review and Action Items:**

**Academic / Accountability Overview:** Mrs. Becky Ford gave an overview of the STEAM Program in MCSD. The Teaching and Learning Team gave an extensive academic initiative overview in response to the 2022 Report Card. Ms. Sweeney gave overview of grades K-2. Mr. Eugene Bellamy gave an overview of grades 3-8. Ms. Gordon gave an overview of grades 9-12. The Board concerns and comments were addressed during this time.

**Finance Report for October 2022:** Mrs. Angel Cooper presented the financials for the month of October. This report was presented as information. No executive session requested.

**Facilities/Operations Report:** Mr. Jason Jordan asked for the two agenda items be moved to the December Board Meeting.

**Human Resources Report / Updates –** Mrs. Paula Grant requested an executive session for the personnel action consideration. She thanked the Board for the opportunity for the Salary Study Firm

to present their findings and report. This information will be used in consideration with personnel and financial planning for the 23-24 SY.

**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. Mrs. Rush gave an update on the next steps for Code of Conduct and Student Policies. 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:

- MuHS JAG National Student Leadership Academy in Washington, DC; Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Rev. Brown. Motion carried. (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).

Dr. Bethea presented the student transfers and releases to the Board for approval. Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen to approve this request as recommended by the Superintendent; and it was approved. (Chairperson Atkinson, Rev. Brown, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Dozier, Mrs. Pridgen and Mr. Hill).

**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. 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 / Potential Staff Assignment / Personnel Hiring or Separation / Contractual Matters or Potential Leases / Updates on Pending Property Transfers and Superintendent Evaluation Tool. Mr. Hill moved, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Foxworth to approve this request; and the Board voted unanimously to approve (Rev. Brown, Mr. Hill, Vice-Chairperson Foxworth, Mrs. Pridgen, Mr. Dozier and Chairperson Atkinson).

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

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

**Personnel:** Vice Chairperson Foxworth moved that the Marion County Board of Trustees report employee 3b to the State Department of Education for breach of contract and ask that appropriate actions be taken up to and including suspending the teaching certificate, seconded by Mrs. Pridgen and the Board unanimously to approved (Chairperson Atkinson, Vice Chairperson Foxworth, Mr. Hill, Rev. Brown, Mr. Dozier and Mrs. Pridgen).

**Adjournment:** Chairperson Atkinson asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairperson Foxworth 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 and Mr. Hill). The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.